XLVTH CONGRESS—IIID SESSION.

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

SENATOR-ELECT CORBIN WITHDRAWS—PENSIONS AND PENSION ARREARS—THE HOUSE REJECTS THE BRAZILIAN MAIL ENTERPRISE—MR. SEWARD AT THE BAR OF THE HOUSE.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1879.

The Senate to-day ordered the printing of the testimony taken by the select committee to inquire as to the best means of preventing epidemic diseases, and also the reports of the United States Commissioners to the Paris Exposition.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.), from the select committee in regard to taking the next census, reported back the amendments of the House to the Census bill, with the recommendation that the Senate nonconcur.

Mr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) said some of the amendments of the House were a great improvement to the bill, and he would be glad if the Senate would agree to them. He thought the Senate made a mistake in passing this bill, and he did not intend that it should become a law if he could fairly prevent it. He moved that the amendments of the House be printed and the further consideration of the bill postponed until to-morrow. So ordered.

Mr. DAVIS (Dem., W. Va.) submitted a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the Senate, at its next regular session, a tabulated statement showing the annual amount paid under what is known as permanent annual appropriations from 1866 to 1879 inclusive, separating the amount expended by each department, and also payments on account of the public debt, giving reference to the laws under which the different amounts were paid. Agreed to.

THE LETTER FROM MR. CORBIN.

The VICE-PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following letter:

Hon. WILLIAM A. WHEELER, President of the Senate:

SIR: I have been before the Senate for two years, actively asserting my right to a seat in the Senate as Senator-elect from the State of South Carolina. I have most persistently pressed my claim, because the lawful Legislature of South Carolina, on the 12th day of December, A. D., 1876, duly elected me to said office.

The Committee of the Senate on Privileges and Elections has, after elaborate investigation into the law and facts of my case, reported to the Senate that I was duly and lawfully elected by the Legislature of South Carolina to a seat in this body as Senator from the State of South Carolina, for the term of six years, commencing on the 4th day of March, 1877, and that I am entitled to be sworn in as such.

This report is before the Senate waiting action, but I now learn to my great surprise that some of those Senators, supposably willing to consider and dispose of the subject matter of said report on its merits, are not disposed to consider it at all. Their action formally appearing on the record indicates conclusively that my right to a seat in the Senate will not be passed upon during the present session of Congress. It will be useless for me to return here to prosecute my claim before the next Senate.

Not wishing to prolong a fruitless contest already extended over a period of two years, and at great sacrifice and expense, I now withdraw from the same. I wish to emphasize, and I request that I withdraw most from this contest because I am satisfied beyond question that I cannot, by any proper effort of mine, obtain my seat. I believe that I have in the contest I have made, discharged to the full measure of my ability, my duty to the Legislature of South Carolina that elected and sent me here, and have also done my duty to the many personal and political friends whose interests and rights were involved in my admission to my seat. That I have failed to obtain my seat I sincerely regret, as I represented many and peculiar interests. Had I been admitted to the floor of the Senate, I might there have spoken for them and been heard. I might have been able, among my other duties, to have rendered essential service to the colored race of South Carolina and the South, now sadly in need of help, and with whose wrongs I am very familiar. But I am sent out from this service, and through no fault of my own. The responsibility of my failure to obtain my seat rests with others, and it it proves a burden to them they will no doubt assume and bear it as best they can. I am, very respectfully,

Washington, D. C., Feb. 28, 1879. DAVID P. CORBIN.

Mr. THURMAN (Dem., Ohio) inquired to whom was the paper was addressed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT replied, to the Senate of the United States.

Mr. THURMAN said he felt disposed to move that it be returned to the writer; however, he would make no motion on the subject.

The letter was laid on the table.

Mr. McMILLAN (Rep., Minn.), from the Committee on Commerce, reported, with amendment, the House joint resolution for securing reports of the products of the fisheries. Placed on the calendar.

The Senate then passed private bills on the calendar as follows:

House bill for the relief of Henry M. Meade, late Paymaster in the United States Navy.

House bill for the relief of Philip W. Stanhope.

House bill for the relief of Henry E. Williamson, late First-Lieutenant Co. I, 99th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

House bill for the relief of Thomas W. Segar.

ARREARS OF PENSIONS.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the unfinished business, being the Arrears of Pensions bill, the pending question being on the amendment of Mr. INGALLS (Rep., Kan.), providing for the division of the country into seventy-six districts, and the appointment of a surgeon and pension clerk to visit each district, make examinations, take testimony, etc.

Mr. INGALLS (Rep., Kan.) said that his belief was that 15 or 20 per cent of all pensions were improperly paid. The amendment which he proposed would prevent frauds. He had received this morning an intimation from gentlemen who were opposed to the amendment. As a general thing these agents were the worst scourge of vermin that ever infested the body-politic. They opposed this amendment because it trusted to their rivals—the surgeons.

