LOCAL MISCELLANY.

WHAT THE RIFLED MAILS CONTAINED.

LIST OF CHECKS AND DRAFTS STOLEN BY THE MAIL ROBBERS—EXAMINATION OF THE PRISONERS.

No additional arrests have been made by the Post-Office special agents in their investigations of the mail robberies, but they are still following several clews. The five persons arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday were brought before United States Commissioner Shields yesterday. James Crawford and John Defreese, the driver of the mail wagon, waived examination, and were remanded. John Kelley and Mary Collins demanded a preliminary hearing, and their examination was set down for next Wednesday at 3 p. m. Luther W. Emerson was assigned them as counsel by the court. Clinton Leddy, who was arrested with the others, was discharged from custody, there being no evidence against him. Special Agent Sharretts has been busily engaged for two days past in examining and classifying the letters and checks captured by the officers. In the trunk of Mary Collins Kelley's mistress, were found more than 100 letters containing checks, drafts, and money orders amounting to about $30,000. These checks were nearly all drawn by Philadelphia firms and made payable to persons in Boston. A few of them were drawn by or to the order of persons residing in New-York. Many of them are for trivial sums of no general interest. The checks and drafts are in possession of the United States authorities, who will use a portion of them in evidence against the arrested persons on the examination. Such as are not needed will be taken in charge by the proper officers, who will see that they are returned to the senders or to the person for whom they were intended. The list of the larger checks is as follows:

Drawer.	Payee.	Amount.
A. B. Alcott	N. E. Life Ins. Co.	$989 65
J. R. Morris	N. E. Life Ins. Co.	2,5[illegible] 18
Fessenden & Job	Westmoreland Coal Co.	2,375 30
J. A. Palmer & Co	J. A. Palmer & Co	841 50
J. A. Palmer & Co	J. A. Palmer & Co	15 25
	S. T. Woodward	1,255 65
Henry C. Rand & Co	Keen & Coate	4,00 15
Bradley & Hubbard	Colt's Fire Arms	1[illegible] 50
Wm. Smith	Gollmer & Sons	328 82
Wm. A. Fuller	Patent M'f'g Co	78 00
Wm. S. Baker & Co	Herman Heller	95 20
E. C. Hoeber	Anna M. Miller	60 00
J. Well	L. Bamberger & Co	149 50
N. P. Rand	L. Bamberger & Co	74 [illegible]
G. B. Chandler	Enfield & [illegible]	84 07
J. C. Brown	Hayden, Shaw & Gifford	152 00
George Woods & Co	F. E. Carter	240 00
E. Sellar	Union Nat. Life Ins. Co.	3,111 85
Maher & Co	Alliance Insurance Co	1,411 03
James N. Andrews	Robinson & Woodworth	600 00
J. A. Hayes & Co	James Parker & Co	2,[illegible]01 00
	Winslow & Brothers	3,513 58
McNally & Co	Prince, Kohler & Co	268 90
Charles A. Romaine & Co	Prince, Kohler & Co	97 00
First Nat. Bank, Phila	Bank of N. Y.	1,[illegible] 00
Jas. Kemp, Alex. & Vanum	Wright Brothers & Co	67 41
Dwight & Co	James H. Jones	165 00
J. C. Scantly	Cornell G. Gale	229 00
R. G. Isbrooke & Co	Gospers Brothers	140 00
W. N. Bowker & Co. (60-day note)	W. H. Bowker & Co	519 00
John A. Scharfrer & Co	H. Mayer & Co	95 00
Garrison & Co	Whitehead & Bates	6,6[illegible] 54
Empire Gas Manuf'g Co	J. C. Bussell	9 [illegible]
Kimball, Barnes & Co	J. W. Cable	63 00
New-England M. L. Ins. Co	Jas. H. Glover	1,158 34
Geo. A. Redt	Midnight Yarn Co	152 [illegible]
R. H. Stearns & Co	Midnight Yarn Co	72 00
Isaac P. Allen & Co	Midnight Yarn Co	59 6[illegible]
Geo. Chase	Trafton, Wright & Co	160 50
A. G. Hopkins	Jas. B. Trask	82 0[illegible]
E. S. Rand	Trade Fire Insurance Co	255 27
Wm. H. Warner & Co	Wm. H. Warner & Co	50 53
A. Willis	McKay S. Co	6[illegible] 89
S. M. Pettengill & Co	Publ'rs Misc'y Journal	67
S. Barnsdale & Son	Geo. Campbell	1,175 10
Nelson, Inf'ce & Co	Hatrick & Winter	71 34
Stephen D. Andrews	W. J. S. Gresham	3,060 00
E. S. Rand	W. J. S. Gresham	30[illegible] 40
W. H. Rood	Leeds, Shaw & Stewart	102 84
Roy & Hayes	Gilson & Sexsmith	112 [illegible]
J. H. Fletcher	W. S. Kimball	106 00
R. & W. Wallrous	Jacob Sass	300 00
Amos Hilborn & Co	Wendeyes Bros	125 10
John W. Klein	C. F. Hovey	58 00
J. H. Lamb & Co	Joseph Hoover	31[illegible] 50
Tracy & Co	E. A. Dog[illegible]	75 00
N. Neeb & Co	E. & A. Foley	2,071 71
E. B. Mahoney	John James Jobson	16[illegible] 43
Philip Isaacs & Co	P. Blankenburgh & Co	50 62
Geo. A. Redt	Same	126 68
J. C. Tinger & Bros	Jas. P. Barnard	511 00
Coupons on Boston car-Trust Loan	Phila. Trust Safe Deposit Co.	300 00

