New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXXV.....No. 10,867. NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1876. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

WASHINGTON.

HOW SENATOR WEST WAS ELECTED.

HE IS CHARGED WITH SPENDING $25,000 IN THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE—THE NAMES OF THE BRIBED MEMBERS AND AMOUNTS OF THE BRIBES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—L. A. Wiltz, a prominent member of the Louisiana Legislature, has in his possession, and will present to that body within a few days, some very important evidence, tending to show that United States Senator West procured his election to his present seat by means of bribery, and by corrupting the members of the Legislature by which he was chosen. Mr. Wiltz will also move the appointment of a Committee of Investigation, and the reference of the facts he now has to that Committee. One of the documents included in this evidence is a list showing the sums of money alleged to have been paid to members of the Legislature as consideration for their votes. That list is as follows:

H. L. Pond (Dem.)	$500
A. C. Bickham (Dem.)	500
T. G. Dundson (Dem.)	1,000
W. D. Floyd (white, Rep.)	500
A. Beloit (white, Rep.)	500
J. McCarty (white, Rep.)	500
Edgar Davis (white, Rep.)	500
S. M. Morris (white, Rep.)	1,500
L. J. Souer (white, Rep., for his Ring)	5,000
George Washington (colored, Rep.)	500
David Young (colored, Rep., of Concord)	1,000
O. F. Hunsacker of St. James Parish (white, Rep., for his Ring)	5,000
Gartscamp (white, Rep., now tax-collector of Jefferson Parish)	500
J. Gallup (white, Rep., cash; he was promised $500 more)	500
Tim Nolan (white, Rep.; this man grumbled because he did not receive as much as Souer)	1,500
DeWitt Brown (colored, Rep.)	500
Kinsella (white, Rep.)	500
Opiatek (white, Rep.)	500
M. H. Twichell (now Senator from Red River Parish; he was promised $2,000 more)	1,000
Chas. Abell (white, Rep.)	500
George Washington, 2d (colored, Rep.)	500
Marvin (colored, Rep.)	500

Thomas Long, appraiser of merchandise in the Custom-house at New-Orleans, is reported in the document to have borrowed $1,000 from Mr. West to use for election purposes, but is said to have made no such use of it. Mr. Wiltz will also present a statement in the Legislature showing that in 1868 Senator West was pecuniarily in very straitened circumstances, but seen after Gen. Grant's first election he was nominated to be supervisor of internal revenue, but was rejected by Secretary McCulloch because of alleged irregularities in California. He will also state that afterward, at the instance of Kellogg, he was appointed by Collector Casey to be auditor in the Custom-house, but his appointment was rejected by the Treasury Department for the same reason. In 1869 he was made administrator of public works of New-Orleans by Warmouth, and a year or two later seemed to have money enough in his control to have made the payments noted.

THE RESUMPTION SENTIMENT.

A MORE FAVORABLE FEELING IN THE HOUSE FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—THE BOLD PLAN OF MR. HANCOCK FOR IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—The resumption law was the subject of discussion in the Ways and Means and the Banking and Currency Committees to-day, but no action was taken. In the former, the sentiment developed was strongly in favor of resumption, but the members have not yet reached the point of declaring in favor of any distinct plan. The mode of carrying out the present law was talked over, and the necessity of additional legislation acknowledged.

Mr. Hancock of Texas, the third member of the committee, says he has made up his mind what he wants, but that the other members have not declared themselves. He believes in heroic treatment of the resumption question. He does not think it necessary to wait till 1879, before beginning to resume. He believes in starting at once. The first thing he would do, if he had the power, would be to accumulate $100,000,000 in gold, which could be easily done by the first of March. At that time, he would buy up at the best rate he could $20,000,000 of greenbacks, which he would destroy at once. On the 1st of April he would buy another $20,000,000, and a month afterward the third $20,000,000, making $60,000,000. The remaining $40,000,000 he would keep as a reserve. He thinks that by the 1st of June greenbacks would be at par, and the resumption act would be a dead letter.

The Banking and Currency Committee considered Mr. Payne's bill. Although no vote was had on it, the sentiment of the members seemed to be favorable to its provisions, and it need not be surprising if it is reported with slight amendments.

The questions arising out of the dividing financial legislation between the two Committees are proving troublesome. As in the present case, the two Committees often consider the same subject, and it has sometimes happened that both have reported on the same subject in the House. Some rule should be adopted with reference to this subject, so that the Secretary of the Treasury or other public officer desiring to confer with members on a certain financial proposition would not be obliged to go before two committees.

A NEW IMMORAL LITERATURE BILL.