Mr. GORDON (Dem., Ga.) said this was too grave a matter to be considered in these last hours of the session. He thought a better plan would be to appoint a commission of two Senators and three members of the House to take the matter in hand, and report to Congress what changes should be made.

Mr. VOORHEES (Dem., Ind.) objected to the proposed amendment, because it would create a large number of Federal office-holders. He favored a reorganization of the bureau in Washington.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem., Mo.) said something was needed to prevent abuses in our pension system. We had now the most complicated pension system on the face of the earth. There was not a single provision ever added to our pension laws to prevent frauds that did not increase frauds.

Mr. CHANDLER (Rep., Mich.) favored the amendment, and said while he was in charge of the Interior Department he sought in every way to search out and prevent fraudulent pension cases. He asked an appropriation of $100,000 to send examining surgeons throughout the country, and he believed there as no doubt that if Congress had given him the $100,000 to send forth these surgeons to examine pensioners he could have saved $1,000,000 the first year.

Mr. BAILEY (Rep., Tenn.) submitted an amendment providing for the appointment of pension surgeons and persons on claims, to be selected by the Commissioner of Mr. Ingalls, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, instead of by the Secretary of the Interior.

Pending discussion, Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) called up the House resolution authorizing the remission of duty on two medals of bronze presented to Commissioner-General McCormick by American exhibitors at the Paris Exhibition. Passed.

The discussion on the Pension Appropriation bill was then continued.

Mr. ANTHONY (Rep., R. I.) appealed to the Senate in the interest of public business to stop debate and vote upon this measure.

The amendment of Mr. Bailey was then agreed to.

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Rep., Iowa) submitted an amendment so as to provide that pensions shall begin from the date of the death or the discharge of the person where the application shall be filed prior to the first of July, 1880, instead of the first of January, 1880, as proposed by the committee; after that date the pension to commence from the filing of the application. Agreed to.

Mr. GILESBY (Rep., Ill.) moved to amend so as to insert 1885 instead of 1880. Rejected.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) denied that 20 per cent of the pensions paid were fraudulent.

The question was taken on the first eight sections of the amendment proposed by Mr. Ingalls relating to the appointment of pension surgeons and clerks, prescribing their duties, etc., and they were rejected—yeas, 28; nays, 36.

The next section, providing that the pension shall begin from the death or discharge from the service of the person on whose account granted, providing the application be filed prior to July 1, 1880, etc., was amended, on motion of Mr. KERNAN (Dem., N. Y.), so as to read: "From the death or from the time of actual disability," and as amended the section was agreed to.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) submitted the amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue 4 per cent bonds, not exceeding in the aggregate $18,000,000, or in bonds thereof, or any portion thereof to issue certificates of deposit authorized by the Act of February 26, 1879, and the proceeds of said bonds or certificates to be applied to the payment of arrears of pensions.

Mr. VOORHEES (Dem., Ind.) argued that there was no necessity to increase the interest bearing debt of the United States. He submitted as a substitute authorizing and requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to reissue United States legal-tender notes now held for the redemption of fractional currency, and a part of such notes heretofore retired from circulation under the act of January 14, 1875, to the aggregate amount of $18,000,000, and to expend the same in payment of such claims for arrears of pensions as may be allowed under the act of January 25, 1879.

Mr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) said he remembered a prominent Senator once said whenever he was in doubt about a measure he followed the committee, but Mr. Conkling found it difficult to follow the committee in this case. He referred to the many statements as to the amount required to pay arrears of pensions, and said every Senator who voted for that bill did so believing it would require $18,000,000, as that statement was then made by the Chairman of the Committee having the bill in charge. Now, curiously enough, the Secretary of the Treasury reported an anticipated deficit of just the amount it was stated the bill would cost. If he was to vote to increase the bonded debt of the Nation, he would like to know that he did it in obedience to a behest which amounted to a necessity. In no event would he vote for such a proposition as presented by the Senator from Indiana. He did not believe inflation, in any form, should be tolerated. There was a lack of information as to the Arrears of Pensions bill, though he did not propose to arraign any one, he could not vote to increase the bonded debt of the Nation upon these many conflicting statements.

The VICE-PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the House bill to amend Section 3,697 of the Revised Statutes of the United States with respect to interest on surrendered or called bonds; but Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) objected to its second reading to-day, and it was laid aside.

Mr. WINDOM (Rep., Minn.), at 5:45 p. m., moved that the Senate take a recess until 8 o'clock.

Adopted, and the Senate, at 5:45 p. m., took a recess until 8 o'clock p. m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The reading of yesterday's journal occupied three-quarters of an hour.

On motion of Mr. FRYE (Rep., Me.) the select committee appointed yesterday for the charge made against the Speaker by Special Agent Williams was authorized to sit during the sessions of the House.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the Department decision in regard to the franking privilege.