MR. BENNETT'S JOURNEY.

CONJECTURES AND RUMORS OF THE CAUSE OF HIS LEAVING THE CITY—HIS INTENTIONS AS TO A DUEL UNCERTAIN.

The Bennett-May controversy took no definite shape yesterday, seeming rather to grow uncertain as it grew old, and verging its facts, whatever it might possess, into rumor, conjecture, and mere opinion. Stories as to the cause of the trouble were of the wildest nature and most diverse kind. Each club, each newspaper, and almost each individual seemed to be possessed of a separate tale which would surely prove to be true should the whole affair ever be made public. The only commendable part of these stories was that in all the young lady whose name has been dragged into publicity in connection with the quarrel was mentioned in a kindly spirit, and nothing but pity and regret was expressed for her—an unusal thing in the history of gossip. The narratives of real and pretended eye-witnesses of the assault in Twenty-first-st. differed, as they have done from the first. One gentleman who had witnessed the affray declared positively that no cane or whip of any kind had been employed by Mr. May in assaulting Mr. Bennett, and several gentlemen of veracity affirm that they have seen the latter since the occurrence and that there was no scar of any kind upon his face. Others equally positively say that a rawhide whip was used, while one gentleman who helped to separate the combatants made mention of a heavy cane, and a man who saw Mr. Bennett in the Grand Central Depot on Thursday morning declared that he saw a vivid red mark across his face. No one now, however, affirms the truth of the statements about severe cuts and bruises, and the flow of streams of blood, which made their appearance in some of the accounts of the hostile meeting. Friends of Mr. Bennett and Mr. May declare that most of the reports and stories in regard to the trouble have been grievously exaggerated and garbled by imagination.

A rumor was in circulation yesterday that the street encounter was provoked by Mr. Bennett's reading aloud and commenting on a letter of dismissal from Dr. May in the presence of members of the Union Club. From the number of similar stories, differing only in details, it seems not improbable that the assault was incited by some indiscreet action of Mr. Bennett while among his club friends.

Nothing certain could be learned yesterday of Mr. Bennett's movements except that he had left word at *The Herald* office that he was going to Washington, and that for some unknown reason he had gone to Boston, or in that direction. Upon this fact are based innumerable opinions. One gentleman prominently connected with Mr. Bennett's business affairs felt confident that his intentions were of a serious nature. Another, a personal friend of Mr. Bennett, scoffed at the idea of a duel taking place. A third, a gentleman whom rumor has made a second in the affair, declared upon his honor late on Thursday night that he had had no communication with Mr. Bennett since his unfortunate rencounter, and that, when he came to the club that evening he expected to see Mr. Bennett present. This friend was confident that no duel was in progress, for Mr. Bennett would have been sure to inform him of the affair, but he added that it would be no very improbable event so far as the disposition of the combatants was concerned.

THE ICE HARVEST.

A LARGE SUPPLY EXPECTED—WHERE THE COMPANIES GET THEIR ICE.

The severity of the Winter causes much satisfaction to the various ice companies in this city, because there is every prospect of gathering a sufficient quantity of ice to fill all their storehouses. During the past few weeks the weather has been so cold that the lakes and the portions of the river from which the companies cut their ice have been frozen over, and every thing has been in readiness to begin cutting and storing it away. The recent heavy fall of snow, which has covered the ice to the depth of about twenty five inches, has made necessary additional labor in clearing it away before the cutting can be begun. The snow prevents the ice from thickening, no matter how low the temperature may be, and if it is allowed to remain the bottom of the ice is worn away by the stream beneath. A large force of men has been actively engaged for some time past scraping and carting away the snow, and the various companies had expected in a few days to begin cutting. The recent strike among the men has delayed this work.