DANGEROUS TENDENCY OF THE NEW MEASURE—THE PRESS SUBJECTED TO INTERFERENCE BY POSTMASTERS—STANDARD MEDICAL BOOKS REJECTED FROM THE MAILS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads, when called this morning, reported a bill further to restrict the circulation of obscene and immoral literature through the mails. The bill met with considerable objection, especially from the Republican side of the House. While there is a disposition among the members of Congress to take every proper means to prevent the use of the mails for such purposes, a very general impression prevails that our laws now existing have been in some cases improperly enforced, and that the bill reported to-day would confer upon postmasters and other special agents of the Post-Office Department a very dangerous power.

Mr. Hoar called attention to the fact that in former times THE TRIBUNE had been considered in certain parts of the country an immoral document, because it favored the abolition of Slavery, and that postmasters on that account had considered themselves justified in destroying copies of it when received at their offices and in refusing to deliver it to subscribers. He considered the bill as reported as more dangerous to the liberties of the press than "the Press Gag law," about which so much had been said. If postmasters are allowed to determine what kind of literature is moral, they may exclude any newspaper which contains advertisements considered by them to be improper.

It is understood that in some instances the present law has been improperly enforced. In one case it is reported that a dealer in standard medical works has been put to great inconvenience for sending through the mails medical books recognized as an authority by the leading colleges of the country, and it was in order to prevent a further abuse of this law or any further opportunities for such abuse that the bill was recommitted to-day.

GENERAL REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

PRUNING IN EVERY BRANCH OF THE SERVICE—UNITED STATES JUDGES ONLY TO BE SPARED—PLANS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The House Committee on Appropriations, at its meeting this morning, accomplished considerable work on the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Appropriation bill. It voted to reduce the salary of the President of the United States from $50,000 to $25,000, beginning, of course, on the 4th of March, 1777. The reason that this subject is treated of in the present bill is that four months of the time for which the appropriation is made at this session of Congress will fall in the next Presidential term. The salary of the Vice-President will not be disturbed, and the salary of the Speaker of the House is to be fixed at $7,500, $4,500 of which is to be considered as his pay as member, and $3,000 as his pay as Speaker. The salaries of members of Congress it is proposed to reduce to $4,500. The salaries of members of the Cabinet are not to be changed, and an exception is also to be made in favor of the Librarian of Congress. The members of the Committee announce it as their determination to reduce the salaries of all persons in the employ of the Government who are now receiving more than $1,200 a year at least 20 per cent, and reductions in some cases will be even greater than that. But the salaries of the judges in the Supreme Court and all other United States Courts are of course untouched, a provision of the Constitution of the United States preventing any reduction in this direction. The members of the Senate say that that body is ready to follow the House in any proper measure of economy.

INDICTMENTS AT WASHINGTON.

EX-ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAWYER AND FOUR OTHER OFFICIALS TO BE INDICTED FOR PASSING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The true bills of indictment just found by the Grand Jury are against the following named persons and for the following objects:

Frank A. Sawyer, Wm. T. Hains, Frank W. Brooks, Phineas D. Roddy, and Wm. H. Barstow, "for conspiracy to defraud, and did defraud the Government of the United States of the following sums of money: $24,315 75, and $33,297 28."

F. W. Brooks and Phineas D. Roddy for presenting a false claim.

Frederick A. Sawyer, for aiding as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in passing a Government claim, receiving therefor $1,000.

Wm. H. Barstow, a Government officer, for receiving $1,000 and a watch and chain, and in the other $250.

Wm. T. Haines, also a Government officer, for receiving therefor $1,000.

The witnesses are S. B. Benson, W. A. Richardson, Stephen E. Gough, David W. Mahon, Joseph F. Burr, A. W. Wyman, Southwick Guthrie, Wm. Feaston, Alexander Marshal, and R. W. Taylor.

Mr. Brooks to-day having heard that true bills had been found against him, appeared in the criminal court and gave $10,000 bail for his appearance to answer the charge, W. W. Rapely becoming his surety.

THE NEW HOMESTEAD LAW.

THE PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ACTUAL SETTLERS ON LAND GRANTS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Homestead law, which was passed in the Senate to-day by a vote of 44 to 9, is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all preëmption and homestead entries, or entries in compliance with any law of the United States of the public lands, made in good faith by actual settlers upon tracts of land of not more than 160 acres each, within the limits of any land grant prior to the time when notice of the withdrawal of the lands embraced in such grant was received at the local land office of the district in which such lands are situated, or after their restoration to market by order of the General Land Office, and where the Preëmption and Homestead laws have been complied with, and proper proofs thereof have been made by the parties holding such tracts or parcels, they shall be confirmed, and patents for the same shall issue to the parties entitled thereto.