Mr. HARRIS (Dem., Penn.) asked leave to offer a resolution that there be an evening session to-morrow for business on the Speaker's table, not to interfere with appropriation bills.

Mr. HALE (Rep., Me.) made a statement as to the condition of business, and said that there would be great danger of an extra session unless the House should proceed to put through the Appropriation bills. There were eight Appropriation bills which had not got into or out of conference, and there were only four days between now and Tuesday at noon, when the session would close.

Mr. ATKINS (Dem., Tenn., chairman of the Committee on Appropriations,) confirmed Mr. Hale's statement, and said that it would be necessary for the House to address itself assiduously and constantly to the Appropriation bills. There were only five of the Appropriation bills passed into law; there were eight others to be completed. The Fortification bill and the Army bill were in conference. The Post Office bill was in the hands of the Appropriations Committee. There were, besides the regular appropriation bills, the Arrearages of Pensions bill, the Southern Claims bill and the Post Route bill—all somewhat voluminous. He had been informed by the clerk that it would occupy one clerk twenty-five or thirty hours in enrolling one of these bills, and that it would occupy the Committee on Enrolled Bills seven or eight hours in comparing it. It would, therefore, be necessary to have these bills disposed of before Sunday, so that the clerk might have Sunday and Monday to enroll them and compare them.

Mr. BLOUNT (Dem., Ga.), from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the Senate amendments to the Post Office Appropriation bill, with a recommendation that they be nonconcurred in in gross, reserving only two of them for separate votes—the Brazilian Subsidy and the Mail Classification amendments, and that these also be nonconcurred in.

Two hours debate then took place on the Brazilian Subsidy.

Mr. WADDELL (Dem., N. C.) was glad that in the expiring hour of Congress the advocates of establishing mail service with Brazil had at last obtained an opportunity of getting a vote upon it. It was the measure which was called by its enemies, the "John Roach Subsidy." That was a misnomer; it was not a subsidy, and it was not a John Roach subsidy. It was simply a proposition to authorize the Postmaster-General to contract with the lowest bidder for the transportation of mails from New-York and New-Orleans to Brazil once a month in American steamships. In reply to the cry that John Roach is the only man who is to be benefited, he called attention to the fact that there are to-day sixteen American steamships now afloat, each one of which comes within the limits of the amendment. The proposition, he said, is in no sense a subsidy. It is not a gratuity of money out of the Treasury; it is to pay for services rendered for the transportation of mails. There is no sense, he said, in expending millions for mail transportation on land, and refuse to pay for transportation on sea. He had been one of those who (to use a slang phrase) had "done his level best" to fight out of the Union, but now, since he had returned to the Union, he had done his best to maintain it, and one of the most agreeable reflections of those last days of the session would be to him that he had made an honest effort to restore the crippled commerce of this great nation and to place it where the forefathers of the Republic had intended to place it—upon American bottoms.

Mr. KELLEY (Rep., Penn.) supported the amendment.

Mr. CALDWELL (Dem., Tenn.), Mr. FRIDEMORE (Dem., Va.), Mr. BAKER (Rep., Ind.) and Mr. ROBERTS (Dem., Mo.) opposed the amendment.

Mr. HEWITT (Dem., N. Y.) said he desired to disabuse the mind of the House of the idea that the commercial classes of this country are in favor of subsidies and of this particular class of subsidies. The merchants of New-York are absolutely and utterly terribly opposed to it because other experience has taught them that all interference by the Government is an injury to their business. They want no subsidy; they want no protection of ships; they do want the repeal of the navigation laws. They ask to have the high seas open to them, and American capital, energy and enterprise will win the victory, as they always have won in every contest. [Applause.]

Mr. TUCKER (Dem., Va.) stated that he would vote against the amendment.

Mr. BLAIR (Rep., N. H.) declared himself earnestly and heartily for the amendment. The country had arrived at that state of development when it was absolutely essential to find foreign markets and the first step in forging trade ties to secure rapid and commodious facilities of transportation.

Mr. BUTLER (Ind., Mass.) supported the amendment. He expressed surprise at Mr. Tucker's constitutional argument, and asked whether that gentleman in voting appropriations to clear out the port of Norfolk or the James River, was not acting unconstitutionally in those terms over Chincoteague and Wicomico. How on earth did he get that liberal vote for appropriations to clear out the harbor of one harbor without voting for the appropriations to clear other harbor.

Mr. TUCKER (Dem., Va.)—I didn't do it.