At the offices of the various companies in this city it is stated that the crop this season is of a very superior quality, inasmuch as it is clear water ice and not snow ice. There is no special benefit attached to this further than that it has a better appearance. Snow ice is not apt to melt as rapidly as clear water ice, although the latter is generally preferred. The thickness of the ice at present varies considerably, but a fair average is about 13 inches. The fact that there will be a plentiful supply this season is spoken of as a source of great satisfaction to the companies, because it will enable them to make a reduction in the price which they were compelled to ask last season. The storehouses in a year were only about one-third full, and the companies were obliged to purchase ice at advanced rates from various parts of the country. They were consequently forced to increase the rates to about 60 cents a hundred pounds. This year the rates will be much less. The officers claim that when there is a bountiful supply of ice, so that the storehouses can be filled, the season is always materially more successful than when there is a scarcity. The supply of the Knickerbocker Ice Company is about 500,000 tons a year, all of which is procured at various places along the Hudson River. The largest storehouse is at Athens, which has a capacity for 65,000 tons. At Rockland Lake there are two houses, each holding nearly 50,000 tons. This is where the bulk of the ice is obtained. The lake is 2½ miles long, and 2 miles wide, covering about 285 acres. The snow has all been cleared away at this place, and the work of cutting is in full operation. There are other houses at Coxsackie, Marlborough, Catskill, Hudson, and many other places along the river. The Washington Ice Company furnishes about 100,000 tons a year. The largest storehouse is at Rondout, and others are at Athens, Catskill, and Poughkeepsie. The Consumers' Ice Company has a storehouse at Catskill, which has a capacity for 60,000 tons. Its supply amounts in a year to 100,000 tons. The main portion is received from the Kennebec River.

FOURTEEN DAYS ON A WRECK.

SUFFERINGS OF THE CREW OF THE BARK LEANDER—THEIR RESCUE, WHEN NEARLY EXHAUSTED, BY THE STEAMSHIP SWITZERLAND.

The steamship Switzerland, which arrived at this port last evening from Antwerp, brought the crew of the British American bark Leander, having rescued them in latitude 48° 07' and longitude 38°, from the wreck of that vessel on the night of Dec. 26, during a heavy gale. The Leander was a new vessel, launched only last August, and was on a voyage from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to Charletown, England. She was owned by James Duncan & Co. of Charlottetown. The following are the names of those rescued, which comprised all of the crew: M. O'Callaghan, captain; James H. Caffray, first mate; D. McDonnell, second mate; Charles Rosen, steward; Michael Roach, John McDonnell, Thos. Creed, Thomas Lindsey, John Thompson, and John King, seamen. The crew have not yet recovered from the effects of their long exposure on the wreck. They gave the following story of the wreck to a TRIBUNE reporter last evening:

The Leander left Charlottetown Dec. 5. On the third day out a southeast gale was encountered, which increased, with a heavy snow storm and high sea. The vessel rolled and labored heavily. On Dec. 11 the gale had increased to a hurricane. One very heavy sea was shipped which swept the mate, Caffrey, from off the poop along the main deck, nearly suffocating him. The captain and man at the wheel were both knocked down. Four of the water-casks were washed overboard. The sea made clean breaks over the ship, and the pumps were kept continually at work. The crew protested against continuing on the voyage, but the captain urged them to persevere for a few days longer. On Dec. 12 the gale moderated and another came from the north-west, and the fore and main topsails were lost. The next morning some of the cargo was thrown overboard in hopes of lightening the vessel. The sea was breaking over the decks with great violence and washing the men away from the pumps. The battings and tarpaulins were washed off the hatches, and the vessel began to ship great quantities of water. The mainmast and mizzenmast were both cut away. The wreck of the masts were frequently washed inboard, and thereby endangered the deck and houses and prevented the vessel from "paying off," and the crew were unable to man the pumps. The foremast was then cut away, when the ship righted a little and the pumps were manned. The mate, Caffrey, was swept overboard, but rescued. At 8 a. m. there were 8 feet of water in the ship. The crew were kept at work and succeeded in freeing the vessel by 10 p. m. During the night the crew, though in an exhausted condition, and having been without cooked provisions for 48 hours, were employed shifting the cargo. All the perishable provisions had been destroyed. The officers and crew were obliged to sleep in the hold, as their cabins and staterooms had been washed overboard.