SEC. 2. That when at the time of such withdrawal as aforesaid, a valid preëmption or homestead claim existed upon any lands within the limits of any such grants which afterward were abandoned, and under the decisions and rulings of the Land Department, were reëntered by preëmption or homestead claimants, who have complied with the laws governing preëmption or homestead entries, or shall make the proper proofs required under such laws, such entries shall be deemed valid, and patents shall issue therefor to the person entitled thereto.

SEC. 3. That all such preëmption and homestead entries, which may have been made by permission of the Land Department, or in pursuance of the rules and instructions thereof, within the limits of any land grant, at a time subsequent to expirations of such grant, shall be deemed valid, and a compliance with the laws and the making of the proof required shall entitle the holder of such claim to a patent therefor.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

ESTIMATES ON THE BRITISH MODEL.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 27, 1876.

Mr. Whitthorne's bill prescribing the manner of making the annual estimates of expenditures by the Navy Department follows very closely the model of the English budget. It requires the Secretary of the Navy to submit the items under the several heads, which are now estimated for in bulk. For instance, under the head of Bureau of Construction and Repair, should this bill pass, the Secretary of the Navy would be required to give a statement of the expenditures needed in this bureau for the preservation of vessels on the docks and in ordinary, estimating for each vessel by name; for the purchase of materials and stores of all kinds, stating the proposed use; for laborers employed in making repairs in navy-yards and on foreign stations, stating the class and number of laborers and amount per diem proposed to be paid; for the purchase of tools, wear and tear and repair of vessels, for building any new vessel, and for every other item of expense under the bureau, each to be given separately. One of the most prolific causes of extravagance in the Navy and in some other departments is the habit of estimating for expenditures in bulk, thus enabling the officer under whose direction the money is used to dispose of it in accordance with his judgment.

THE FRIENDS OF WEST POINT RALLYING.

A very determined opposition will be made in the House to-morrow by some leading Democrats against the reductions of salaries at West Point, and also against any change in the law which now provides for an increase of salary with an increased length of service. The Committee on Military Affairs is understood to be strongly opposed to this last proposition of the Committee on Appropriations, and it is not at all unlikely that the House may fail to sustain Mr. Randall's Committee in the reductions which he proposes to make in these cases. It has also been suggested by a Western member to amend the bill in such a way as to allow, in addition to the number of cadets already at West Point, the appointment or an equal number more, on condition that they pay at the beginning of each year such sum as may be deemed proper for their support, clothing, and tuition, in order to prevent the change from graduating into the army too many officers. The amendment, if offered, will also provide that when the four years' course of study is completed, those cadets only shall receive commissions who are found to stand in the first half of the class.

THE JAPANESE INDEMNITY.

It is generally known that a large sum of money was received by the United States from the Government of Japan, under the Convention of 1864, as indemnity for alleged damages and expenses growing out of the aggressions of a vessel of the Empire, when in a state of rebellion; that the sum received proved greatly in excess of what was necessary to meet all actual damages and expenses; and that a surplus of nearly $1,500,000 now remains in trust in the custody of the Department of State. Several days ago Representative Monroe of Ohio introduced a bill authorizing the President to determine and pay all claims not already paid, which may be justly chargeable against the fund; and if after the payment of such claims a surplus shall still remain, he is further authorized and requested to pay over the balance to the Government of Japan, said surplus, including all accumulations of interest, or, after correspondence with the Japanese Government, to apply the interest of the fund to the establishment and support of a college in Japan, in such manner as may be satisfactory to the Government of that Empire. The President has heretofore in his annual messages recommended that the fund should thus be applied. The bill meets the approval of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary of State is also in favor of it.

THE LOUISIANA SENATORSHIP.

Messrs. Blackburn, Alexander, and Greene, three Republican Senators in the Louisiana Legislature, have sent a memorial to the Senate giving their reasons for voting for Mr. Eustis. They story which they tell is of a wholly political nature; it is merely the history of affairs in Louisiana with which everybody is familiar. Their main point is the fact that Mr. Pinchback has sought admission for more than two years in vain, and after having been twice elected, they think he has very little chance of admission now. They think the State should be represented, and, therefore, they voted for Mr. Eustis. The Pinchback case is first before the Privileges and Elections Committee, and will receive the first attention.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 27, 1876.

A sub-Committee of the House Committee on Naval Affairs has been examining privately Admiral Porter and other officers of the navy, in order to obtain their opinion in regard to the administration of that branch of the public service. These examinations are not completed, but it is understood that Admiral Porter is opposed to the abolition of any of the navy-yards, but would, in case a reduction of expenses was necessary, prefer that they should be dismantled, and that the machinery and material now in them should be simply preserved from decay. Admiral Porter is also understood to be of opinion that the present system of contracts, etc., is a good one, provided it be properly carried out.