Mr. BUTLER—Then I take it that I shall not find the name of Jay I and voting for any river and harbor appropriation bill. How is it we the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi? How are you fortifications of the South going to get on with your improvements of the Mississippi if this be the Constitutional doctrine? Because you will be giving an advantage to New-Orleans over all the Southern ports, and you will be giving millions to one man, Eads, because that one man, Eads, can do the work. Now if John Roach is to-day the only man who can do a week of running steamers to Brazil, then I thank God we have one man in the country, although of Irish birth and descent, who can revive American commerce. I am glad that there is one left to us, one establishment that has survived the wreck of all our shipping interests. We must do something to revive it, and I do not care whether it is John Roach or any other man who can do it. If he can do it let it be done, let us no longer confess our from the great part of the South American continent and have to send even our letters to Brazil by way of England. This is not a subsidy; you have only given it a bad name in order (through the press) to frighten weak minds and cowardly members of Congress. It is just like the salary grab, and other matters. Members voted to increase their pay, and when they got sufficient pay, a great many of them took it and gave it for charity, supposing that that would cover it up; following Judas, who took thirty pieces of silver and bought a sanctifying institution, a burying-ground.

Mr DUNNELL (Rep., Minn.) spoke in favor of the amendment. The country, he said, had the means of material wealth and was the sovereign of financial aid at this time and that did nothing for the revival of its commerce. The United States Government should be aggressive.

Mr. GARFIELD (Rep., Ohio) said that on general principles he was opposed to this class of legislation, whether on appropriation bills or elsewhere, and that subsequent reasons of controlling strength presented themselves this amendment ought to be opposed. But in his judgment there were such reasons, and he should therefore vote for the amendment, and stound give his reasons for so doing. When, said he, we establish a mail route to Montana or the Black Hills we do that exclusively to the benefit of our country, and it is not merely to carry the mail there, but to open up communication to great sources of wealth. That is the ground on which we gave the larger amount. We constantly shape our legislation in order to meet emergencies in connection with the carriage of the mails. Now, what is the great industrial problem that most concerns our people? This: through ingenuity and skill we have carried our labor-saving machinery to such an extent that we are absolutely driving the whole country with the cheap manufacturing products of our skill, and on every account, for the public good, and for the growth of our business for the prosperity of our people, we want an outlet for our great productions, it appeals to all the intelligence of a commercial and industrious people, and justifies me in departing from what is generally the safe rule, to let all such classes of business take care of themselves. This, in short, is the ground which regulates my conduct in this vote. Let us not be afraid of our shadows, or afraid of doing what seems to be just and right, for fear that somebody will talk about us.

Mr. GOODE (Dem., Va.) expressed the hope that the gentlemen of the House would not, like his respected colleague (Mr. Tucker) be driven from the support of this measure by the cry of "subsidy." That was a misnomer. He knew nothing of John Roach, and cared nothing for John Roach any more than his colleague did, but he asked whether John Roach was, on account of his pluck and energy, to be punished by the American Congress?

Mr. BUCKNER (Dem., Mo.) said that he should vote for the amendment more cheerfully if the competition was extended to vessels built anywhere, but in the present condition of the country he should vote for it even as it stood. He was not to be frightened from his propriety by the cry of "subsidy."

Mr. FRYE (Rep., Me.) spoke long and earnestly in favor of the amendment. The objection had been made that the Government had already aided once been given, and that it did not propose to trade to any extent, but that was from 1864 to 1874. Why did it not succeed? It was because the cost of production from 1864 to 1874 was higher in this country than in any other country on the earth. It was because this country had a depreciated currency, an inferior currency, and could not manufacture or sell goods in competition with any other country. But to-day it could.

Mr. CANNON (Rep., Ill.) and Mr. TOWNSEND (Rep., N. Y.) opposed the amendment.

Mr. BLOUNT (Dem., Ga.) closed the debate by a speech in opposition to the amendment. The proposition was to pay $3,000,000 to get what the country was already getting. It was pretended that the proposition was for the interest of commerce. The American people had been already cheated and deceived under the false pretence of extending American commerce. It was nothing except a proposition of John Roach. He had invited members of Congress to Chester. They had had free rides and free champagne, and altogether a jolly good time, and then John Roach had come in with a memorial stating that he was troubled about the state of American commerce, and had recommended this identical proposition to revive it. Mr. Blount referred to the demand of New-York for free ships, and thanked God that there was one city that asked of the American Congress no subsidy, but only a free race for the commerce of the world.

The vote was then taken on concurring in the amendment, and it was rejected—yeas, 89; nays, 157—and then it was nonconcurred in without a further vote.

The next question was on the Senate amendment for the reclassification of mail matter.

After an hour's discussion, everything requiring the registration of periodicals was struck out.

MR. SEWARD ANSWERS FOR CONTEMPT.

Pending further action, the Sergeant-at-Arms at 4:45 p. m., appeared at the bar of the House, having in custody Mr. George F. Seward. Having announced his presence, the Speaker, addressing Mr. Seward, said:

Mr. Seward, you have been presented at the bar of the House under the order of the House, for a breach of the privileges of the House, in refusing to answer certain questions propounded to you by a committee of the House, which questions that committee was authorized by the House to ask; for standing mute when tendered an oath as a witness, and for failing to produce certain books as required by the subpœna duces tecum duly served upon you. It is my duty now, by authority of the House, to ask whether you are ready to take the oath tendered to you by the chairman of the committee to answer the questions propounded to you, and to produce the books as requested by the subpœna duces tecum.