On Dec. 15 a jury mast was rigged. On Dec. 16 the wind moderated to a calm, when the fore hatch was taken off and the crew employed in discharging the cargo. On the 17th wind began to increase from the southwest. On the 18th the wind had increased to a gale, and the sea was running with such violence that the forward deck house, in which were stored provisions, warps, spare tackle, coal, and galley, with all cooking utensils, was washed overboard. The starboard bulwarks were stove in and the cable was washed about the deck, and the last cask of water on deck was washed overboard. The men worked at the cargo during the night, and were completely exhausted and disputed. On the 20th it was found that the water and provisions were nearly exhausted. On the 22d the wind hauled to the south west and blew with great force, creating a high cross sea. The seas continually swept the tarpaulins from the hatches, and the captain was knocked down and washed across the deck three or four times, receiving several bruises, and becoming perfectly helpless. The tiller and wheel became dislodged the next day, and were secured with great difficulty. Up to Dec. 26, three vessels, two steamers, and a bark were sighted, which passed within seven or eight miles of the Leander. No boats was taken of the signals of distress. The officers and crew were nearly exhausted from bruises and exposure. On the 26th, about 6 p. m., the steamship Switzerland was sighted and the forecastle lights of distress were noticed. The steamer, when close to the wreck, sent a boat alongside the back and took off the crew. The boat was nearly swamped by the sea. No papers or clothing were saved from the Leander, as the boat was exposed to great danger along side the wreck, and the crew had to jump from her into the boat.

Capt. Callaghan and his crew express their thanks to Capt. Jackson and officers and crew of the Switzerland for their stout efforts in rescuing them, and the kind treatment which they received on board of the steamer.

DELAYS FROM THE ICE.

NAVIGATION DIFFICULT IN BOTH RIVERS AND THE BAY.

Ice caused considerable delay of the ferries yesterday, but the boats were able to run with some degree of punctuality in the morning and evening, when the tide was at its ebb. The river was full of ice which had been broken up into small pieces, and did not materially obstruct the passage of the boats. In the middle of the day, however, navigation was attended with difficulty, as the flood tide swept the heavy field ice up the river, and the boats were frequently carried a great distance below their slips. The Facragan of the Fulton Ferry left Brooklyn at 11 o'clock, and was over three hours making the trip, and then was obliged to land the passengers at the foot of Catharine-st. The Williamsburgh boats made very irregular trips. The Sylvan Stream ran from Harlem to Peck-slip in two hours, the usual time being 50 minutes. The Astoria ferry was discontinued temporarily. The Harlem boat attempted to make a landing at Astoria, but was unsuccessful, and had to land her Astoria passengers at Grand-st. Passengers for Astoria are now obliged to take the ferry to Hunter's Point and to use private conveyances thence to Astoria. The Stonington of the Stonington line, which usually reaches this city at 6 o'clock, did not arrive at her dock until noon.

The North River ferryboats also had their share of inconvenience yesterday. The river was a mass of broken ice, and the trips were less frequent than usual. When the tide current was not strong the westerly winds crowded the ice into the slips, and it was with great difficulty that the boats force d their way to the landings. The pilots say they fear a succession of cold days, which will unite the ice into one solid mass and make navigation almost impossible.

The Russian ship Dagmar attempted to go to sea yesterday, under tow of two powerful tugboats capable of running through any ordinary ice blockade. She only got as far as West Bank and was obliged to return to the city to remain until the bay opens.

Navigation was difficult and dangerous for the Staten Island, South, and Hamilton ferries. The first boat did not leave Staten Island until 7 o'clock, and the subsequent trips could only be made at irregular intervals. The 11 o'clock trip from the island and the 12 o'clock trip from the city were abandoned. The 10 o'clock boat from the city did not reach the Clifton landing until nearly 12 o'clock, and the 12 o'clock boat from the island did not arrive at New-York until 1 o'clock. The night trips on the ferry have been entirely abandoned during the ice blockade, there being no certainty of boats after 7 o'clock in the evening. The opposition steamer D. R. Martin has run only at irregular intervals, it being impossible to land at Pier No. 8, North River, in consequence of the great quantities of heavy ice along the docks.

The condition of the streets has not thus far been improved materially, and if another heavy snow storm should come they would undoubtedly be almost impassable. Police Commissioner Nichols of the Street Cleaning Bureau has made an application to the Board of Estimate for an expended balance of appropriations, amounting to $66,000, for the purpose of clearing the snow from Broadway and other principal thoroughfares.

DINNER TO EX-MAYOR WICKHAM.

PROMINENT CITIZENS SHOWING THEIR APPROVAL OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

A dinner is to be given by prominent citizens to ex-Mayor Wickham, as an expression of their approbation of his public spirit and fidelity to duty while at the head of the City Government. The date of the dinner is to be Jan. 12. Following is the correspondence:

NEW-YORK, Jan. 3, 1877.

The Hon. WM. H. WICKHAM—*Dear Sir:* The undersigned citizens of New-York desire to express to you their appreciation of your public spirit and fidelity in the discharge of your high office as Mayor of this city. We believe that we speak for the great body of our fellow-citizens when we recognize your steadfast effort throughout your administration to conserve the general interests of the city and its citizens without distinction of parties; and we respectfully invite you to name a day on which it will be convenient for you to afford us the opportunity of meeting you at a public dinner.