The Republicans are preparing to make it very uncomfortable for Mr. Randall, when the bill reducing the salaries of members shall be reported from his Committee. Mr. Randall made a very earnest speech for the salary grab, and one equally earnest in justification of it, pending the debate on the repeal. Among other things he said that a man who is not worth $7,500 yearly to his constituents does not deserve a seat in the House. Tidbits like this from his speech will be thrown at him, when he appears to muster the Democracy for a reduction of salaries.

John T. Drew, who has become known in connection with Schuyler Colfax and the Oakes Ames matter as having information as to the disposition of the proceeds of the famous "S. C." check, is here. He claims to have discovered important new evidence in this matter. This evidence will, it is said, be composed in part of statements of the executors of the Ames estate.

Sealed proposals will be received at the contract office of the Post-Office Department until 4 o'clock on the afternoon of March 14, 1876 (to be decided on or before March 30 following), for the performance of mail messenger service for one year, from July 1, 1876, to June 30, 1877, at Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia.

For Regular Report of Congressional Proceedings see Second Page.

McKEE'S DEFENSE CLOSED.

OVER THIRTY WITNESSES EXAMINED—LAWYERS, JUDGES, EX-GOVERNORS, AND B. GRATZ BROWN—THE SUMMING UP TO-DAY.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27.—Upon the opening of the defense in Mr. McKee's trial this morning, Mr. Voorhees for McKee announced that no argument would be offered until the case was all closed.

Mr. C. G. Megrue was recalled, and testified that McKee never paid him any money for any purpose whatever. This was intended to nullify Fitzroy's testimony that McKee told him he had paid Megrue $2,500 last Summer to keep him quiet.

Burnett H. Engelke, the rectifier, swore that he and Concannon burned stub books and notices in the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue on a Sunday.

Louis Bohle, the collector for *The Globe-Democrat*, McKee's paper, flatly denied Engelke's statement that the latter visited *The Globe* office in 1873 and had an interview with McKee, in which he explained the threats of the Hardaway Brothers to expose the Ring, and Mr. McKee promised to see Joyce and arrange matters so there would be no trouble.

Henry Hardaway testified that he never went to Engelke to get him to see McKee and urge him to use his influence with Joyce to get the witness an interest in the Busby distillery, nor did he ever talk with McKee on that subject. On cross-examination the witness stated he had at one time an interest in the Busby distillery, but paid nothing to the Ring fund. Joyce told him, he said, he would not be required to do so.

Constantine McGuire, Collector of the district after Col. Ford, denied that he ever gave Concannon any data or memoranda from which to write to Washington relative to papers missing from the Collector's office. He knew nothing about the matter, never had the papers, and they did not disappear during his term of office. Witness gave a denial to all Concannon's testimony regarding these missing papers in which he (Concannon) had in any way connected Maguire. In August, 1874, witness was requested by Engelke to use his influence to have some whiskey of his released from seizure in Colorado, and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue was written to about the matter. Collector Parker of Colorado was also written to on the subject. McKee also spoke to witness about the seizure. Witness's action in this matter was the result of friendly feeling between him and Engelke.

Edward Walsh, Thomas Walsh, Superintendent of the new Custom-house; Judge Knight of the Circuit Court, ex-Gov. Trusten Polk, Judge Lang, Surveyor of the Port of St. Louis; B. Gratz Brown, James H. Britton, Mayor of the city; Samuel Knox, a prominent lawyer; and Daniel W. Bell, testified to McKee's good character, business integrity, etc.

Joseph B. McCullough, managing editor of *The Globe-Democrat*, testified that great numbers of people were in the habit of calling upon Mr. McKee for consultation regarding matters in which they were interested, especially office-seekers, politicians, and persons who desired the exercise of influence.

Messrs. Wm. H. Burton, ex-Governor Thomas C. Reynolds, ex-Mayor Joseph Brown, Dr. John B. Johnson, John G. Priest, Henry Overstolz, Judge Werner, Judge Allen, Chas. G. Ramsey, Stephen Ridgeley, John C. Vogel, Gen. John S. Cavender, D. R. Bonner, Walter C. Carr, Henry C. Yaeger, Judge Wagner, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court, and several others were next called and testified to McKee's good character.

The defense then introduced indictments against certain witnesses for the Government; also, false monthly and tri-monthly reports of distillers made to the Collector's office concerning spirits made by them.

Mr. Strange, book-keeper of Bernecke & Engelke, was examined a few moments, and the defense then rested their case. It was agreed that two speeches should be made on each side, beginning to-morrow, the defense opening and arguments alternating.

A GREAT BANK ROBBERY.