Mr. Seward—I have prepared, with the assistance of my counsel, a statement of the law affecting this question, which I beg leave to hand in respectfully and to request that it may be read.

The paper (a long legal argument) was read by the clerk. The pith of it is that the witness is protected by the sacred guarantee of the Constitution. (Article five, of the amendments.) He claims the protection of that guarantee, avowing the most sincere respect for the House, and the belief that his just rights as a citizen and officer will not be wilfully or willingly infringed. He argues that the books called for are not public records, and he therefore submits that he is not in contempt of the House and that he ought to be discharged from arrest.

The SPEAKER—(to Mr. Seward)—Do you desire to be understood as declining to produce the books which you were required to produce; and do you decline to take the oath offered to you?

Mr. Seward—I stand here, Mr. Speaker, for my rights as a citizen and an officer. So long as persons who are my personal enemies are pursuing me before this committee I shall hold all books and papers that I now hold. I speak this with perfect respect and deference to the House, but I shall stand for all the rights guaranteed to me by the Constitution. I want to say to this House that whenever the committee says that it has done with my persecutors it can have my books, and whenever the Treasury Department or the State Department demands books it shall have them, but not at the instance of my enemies.

Mr. SPRINGER (Dem., Ill.) thereupon submitted an amendment declaring Mr. Seward in contempt of the House.

Mr. BUNDY (Rep., N. Y.) submitted an amendment referring the matter to the Judiciary Committee to report what action should be taken.

Mr. LUTTRELL (Dem., Cal.)—That is right; let it go to the Judiciary Committee; the liberty of a citizen is at stake.

Mr. SPRINGER—I hope the gentleman from California (Mr. Luttrell) will possess himself. There is no "heathen Chinee" in this matter (laughter), although it is a case coming from China. Mr. Seward speaks as if the committee was used for the purpose of allowing his enemies to pursue him. The only witnesses against him were men who were or are officers of the Government. Mr. Myers was appointed Consul-General at Shanghai by President Grant, and was confirmed by the Senate, and Mr. G. Wiley Wells was appointed by the present occupant of the Presidential office. These are the two witnesses whom Mr. Seward speaks of as his enemies. He has been offered every opportunity before the committee to have a fair hearing.

Mr. Seward—I have not had the slightest intention of attacking the chairman of the committee.

After a scene of great confusion and uproar, the House rejected—107 to 110—Mr. Springer's motions for the previous question (which would have cut off the vote on Bundy's substitute), and then proceeded to vote on the substitute. It was agreed to—yeas, 112; nays, 108.

The following Democrats voted with the Republicans for the substitute: Luttrell, Lynde, Manning, Wells, Robbins, Willis (N. Y.), Wilson (W. Va.)

Mr. Seward was, on motion of Mr. BUTLER (Ind., Mass.) discharged from custody on his own recognizance.

The remainder of the Senate amendments to the Post Office Appropriation bill were nonconcurred in, and a Committee of Conference was ordered.

The House then, at 7 o'clock, took a recess until 8:30 p. m.

The evening session was confined to the consideration of pension bills, and to bills for the removal of political disabilities.

NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The President sent to the Senate to-day the following nominations:

Indian Agents—Benjamin F. Brackett, of Maryland, at the Uintah Agency; Edwin Bells at the Shoshonah Agency; Charles H. Walker at the Nez Perces Agency.

Collectors of Customs—Frank T. Alvord for the District of Michigan, and Prukner C. Hall for the District of Vicksburg.

Charles H. Bankes, postmaster at Flint, Mich.

THE COURTS.

THE COMMODORE'S WILL.

A TEDIOUS REVIEW OF MEDICAL TESTIMONY IN THE VANDERBILT CASE.

The present week has been occupied in the Vanderbilt will case in the completion of the cross-examination of witnesses who were examined in chief some time ago. Mr. Lord finished the cross-examination of Dr. W. H. Van Buren yesterday, and the counsel for the proponent will be at liberty to introduce a new witness next Tuesday. There was little that was interesting in the proceedings yesterday. The questions put to Dr. Van Buren were almost identical with those asked of Dr. Gray on Wednesday, and the answers did not substantially differ. Among other questions was the one whether the mind of the person suffering from the Commodore's diseases would be affected. Mr. Choate remarked that it was a matter of course that all suffering affected the mind. "Yes," gasped Judge Comstock, as he leant over in his chair with a groan, "I've got a cross in my back, and it affects my mind." "Then if," exclaimed Mr. Lord, "it be conceded that the physical suffering affects the mind, how can it be said that a condition of disease existing in the Commodore's body does not impair the order of thoughts in his mind?"