This is signed by August Belmont, Samuel D. Babcock, William E. Dodge, John A. Stewart, Joun T. Agnew, Benj. B. Sherman, George W. Lane, Royal Phelps, James M. Brown, Seth B. Hall, Wm. H. Appleton, S. Francis Prime, Wm. M. Halsted, John H. Brady, Joseph Seligman, Wm. R. Travers, Edward L. Connelly, Benjamin G. Arnold, J. D. Vermilye, Henry F. Spaulding, John Kelly, Jordan L. Mott, Russell Sage, William Dowd, Isaac Bell, David M. Stone, Wm. E. Curtis, E. Randolph Robinson, Philip Van Valkenburgh, John D. Jones, Howard Potter, James S. Thayer, Wm. H. Guion, Wm. Adams, Smith Ely, jr., James Buell, Lawrence Turnure, George J. Forrest, Peter Cooper, C. C. Baldwin, Wilson G. Hunt, Henry H. Anderson, Chester A. Arthur, Noah Davis, F. D. Tappan, Morris K. Jesup, A. R. Lawrence, Henry M. Alexander, Benjamin K. Phelps, and others.

MR. WICKHAM'S REPLY.

January 5, 1877.

TO AUGUST BELMONT, SAMUEL D. BABCOCK, WILLIAM E. DODGE, JOHN A. STEWART, JOHN P. AGNEW, *and others.*

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of yours of 3d instant, and am somewhat embarrassed in replying to your kind and complimentary invitation therein contained. To have merited the good opinion of yourselves and those whom you represent is to me an exceedingly satisfactory termination of my official career, and a testimony that I appreciate. In compliance with your request I will name the evening of Jan. 12 next. Very truly yours,

WM. H. WICKHAM.

Yesterday was the third of January. It is known throughout the civilized world as the day when the man who swore off chewing on New Year's, goes out and buys a paper of tobacco and wonders how he ever happened to make such a fool of himself.—[Norwich Bulletin.

XLIVTH CONGRESS—2D SESSION

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

DISCUSSION IN THE SENATE OF RESOLUTION COMPELLING THE PRODUCTION OF TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES—A FAVORING VOTE OF 33 TO 3, BUT NO QUORUM—THE SAME SUBJECT IN THE HOUSE REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE—DEFENSE OF GOV. GROVER BY SENATOR KELLY.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1877.

MR. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.), from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, reported a bill to authorize the taking of certain parcels of land for public use at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Maryland-aves. with the west front of the Capitol grounds. Placed on the calendar.

MR. MORTON (Rep., Ind.) called up the resolution submitted by the Committee on Privileges and Elections on Wednesday last, declaring that Wm. M. Turner is in duty bound, under his oath, to answer the questions propounded to him by the committee in regard to the transmission of telegraphic messages through his office at Jacksonville, Oregon, and that he cannot excuse himself from answering the same by reason of his official connection with the Western Union Telegraph Company as the manager of their office at Jacksonville, Oregon.

Mr. KELLY (Dem., Oregon) said he hoped the resolution would be adopted. There was no reason why telegraphic communications should not be made public when justice demands it. It was a well-known principle of law that written communications—no matter how confidential—must be produced in courts of justice when necessary to serve the ends of justice, and nothing was more sacred than a confidential letter between two persons. This witness (Turner) had unquestionably been leaky; he had disclosed something about dispatches passing through his office, and now he should be made to tell the whole. He (Mr. Kelly) was very confident that no communication referring to the political events at Salem, Oregon, would show that anything wrong had been done. If any improper telegram had passed over the wire he (Mr. Kelly) would have known something about it. He was satisfied that nothing improper could be shown; that not a dollar had been expended unlawfully or improperly. He was present at Salem at the time, and knew of all the transactions. He was very much astonished at the vituperative assault made by the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Wright) yesterday upon the Governor of Oregon. Way that Senator took occasion to assault the Governor of Oregon on the floor of the Senate, when he knew that the Governor was present and could not reply, he could not understand. The Senator from Iowa was mistaken in his asserted facts, mistaken in his law, and doubly mistaken as to the duties of the Executive of a State. The Governor, so vilified yesterday, had been twice elected Governor of the State and recently elected to succeed him (Mr. Kelly) in the Senate of the United States. In everything that became a man of honor, a man of principle, Gov. Grover was the peer of the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. WRIGHT (Rep., Iowa) said it was far from his thoughts yesterday to abuse or villify any one. He accepted the facts as he understood them, and stated his conclusions. If the facts stated by him were true he had no word to take back.

Mr. KELLY argued that the Governor of Oregon was justified in his action by the decisions of the Supreme Courts of Indiana and of Oregon.

Mr. WRIGHT said the Governor was a mere ministerial officer, and there was no decision which authorized him to decide a judicial question.