$670,000 IN SECURITIES TAKEN FROM THE NORTHAMPTON BANK—CASHIER WHITTLESEY AND FAMILY OVERPOWERED AT NIGHT AND GAGGED—A PISTOL EXTORTS THE SECRET OF THE COMBINATION LOCK—SEVEN ROBBERS ENGAGED.

BOSTON, Jan. 27.—Later details of the robbery of the Northampton National Bank, at Northampton, Tuesday night, by masked robbers, state that the result is somewhat appalling. The vault was robbed, and the table of the securities taken shows a total of $670,000. Of course, much of this is not negotiable, so that it is difficult to estimate the real loss to the bank and the depositors. The bank officers offer a reward of $25,000 for the return of the property and the conviction of the burglars. The loss falls comparatively light upon the bank, the greater part of the securities belonging to special depositors. The funds taken are as follows: Missouri State bonds, $15,000; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R. R. shares, $5,000; Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, $3,000; Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy eights, $1,000; Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, $2,000; Union Pacific, $44,000; Ohio and Mississippi Second Mortgages, $165,000; United States bonds, $55,000; Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé, $15,000; Fort Wayne, Jackson, and Saginaw, $12,000; Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain, $6,000; Missouri Pacific, $30,000; registered stock and bonds of the United States and various corporations, $350,000 to $400,000; greenbacks and National Bank bills, $10,000; Detroit, Lansing, and Lake Michigan, $7,000.

The robbery was accomplished by seven men who had been langing about the town for at least a month. It would seem that they entered the house of Cashier Whittlesey, and bound, gagged, and guarded for hours him and his family, seven in number. They compelled Mr. Whittlesey to give them the combinations of the safe vault. Whence they came, and whither they went up to date is a riddle. An expert had to be summoned from New-York, and the lock was not opened until an early hour this morning. Cashier Whittlesey when asked to give the three combinations to the vault for the outer, inner, and chest doors, gave them wrong twice and thrice, but the burglars wrote them down, and made him repeat them. Of course they caught him in the attempt to mislead them, and the exhibition of a pistol compelled him to tell the truth, though he told them that four keys were necessary to open the patent lock, three of which were at the houses of the other bank officers. At 4 o'clock a. m. Whittlesey was taken to a down-stairs bed room. The whole family were gagged, and four of the burglars withdrew to operate on the bank. Three hours after Mrs. Whittlesey succeeded in freeing herself, and giving the alarm from a window. The whole party were speedily liberated, and the cashier, still wearing the handcuffs, went to the bank. A clever workman soon after fitted a key, and all the persons handcuffed were released.

The examination of the bank showed that the cracksmen had unlocked the outer door but were apparently balked by the safe lock, lacking three of the requisite four keys. They tried the metal of the door with bars and wrenched off two dials, which served as an index for working the combination, hoping thus to tamper with the lock. There is every indication that six, and perhaps all of them left on the 6 o'clock train. Five of them had tickets previously bought, and one paid his fare. Many of their appliances, it was remarked, were "home made." The gags were children's rubber balls, pierced with a stiff wire. The masks were drawers legs, some with one hole and some with two for the eyes. When the robbers noticed that Whittlesey was watching them carefully for some marks of identification they blindfolded him. He however noticed that one was of commanding stature.

LATER.—The total amount stolen from the Northampton National Bank is $720,000. Of this amount $12,000 falls on the Bank. The heaviest individual sufferers are as follows: Ex-Judge C. E. Forbes, $100,000 in United States six per cent bonds, registered, $28,000 in five per cents, registered, and $70,000 in railroad stocks; Henry Hinckley, $60,000 in United States bonds; Henry Bright, a large amount of negotiable bonds; J. S. Lathrop, $30,000 in Georgia bonds; Joseph Warner, $14,000 in negotiable bonds; O. G. Spellman, $3,000 in negotiable bonds; Wm. Gaylland, $5,000 in United States bonds; Mrs. L. M. Turner, Dr. S. A. Flake, Richard Kingman, and Horace A. Collins are also among the sufferers. A small safe in the vault which the burglars considered too insignificant to touch contained $30,000 deposited by Harvey Kirkland, $25,000 in bonds belonging to the Hopkins Academy, and much other valuable property.

Of the $720,000 taken by the burglars from $450,000 to $500,000 are in registered bonds and certificates, and so not negotiable.

THE PRESIDENCY.

THE MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATS.