When Dr. Van Buren was pressed closely in regard to rare distinctions in the study of disease, he said modestly that he didn't know much about insanity; whenever he had a bad case he always sent for an expert. In insanity, "You're too modest," said Mr. Lord. "That may be," answered the doctor, "but I don't think so."

The surrogate criticised the use by Mr. Lord in an argument of "practical distinction," applied to Cornelius J. Vanderbilt, as too strong. Mr. Lord replied: "Your Honor, there isn't a man living who wouldn't say that Cornelius J. Vanderbilt was degrading himself by accepting the legacy that is given him, if he were not able to support himself, sick and poor. He would scorn to touch the insignificant sum if he were not obliged to do so."

AN IMPORTANT DECISION BY JUDGE BLATCHFORD.

George H. Wooster against Horace B. Claflin and others, a cause involving a principle of the utmost importance, and which will affect all manufacturers of ruffled or plaited goods in the United States, was decided yesterday by Judge Blatchford, in the United States Circuit Court, who granted an injunction restraining further use of plaiting machines.

CIVIL NOTES.

In the suit of Mrs. Annie R. Hann against H. J. Sheffield and Jerome B. Fellows, in the Supreme Court, Circuit, before Judge Lawrence, the jury brought in yesterday a sealed verdict acquitting Sheffield, but giving a judgment against Mr. Fellows for $750.

William J. Best, as receiver of the National Trust Company, has received permission from Judge Donohue to sell bonds of the consolidated Division of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company pledged to the Trust Company.

In the suit of John R. Andrew and others against the New-Jersey Steamboat Company for one-tenth of the value of the steamboat Francis Skiddy, which was wrecked fifteen years ago, the jury yesterday, before Judge Van Brunt, gave the plaintiff a verdict for $5,455.31. The matter has been so long in litigation that the interest is within a hundred dollars of the principal.

The Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions before adjourning made the following entry on its minutes: "The Grand Jury hereby accords its appreciation of the skill and energy displayed by Inspector Murray, of the Central Office Police Force, in the speedy arrest of Bertha Bergen and Francis Cosgrove, charged with malpractice in the case of Cora Samuels; also of the efficiency of Captain Byrnes of the Fifteenth Precinct, in the prompt arrest of the highway robbers Pender and Firnn."

Judge Gilbert, in the Kings County Supreme Court, yesterday, confirmed the report of the commission appointed to determine the mental condition of Jonathan Tremaine Wells, the Sheriff's jury having pronounced him sane. The Judge said that it was not shown that Mr. Wells was unsound of mind within the meaning and intent of the law, although by reason of his old age his mental faculties were somewhat impaired; but safeguards could easily be thrown around him so that he might not commit extravagances or squander his money.

DECISIONS—FEB. 28.

Supreme Court—Chambers—By Judge Donohue.—Tappen agt. Brown.—What is the date of report? In the matter of Dyckman, etc.—Referred to William M. Prichard. Karl agt. Karl—No evidence as to former proceedings, any proof of identity not sufficient. Wooster agt. Kane.—Motion granted on payment of all the costs in the action up to this time, with leave to plaintiff after the answer is discontinued without cost if so waived. In the matter of Wolf.—Leave to file consent. Weber agt. Weber.—On the papers as they stand, I think motion should be denied. Carpenter agt. Strange.—The consent does not state who Morris appears for. Murray Hill Bank agt. Archer.—Extraordinary act. Tomer.—Granted; see memorandum. Clarke agt. Clarke.—Signed. In the matter of Engel.—Cooper agt. the Eastern Transportation Line; Dittmars agt. Jarvis and others; in the matter of Jefferson Mining Company.—Out agt. Parker; Freer agt. Bailey.—Memorandums. In the matter of Tappan.—Motion denied. Bonnet agt. Gerhardt.—Motion granted, etc. In the matter of Amy et al.—In the matter of Smith; Livingston agt. Korn (No. 1); Same agt. Same (No. 2); Whitaker agt. Imperial Skirt Manufacturing Company; Mutual Life Insurance Company agt. Van Tassel; Davis agt. Chinnis; Miller agt. Parsons; Johnson agt. Johnson. In the matter of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company; Wallace agt. Stanton; Green agt. Mustead.—Granted.

By Judge Lawrence.—Wettstein agt. Oehninger.—This motion is denied with costs. Wettstein agt. Oehninger.—This motion is granted to the extent of vacating the order of August 14, 1878, on the ground that proper notice was not given to the firm of Hunsiger & Lanier of the application for the order $10 to claimant's attorney.