Mr. KELLY argued that the question decided by the Governor of Oregon was not a judicial one; it was a political question and the Governor had the right to decide it.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio) said the Senate should consider the question as to the extent of its power in calling for private telegrams between citizens. As a rule, the courts did not compel the production of private papers unless particular papers were called for, and it was shown at the same time that they were necessary to serve the ends of justice. He was not prepared to say that this case was one which justified the Senate of the United States in calling for telegrams in a general way. He hoped the Senate of the United States would not be the first to break down the ordinary barriers of confidential communication between private individuals. The power of the Senate is compelling the production of letters and telegrams as did not belong to the kind to which a court would go. He trusted that the call for telegrams would be confined strictly to those telegrams from public officers upon public business, and there would be no general call for telegrams. The power was a dangerous one and likely to be abused, and he hoped some law would soon be passed to govern the production of telegrams and letters. Private property and private papers should be kept sacred. If the Committee on Privileges and Elections desired certain telegrams they should be pointed out, and it should be shown that their production was necessary to bring out the whole truth in the investigation. The Senate was acting as a court, and should act with exceeding care in ordering the production of telegrams.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem., Del.) said he was heartily in favor of all discussions of matters pertaining to this Oregon matter, and he was disposed to go very far in compelling the production of testimony; at the same time he believed there was no safety for any party or any man except under the laws of the land. He did not believe in liberty divorced from law. He believed that the Senate had full power to authorize the investigation now being made by the Committee on Privileges and Elections, but it must not forget that it was now making a precedent. He reviewed the questions which that witness Turner had declined to answer, and said most of them would be allowed in a court of justice, though one or two should be narrowed down and made more specific. He then referred to the investigation by the Special Committee of Mississippi Affairs made a year ago, and said a wholesale production of telegraphic communications was ordered by the majority of that committee; but he objected to such a general production of telegrams. In his opinion special cards were not much use in public than telegrams of to-day. Skillful telegraph operators could be in the room where an assignation was located and by their ear could take a message just as well as if seated at the instrument. The Senate had all the rights which a court of justice had in the production of testimony, and he would aid the committee all in his power to enforce the disclosure of any testimony in regard to the late election, and any question which the law would compel a witness to answer elsewhere he would compel him to answer before a committee of the Senate.

Mr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) said it seemed to him unfortunate that with so many empty seats the Senate should be called upon to run the boundaries to these communications which passed between citizen and citizen. This question in regard to telegraphic communication was under consideration in another forum. The witness Turner, he understood, had not yet been instructed by Congress for whom he acted on account of the belief that the matter of divulging telegraphic communications might be settled in another forum today. He therefore thought his resolution might be allowed to stand until the party called upon to testify could be advised, and in the mean time the Senators could consider the subject. There was one thing certain, either the telegraph would cease to be, as it is, a great convenience, or those who managed it would adopt some measure which would make it impossible, legally and physically, for anybody to rummage the files of dispatches. As was said of some great military commander, "He will burn his bridges." The telegraph company would burn their file slips in case Congress asserted the right to fumble and handle every message which passed between man and man. Those who patronized the telegraph companies would force them to keep messages secret. He would vote with all the Senators to unmask fraud, but the Senate now was proceeding upon slippery ground. There were meets and bounds which should be established.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate memorials of the National Board of Trade of the United States praying for a revision of the bankruptcy law and of the Tariff and Internal Revenue laws. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and Finance.

The discussion of the Turner resolution was then resumed.

Mr. MORTON (Rep., Ind.) said he believed that this whole subject in regard to the secrecy of telegraphic communications was within the power of Congress, and not to be regulated by Congress. It was a subject for Congressional legislation and should be legislated upon. There was no law to punish the disclosure of telegraphic communications in this District or any of the Territories of the United States, although the Government daily sent messages of the most important character. The statutes of Oregon referred to did not prevent the witness Turner from testifying. It provided for the punishment of any wilful disclosure of a telegraphic communication, but a telegrapher called upon to testify in any court could not be punished under it. There was no doubt Congress could put a telegraphic dispatch upon the same footing with a letter in the mail in regard to secrecy, and dispatches should be protected to some extent.

Mr. INGALLS (Rep., Kan.) said there was no reason why copies of telegraphic dispatches should be retained. The trouble was with the telegraph companies themselves. If a law should be passed requiring telegraph companies to destroy all messages, there would be no further difficulty about these disgraceful investigations, and when courts of justice or committees of Congress desired telegrams they would be compelled to apply to the sender or receiver, and not to the custodian of such messages.

Mr. WALLACE (Dem., Penn.) argued that it was the duty of the Senate to compel these telegraphic communications to be brought to light when they affected the administration of justice.