GOV. TILDEN AND GOV. HENDRICKS THE MOST PROMINENT CANDIDATES—THEIR STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS—EX-GOV. GASTON AS A CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, Jan. 25.—The Democratic State Convention of Massachusetts at its session last September chose four of the delegates of this State to the coming National Convention of the party. They are the Hon. Josiah G. Abbott, and the Hon. P. A. Collins of Boston, the Hon. Edward Avery of Braintree, and George W. Gill of Worcester. This is an excellent representation of the Democracy here. They are all thoroughly identified with its history of late years, and while they are representative men of its different elements, are none of them impervious to the lessons which recent experience has taught. It is not probable that there is an agreement as yet among them as to what their action shall be in aiding to select a candidate for the Presidency; yet it may be safely prophesied that they will bear in mind the maxim once laid down by Gen. Banks in arranging for an election in this State, that "Success is a duty," and it is altogether likely that any course they may adopt will be acquiesced in by those members of the National Convention that remain to be elected in Massachusetts.

The minds of these gentlemen, there are good reasons to believe, are just now resting upon two men, one or the other of whom they regard as the probable nominee of the Democratic party. These men are Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks. Either would unquestionably be regarded as a satisfactory nominee by the party in this State. Which is to receive the vote of Massachusetts in the Convention will depend upon the developments to be made hereafter. As between them, if the State has any natural preference, it would be for Mr. Tilden. On the other hand, there has been more effort made to obtain her support on the part of those who are laboring for Mr. Hendricks. Tilden, it is claimed, has more of the elements that would attract votes from outside the party; Hendricks, it is urged, would better unite and harmonize the party itself. Perhaps the choice between them will depend, in the end, upon the action of the Republican Convention. If that body should make a nomination that would point out the necessity of an effort to secure the independent vote of the country, Tilden stock would be highly valued; if an old-fashioned party fight were indicated as impending, then Hendricks would have the advantage. Massachusetts may not improbably have a candidate from among her citizens for the second place upon the ticket, and in this event a combination with the Hendricks men may seem more available. But of that further on.

MR. TILDEN.

Mr. Tilden's ability is recognized here on all hands. It if felt that, in addition to his strength as a candidate, he has those qualities that fit him to be an admirable President and to do much toward securing for the party strength in the future by the wise policy he would pursue. His soundness on the currency question is particularly gratifying to Massachusetts Democrats. There is no division among them on this subject. Their leaders are not altogether sanguine as to the practicability of an early resumption of specie payments, but they are firm in the conviction that the face of the nation should be set in that direction. The reform spirit shown by Mr. Tilden is refreshing to them, though it has been suggested by one or two of the leaders here that he was perhaps inclined to make corruption appear fully as apparent in the ranks of his own party as the occasion might warrant; in other words, that he was in danger of riding the reform hobby a little hard. Still, this is felt to be a good fault. Their principal doubt concerning him is in the difficulty of procuring his nomination. They are not sure that the South and the West can be carried for him in the convention, especially if the West appears with a prominent candidate of her own. His locality also is thought not to be in his favor. New-York is looked upon as a sure State for the Democrats with any not decidedly objectionable candidate. Her own Democrats, they say, have had their share of such honors. With Seymour in 1868, and Greeley in 1872, as the Democratic nominees, it will be hard for them to resist the claim of the great West in 1876. Then, even on the reform issue, if the Republicans shall set up Bristow, it will not be so easy for Tilden to take the reform vote away from him. These considerations have made Tilden's strength less than it was six months ago. The most potent of them all is, however, the fear that the West will not agree to his nomination.

MR. HENDRICKS.

The friends of Mr. Hendricks, if they have not been generally active through the country for the past year, have at least been at some pains to cultivate support among their Massachusetts brethren. They have been heard from here, and have professed a readiness to form an alliance with Massachusetts in the making up of the ticket. They put the claims of their candidate upon his position in the party; his prominence and success as a Democratic leader; the importance of carrying his own State, which they say can certainly be done with him in the field, but is doubtful with any other; and the good policy of giving a Western man the nomination. Nobody gainsays any of these positions. But one point is very much spoken of as against Mr. Hendricks—his rather equivocal attitude on the currency question. This is not found so much in anything he has said; but when he went into to the Ohio campaign last Autumn he hurt himself in Massachusetts. He made only one speech there; that was one too many. Massachusetts Democrats don't want anything to do with men who assisted the Ohio portion of the party to make fools of themselves last year. They lay all the reverses that were met in the Autumn elections to the insane antics of the Democrats of that State. Many of them think they would have carried Massachusetts again had Ohio not weighted them down. They don't propose to heed the voice of Ohio in any way in the National Convention unless it be to shun following her advice. Mr. Thurman might have had considerable support here had not his State behaved so badly. Perhaps he couldn't have done otherwise than to go with his party; but it is a misfortune from the effects of which he must suffer. The Ohio election hurt almost everybody who meddled with it. No man except Mr. Schurz made any reputation in it. It's a sore point in the State with the Democratic party to refer to it. If they support Mr. Hendricks it won't be because of his speech in Ohio but in spite of it, and they may perhaps find his excuse in the fact that he held so long out of the canvass, and then made but one speech in it.

THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

There are many men here who hold that Massachusetts has the most available candidate for the Vice-Presidency that the Democrats can present. Gov. Gaston, by the very moderate course he adopted while in office last year, incurred criticism from several of the leaders of his own party; but it is probable that all agree that he possesses a remarkable capacity to take votes from the other side. Had he been elected to the Governorship of this State again last Autumn, there is no man in the country whose prospects for the nomination to the Vice-Presidency would have been so good; yet it is by no means sure that he did not achieve a greater triumph in the year he was defeated than in that which saw him victor. His first success was an accident, and grew out of the folly of the Republicans in forcing upon the people an obnoxious issue. Even then, it is doubtful if he would have been chosen had it been supposed by the Republicans that such a result was a possibility. Last Fall they knew their danger. They prepared for it by abandoning the issue upon which they had been wrecked, nominating a candidate that united them, and putting more money and effort into the campaign than had been seen in a purely State election here for 20 years. It was a long, steady, severe pull upon the part of the Democrats; yet they came out of it with what used to be a majority of 75,000 against them reduced to a meager plurality of less than 6,000 votes. This, too, after a year of Gov. Gaston in office. No other Democrat in the country has achieved a feat that parallels this. Gov. Gaston is one of those upright, pure, safe men that the independent and conservative voters of the country like to support. It is hard to see how his party could better strengthen their nominee for the first place than to give him such a companion. Perhaps, on the ground of locality, there is no man with whom he could more appropriately run than with Mr. Hendricks. The objection may be made that Gov. Gaston could not carry his own State; and this is true, for Massachusetts is certainly Republican in a Presidential election with any man but Grant as a candidate; but it is to be assumed that Gov. Gaston will aid the ticket in other States that are doubtful, perhaps more than one of their own citizens could aid it.

MINOR CANDIDATES.

There is some talk outside the State of John Quincy Adams as a nominee for Vice-President. The Democrats are not ready yet to present his name. They recognize his ability, but he chose himself four years ago to take a back seat in the party, out of which grew a coolness which is but recently removed. As late as 1874 Mr. Adams declined to go on the stump for Gov. Gaston, and discouraged any especial effort that year. He is in better favor with the Democrats now, the handsome manner in which he stood in the breach as their candidate for Lieutenant-Governor last Autumn, after Gen. Bartlett declined, having restored the friendship. Yet during the above-named period Gov. Gaston attained an advantage that he will no doubt hold throughout this Presidential canvass.

Charles Francis Adams, as a candidate for the Presidency, has probably fewer friends among the Democrats than with the Republicans. The Democrats would have elected him to the United States Senate a year ago, if they had had votes enough to accomplish such an end. Their strength was insufficient, and when they showed a disposition to attempt the experiment of giving him their vote, the Republicans hastened over to Mr. Dawes, and chose him. Since then, Mr. Adams has offended them by expressing his readiness to take a Republican nomination for Governor against Gov. Gaston, whom they think he ought to have supported. They do not regard him as a possible candidate, therefore, any more than do the Republicans. None of the managing politicians of any stripe are looking that way. A large number of the people of Massachusetts, however, would like to see Mr. Adams President, and with Grant nominated on the Republican side and a soft-money man the Democratic candidate, the third Adams could take the vote of this State. Though over 70 years of age, he is as vigorous in health and physical strength as most men 20 years younger. Nobody appears to expect the people are to take President-making out of the hands of the politicians this year, and, unless the latter blunder very badly, they are not likely to.

There is little said about alternative candidates among the Democrats. The thought of Thurman as such is dismissed. Bayard would be eminently satisfactory, if it was deemed possible to nominate him. The objections are that he comes from too small a State, is a Southern man, and has demonstrated no capacity to create enthusiasm. Hancock is not talked of to any extent, military men being less affected in the party than they were before the days of Grant. A distinguished Democrat, high in office, expresses the opinion that nobody yet mentioned in connection with the nomination will be the candidate. He thinks a new man altogether, but one of commanding character, will be taken, and though he is not a warm partisan or a man of sanguine temperament, this gentleman expresses a calm faith in his certain election. Nobody thinks the campaign is to be fought on the currency question. There is none the less solicitude that the candidate should be entirely sound with regard to it.

TRACING THE BOSTON FORGER.

MR. WINSLOW'S ESCAPE BY STEAMER TO HOLLAND CONSIDERED CERTAIN—MOVEMENTS OF THE DETECTIVES—RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOSTON POST.