Superior Court—Special Term—By Judge Speir.—Martha agt. Doyle et al.—Order of substitution. Sautros agt. Goldberg.—Motion to continue injunction granted by default. Doyle agt. Curley.—Order of substitution. Temoyenia agt. Gottberg.—Motion granted by default. Masterton agt. Reilly.—Ordered on day calendar. Martha agt. Doyle et al.—Order vacating stay. Wilson agt. Wright.—Order granted. Martha agt. Curley.—Findings settled. The Home Insurance Company agt. Blair.—Motion denied for continuance. Arbuckle agt. Leonard et al.—Reference ordered. May agt. Schuyler et al.—Order discontinuing action. In the matter of the petition of Townsend.—Order granted. Randall agt. Dusenbury. Vezin agt. Gillott. Martha agt. Curley. Morris agt. the Waterbury Button Company; Sinden agt. Keechaing; Masterton agt. Reilly; Johnson agt. Arnold; Hopkins agt. Elias; Hines agt. Same; Burbea agt. Same; Henry agt. McDonald; Loos agt. Loos.—Orders granted.

Common Pleas—Special Term—By Chief-Justice C. P. Daly.—Leo Grauer agt. Schwarzchild et al.—Case discontinued. Ira Blum et al. agt. Spero agt. Diamant; Wright agt. the Mayor, etc.; Bailey agt. Godfrey.—Applications granted. In re assignment of Winn to Nichols.—Both of the sureties are women; nothing to show whether married or single. In the matter of the unsafe building No. 30 Ludlow st.—Precept signed. In the matter of the assignment of Rosenberg to Rosenberg; In the matter of the assignment of Kingman.—Applications granted.

Marine Court—Chambers—By Judge Sinnott.—Holt agt. Siegel.—Motion denied without costs, provided the case be put on the calendar within ten days by plaintiff; otherwise motion will be granted. Monachesi agt.Ately.—Opinion. Bennett agt. Daniels; Benedict agt. Talimadge; Geiss agt. Smith; Phillips agt. Walter.—Motions granted. Raffety agt. Martine.—Motion granted, order entered as modified. Matthews agt. the J. G. Knapp Manufacturing Company.—Default and inquest opened, and defendant allowed to come in and defend upon payment of $10 costs, the cause to be restored to the calendar for March 5. Altenbrand agt. O'Brien.—Arrest vacated and set aside with $10 costs. Kreig agt. Chester.—Defaults opened on terms; see papers. Kelly agt. the New-York and Sea Beach Railroad Company.—Judgment vacated without costs. Dore agt. Kavanagh.—Order settled. Dore agt. Fish.—Bailable attachment allowed. Rafferty agt. Bruning; Wheeler agt. Longstaff; Berry agt. Bouton.—Motions denied with $10 costs in each. Smith agt. Matthews.—Default opened and plaintiff allowed to reply on payment of $5 costs. McClure agt. Shipley.—Motion granted ordering judgment for plaintiff. Mathot agt. McCreery.—Amendment allowed. Sterns agt. Levy.—Motion denied with $5 costs. Lowry agt. the Hangert & Shaw Company.—Bond disapproved. Kurtz agt. Rosenstein.—Motion granted. Simpson agt. Peterson; Edwards agt. Neibuhr; Imperatori agt. Brauker; Welling agt. Welling; Williams agt. Sands; Lazarus agt. Fass; Freeman agt. Walls; Market agt. McCreery.—Orders entered and filed. Schreiers agt. Schaefer.—Judgment for defendant.

MISMANAGEMENT OF TRUST FUNDS.

ALLEGED DEFICITS IN THE ACCOUNTS OF THE LATE HORATIO N. RICHARDSON.

BOSTON, Feb. 28.—An investigation of the affairs of the late Horatio N. Richardson, who died at Attleboro, Mass., January 31, 1879, has revealed facts which strongly support the suspicion that he misappropriated funds left in his charge during his life. He held, at intervals, the positions of town treasurer and collector, cashier of the Attleboro Bank, and treasurer of the Attleboro Loan Fund Association; also treasurer of the Richardson School Fund, treasurer of the Attleboro Insurance Company, and treasurer of the Steam Power Company. The School Fund consists of an invested bequest of $14,000 left by an ancestor of Richardson. Shortly after Richardson's death the trustees of the fund began an investigation, which shows that there is a deficiency of $1,800, at least. This loss will fall upon Richardson's bondsmen. In his accounts as secretary and treasurer of the Attleboro Insurance Company there is a deficiency to an unknown amount, but not enough to embarrass the company. It is reported that there is a deficiency in Richardson's accounts as treasurer of the Steam Power Company, but the company state that although Richardson's accounts are mixed, their financial affairs are all right. Richardson was sixty-six years old. He was a deacon of the Universalist Church, and for many years active in the temperance cause. He was also a member of the Orient Lodge on Odd Fellows, of the Rescue Temple of Honor, and of other organizations.

BERDELL MORTGAGE SUIT DECIDED.