Mr. EATON (Dem., Conn.) said in his judement this whole matter should be referred to the Judiciary Committee, and let that committee pass upon it. He moved that it be referred to that committee, with instructions to give an opinion as to how far the Senate of the United States had control of private correspondence by telegraph.

Mr. WHYTE (Dem., Md.) said there had been no legislation making communications by telegraph confidential; and he could not see why a party having possession of information which passed through a telegraph office should not be made to disclose that information. If any statute of a State proposed to punish a witness for disclosing such information, he was duly protected by the act of 1862. The law of Oregon had no application whatever to this case. Whenever it was made to appear that the inquiry was a pertinent one, a telegraph operator had no privilege upon which he could refuse to divulge the information required. He asked where the difference existed between a telegraph operator and an expressman, and if anybody denied that the Senate had the right to send to an express office and compel the production of books and receipts, as it did during the late Belknap impeachment trial. Express and telegraph companies, he said, were private corporations, and the fact of any corporation could not shield himself from answering an inquiry by either house of Congress on account of the rules of such corporation. In the absence of law creating a bulwark around a telegraph operator he had no privilege. He favored the passage of the resolution.

Mr. CAMERON (Rep., Penn.) also favored the passage of the resolution, and said he would give telegraph companies all rights guaranteed them by charters, but no more. He would vote for this resolution, and everything else which would show that there had been wrong-doing in the election of a President of the United States.

Mr. COCKRELL (Dem., Mo.) said no Senator had been able to state that a precedent for this case had ever been before the Senate. He had, upon examination, found that during the impeachment of Andrew Johnson the Senate of the United States, with the Chief-Justice presiding, had summoned Charles A. Tinker and compelled him to produce certain telegrams which passed between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Parsons of Alabama. He (Mr. Cockrell) was decidedly in favor of letting the people know what the two political parties which pretended to act for the people had been doing, and would therefore vote for the resolution.

The question being on the passage of the resolution, resulted—Yeas, 33; Nays, 3; no quorum voting. So the Senate, at 2:45 p. m., adjourned until Monday.

The vote in detail was as follows (Republicans in Roman, Democrats in italics):

YEAS.

Allison,	Cragin,	*Keenan,*	*Randolph,*
Bogy,	Edmunds,	*McCreery,*	Robertson,
Booth,	Ferry,	*Maxey,*	Sherman,
Boutwell,	*Gordon,*	Mitchell,	Spencer,
Bruce,	Ingalls,	Morrill,	Wallace,
Cameron(Pa.),	*Johnston,*	Morton,	*Wadleigh,*
Chaffee,	*Jones (Fla.),*	Patterson,	*Withers,*
Clayton,	Kelly,	*Price,*	Wright—33.
Cockrell,			

NAYS.

Barnum,	Burnside,	Eaton—3.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. ATKINS (Dem., Tenn.) the Senate amendments to the bill making appropriation for the payment of invalid and other pensions were concurred in. The House then went into Committee of the Whole—Mr. Hooker (Dem., Miss.) in the chair—on the private calendar. Five pension bills only were pass d, all the other bills which were reached on the calendar having been objected to. The committee rose at 2 o'clock, and the House thereupon proceeded to the question of the recusant witness, Mr. E. W. Barnes, the New-Orleans Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, the Sergeant-at-Arms presenting him before the Bar of the House. The SPEAKER, addressing Mr. Barnes, said it was his (the speaker's) duty to ask him what excuse he had to offer for the failure to produce before the House committee sitting at New-Orleans telegrams called for in the subpena served on him.

Mr. BARNES replied that his answer had been prepared in writing by his counsel, Messrs. Lowrey and Ashton, and he asked that it be read by the Clerk.

The Clerk then proceeded to read the answer, which is a voluminous paper, quoting all the proceedings thus far in the matter. The witness protests that the paper designated as a subpena was not in form or substance a subpena to him or to any one else except to John G. Thompson, the Sergeant-at-Arms, named therein; that it was in no sense an order of the House which could be a subject of obedience or disobedience in him, and that such paper could not be rightfully made the ground of inflicting a penalty on him. The paper then goes on to argue the inviolability of telegraphic dispatches, citing in support of it "Cooley's Constitutional Limitations." It then recites the rules of the company, forbidding the communication of dispatches when applied for, unless by permission of the executive officer or by the order of a court. The witness then says that as soon as he received the paper served upon him he acquainted his superintendent of the fact, and asked for instructions. Another reason for his doing so was that some time previously he had received instructions from the superintendent at Mobile to send to him all the business that had passed through the New-Orleans office from Nov. 1 to Dec. 6, and he had done so before he had been served with the paper of one committee. The instructions received from his superintendent were to decline furnishing the dispatches called for and that he would be relieved of all responsibility in the matter. He declares that since the transmission of the papers to Mobile he has had no control over them, nor has he any knowledge whatever that such messages as were called for in the paper ever passed through the New-Orleans office. He does not believe that any of them remained in the office (as it legal possession was in him as a subordinate employe, and he expresses the belief that if he had undertaken to rummage the office for them and carry them away, he would have been committing an actual trespass. He also pre ds that the paper served upon him is couched in such sweeping terms as to be a general warrant, coming within the prohibition of the Constitution, and at variance with the great principles of personal liberty and right established for all freemen of the Anglo-Saxon race; also, that the Legislature of Louisiana makes the disclosure of telegraphic dispatches a misdemeanor; he declares that he did not contemplate any contempt of authority or privileges of the House, and had only sought to do his duty as he understood it; the messages in the office were in possession of the company, and not of himself except as a clerk; he therefore asks to be discharged from custody and permitted to return to his home.