The Rev. E. D. Winslow, the Boston forger, was traced yesterday to the office of the Holland Steamship line, and it is thought to be proved beyond doubt that he sailed for Rotterdam, on Friday last, with his family. Detective Dearborn of the Boston Police ascertained from one of Winslow's most intimate friends that he had been making arrangements to pay a visit to Washington, D. C. He had also conversed with a prominent lawyer in Boston in regard to the extradition treaty, and especially about Brazil. To account for his interest in this subject, Winslow said that he wanted the information as a basis for an editorial article for *The Post*. Detective Dearborn therefore believed that Winslow intended to go to Brazil. Receiving information that a man answering Winslow's description had applied for passage at the Brazilian Steamship office in this city, the detective, on Wednesday night, started for this city.

Upon arriving here Mr. Dearborn had a long interview with Superintendent Walling, who detailed Detective Kealey to assist him. The officers went to the office of the Brazilian line and satisfied themselves that Winslow had been there. Then they determined to go to some of the other steamship officers, beginning with those of lines to countries which have no extradition treaty with this country. At the office of the Holland Steamship Company, at No. 50 Broadway, Mr. Morris, the agent, said that a man answering the description given of Winslow came to that office on Thursday afternoon and inquired about the sailing of the next steamer, the Rotterdam. He asked whether the steamer sailed under the flag of Holland and also whether he could go on board immediately with his family and remain there. He said that he wished to do this to avoid the bustle and confusion of the departure. His request was granted, and he then purchased four tickets, for himself, his wife, his son, and his wife's sister. He gave his name as Joun Clifton. He then went away and was not seen again by Mr. Morris. The steamship, the Rotterdam, sailed on Friday at 8 a. m. The detectives also went to several banking houses, and at one of them, on Broadway, they learned that Winslow, under the name of John Clifton, had purchased a gold draft on a bank in Rotterdam.

Detective Dearborn said that the investigations had been greatly delayed by the reluctance on the part of those who lost by Winslow's operations to make the necessary complaints and have the proper warrants issued. The lawyers in Boston, he said, differed in regard to the responsibilities of *The Boston Post* Company. Many thought that the Company was liable for the over-issued stock, because it was made by an authorized agent. Winslow was the Treasurer of the Company and had control of the stock-book. Other lawyers claim that the stock was altogether fraudulent and forged, and that Winslow could not make an over-issue as an authorized person, as he was only the Treasurer of the Company, and had no authority to increase the stock. Detective Dearborn is the officer who worked up the Josie Langmaid murder case. He is regarded as one of the best detectives in Boston.

Dispatches received from Boston yesterday state that there have been no new developments of forgeries, the amount of which is now placed at $600,000. The report that Winslow sailed in the steamer Rotterdam is discredited there. It is believed he carried very little money with him wherever he went.

THE GOVERNMENT POWERLESS TO STOP WINSLOW.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The State Department has decided that this Government has no power to secure the arrest of the Boston forger, Winslow, before he is landed at Rotterdam. Mayor Cobb of Boston this afternoon telegraphed to Representatives Pierce and Harris, requesting them to learn from Secretary Fish whether Mr. Winslow could be apprehended at Plymouth if the steamer should land there, or at Rotterdam before the landing. Mr. Fish replied that Mr. Winslow could not be arrested at Plymouth unless he should land on English soil, as the ship was a Dutch ship, and that he could not be apprehended in Holland, as there is no treaty of extradition. Mr. Pierce subsequently telegraphed to New-York to learn whether the vessel would stop at Plymouth. The owners of the vessel replied that she will not stop until she reaches Rotterdam.

POLITICAL.

GOV. HAYES'S FRIENDS DISSATISFIED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Some of the Ohio friends of Gov. Hayes are greatly dissatisfied with the character of Senator Sherman's late letter on the Presidency. They say that careful reading of that letter discloses the fact that it is a covert attack upon Gov. Hayes rather than a plea in his favor. It points out, they explain, the weak points of Gov. Hayes's political character, while it pretends to nominate him. They say it really gives some of the best reasons why he should not be a Republican candidate.

GEN. BUTLER AGAIN IN THE FIELD.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The friends of Benjamin Butler positively assert that he will be the candidate for Congress in his district during the coming Summer. He is said to have received from persons residing there a great number of letters assuring him that he will have their support.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE ENGAGED.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 27.—The Hamilton County Republican Executive Committee has engaged Pike's Opera House for public meetings during the week of the June convention.

KANSAS REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 27.—The Democratic State Central Committee has called a State Convention to meet in this city May 24, to elect delegates to the National Convention.

TELEGRAPH NOTES.

NORWICH, Ont., Jan. 27.—Ninety tons of Canadian cheese were shipped from this place for England yesterday