The reading of the paper being concluded, Mr. KNOTT (Dem., Ky.) offered a resolution that the report of the committee, the answer just read, and all other papers relating to the alleged contempt, be referred to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report as early as practicable what action should be taken in the premises. The resolution was adopted, and the Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to retain Mr. Barnes in custody.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Contingency Deficiency bill, Mr. HOSKINS (Dem., N. Y.) in the Chair.

After about two hours spent over the Deficiency bill, the committee rose and the bill was passed, and the House adjourned till to-morrow, a motion by Mr. KNOTT (Ky.) to adjourn over till Monday having been lost only by the absence of a quorum.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day: Wm. Pound to be U. S. District-Attorney for Dakota; James G. Burdick, U. S. Marshal for Dakota; G. W. Patton, U. S. Marshal for West Virginia; Wm. S. Mayfield, Collector of Customs for the District of St. Marys, Ga.; Ferdinand Barnsdale, to be Land Register at Pueblo, Col. Postmasters—Harlee W. Ore, Anamosa, Iowa; W. P. Coe, Grenada, Miss.; Joan C. Smith, Canajoharie, New-York.

Indian Agents—Daniel Sherman for the New-York Indian Agency; H. B. Bingham, at Winnebago Agency, Nebraska.

Army Medical Staff—Samuel G. Rossman and Wm. B. Davis to be first lieutenants and assistant surgeons; Second Lieut. Hamilton Rowan, first lieutenant, to be second lieutenant of the 24 Artillery; second lieut. George Wilson to be first lieutenant; Charles B. Thompson to be second lieutenant.

Elias H. Norris was to-day appointed revenue gauger for the First District of Texas.

THE ASTORIA MASKED BURGLARS.

EXAMINATION OF THE PRISONERS—THEY ARE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

The examination of the Astoria masked burglars took place yesterday at the Astoria station-house, before Recorder Parsells. The prisoners had engaged James Oliver as counsel, but he failed to appear, and soon after the beginning of the examination a telegram was received from him asking for an adjournment, which was not granted. District-Attorney Dowling appeared for the people, and a large crowd filled the court-room in every part. The prisoners, who were informed by the District-Attorney that they were at liberty to question the witnesses, showed their familiarity with the usages of the courts in the shrewdness with which they detected the weak points in the evidence, and the pertinacity with which they insisted upon a direct negative or affirmative answer. Upon being arraigned, all the prisoners pleaded not guilty, with the exception of Riley, who is anxious to turn State's evidence, and he pleaded guilty in a faint voice, to the evident discomfiture of his companions. Riley will not be used as evidence against the others, however, unless it becomes necessary to do so in order to secure their conviction.

Capt. Murray of the Fourth Police Precinct of this city gave the particulars of the capture of the burglars as given in yesterday's TRIBUNE, and stated that John James, alias "Fatty Farrell," was arrested a few weeks since for an attempt to rob a schooner, the case falling through because the complainant did not appear at the trial. Detective Carr placed in evidence the property taken from the prisoners, detailed his share in the arrest, and stated that he knew Roberts's place at No. 99 James-st. as a resort of thieves. He was cross-examined by Roberts as to his knowledge of his (Roberts's) character, and explained that he had only been a few months in the Fourth Precinct, and knew little about him or Schmidt of his own knowledge.

William H. Green and his wife testified to the visit of the thieves to their house on the night of the robbery, and identified Schmidt as the leader of the gang positively by his size, which is unusual and his marked German accent, and also Riley and James. They were unable to identify the other two. They identified the gold pencil case which was given away by James as their property.

Miss Sarah E. Lusk testified that her brother-in-law, W. H. Green, awoke her by saying, "Don't be frightened, Sarah, it's only four gentlemen come to rob the house," a statement which gave rise to much amusement; she only saw one man, the one who held the light while in her room, and indicated Roberts as the man; he was counselled to stand up, and after having his coat collar turned up and a handkerchief bound across his face, she positively identified him. This evidence was the first which implicated Roberts and was evidently a great blow