BOSTON, Feb. 28.—In the Circuit Court to-day Judge Fox gave his opinion in the case of George M. Barnard and another, demandants, against Wm. S. Hart and others, tenants, in what is known as the Berdell mortgage suit. The premises in the first count in the writ, known as "French's Wharf," are awarded to the demandants, and all the other property in the other counts in the writ is awarded to the tenants.

Situations Wanted—Females.

COOK.—By a respectable middle-aged woman as first class cook; is a good bread and biscuit baker; city or country; good reference. 202 7th-ave.

COOK.—Wanted a situation as good plain cook in a small private family, or would do general housework in a first-class family of two or three; has best reference. Address ROSA BRENNAN, 208 East 40th st.

COOK.—By a good cook in a private family; a Protestant woman who thoroughly understands her business; a good baker; no objection to the country; city references. No. 405 East 17th st., in candy store.

COOK.—A respectable young woman who thoroughly understands all kinds of cooking in all its branches; by the day, week, or month. will be found reliable in a small family; unexceptionable city references; is prepared for work. 224 West 35th-st., 2d floor, rear.

COOK.—First-class English cook; understands all kinds of cooking, soups, meats and desserts; can take entire charge of a kitchen; two years' city references; city or country. 308 6th-ave., near 19th st., top floor.

COOK.—By a first-class Swedish girl thoroughly proficient; can cut up chicken for dinner parties, cold lunches, fancy dishes, pastry, puddings, poultry in all styles; the highest testimonials. Call at 102 6th-ave., between 14th and 15th sts.

COOK, or COOK and LAUNDRESS.—By a competent woman; is a good cook in every branch; cooks meats, game, poultry, etc., in superior style; also excellent laundress; would prefer a family of two where she would be treated as a friend; city or country. Call at No. 200 Clinton-ave., near 18th st.

CHAMBERMAID, &c.—By a tidy American girl; is a good competent chamber maid and waitress; fully able to do the duties; unexceptionable references; would prefer a family in the country; city or country. Ask for AN IRIS, 200 Lexington-ave., near 28th st.

CHAMBERMAID and SEAMSTRESS OPER.—By a tidy, respectable girl with the best of recommendations; willing to go to the country. Call or send at No. 102 6th-ave., between 14th and 15th sts.

CHAMBERMAID and WAITRESS.—By an English Protestant young woman; very respectable and well recommended; competent to either capacity as chamber maid or waitress; cleans silver, &c.; willing; honest; obliging; would prefer country or city. Call at No. 366 6th-ave., near 22d st., first floor.

DRESSMAKER.—By a competent French dressmaker in all branches; work at home at popular prices; dresses made and repaired for $1, $2, $3, $4, $5, $6, $7, $8, $9, $10. Address Miss RIDDON, No. 156 West 28th-st., between 6th and 7th-aves.

HOUSEWORK, &c.—A Protestant woman for general housework, or to cook, wash and iron. 102 Varick st.

HOUSEWORK.—By a strong, able Scotch girl; understands plain cooking, washing and ironing; is quick and tidy, and well recommended; city or country; would prefer to care of milk and making butter. Call at 226 6th-ave., near 18th st.

HOUSEWORK.—By a neat, tidy, intelligent young Protestant girl; will be generally useful in a family in any capacity; can do good cooking, and is a good washer and ironer; will give best of recommendations; wages moderate. Can be seen at 306 6th-ave., near 23d st.

LADY'S MAID and DRESSMAKER.—By a French person who has long experience, and is an accomplished maid; undoubted city references. Call 602 6th-ave., between 40th and 41st sts.

LAUNDRESS.—A competent laundress solicits families, ladies' and gentlemen's washing to her own home; from 75 cents to $1 per dozen; best city references. 445 West 52d-st.

LAUNDRESS.—By a real capable woman not afraid of work and is a splendid washer and ironer, and very good in her disposition; best verbal city references. 602 6th-ave., between 40th and 39th sts.

LAUNDRESS, &c.—A respectable young woman as laundress and chambermaid; North of Ireland Protestant; thoroughly understands her business; city reference; no objection to the country. 369 West 27th-st.

NURSE and SEAMSTRESS or CHAMBERMAID.—By a French girl who is very genteel and has references; can sew well and help the chambermaid. Can be seen at No. 602 6th-ave., but even 39th and 40th sts.

WAITRESS.—By a Swedish young woman; speaks good English and understands her duties thoroughly; excellent city references. Call or address No. 304 East 23d-st.

Situations Wanted—Males.

AS FARMER—By a practical working Protestant man of long experience and first-class abilities; with an excellent dairy woman; no children; will rent a well-stocked farm; work on shares or manage it by the year. Address J. D., P. O. Box 181, Astoria, L. I.

COACHMAN and Gardener, and Cook.—By an English Protestant couple; city or country; both understand their respective duties thoroughly, and have excellent references. Call or address J. H., 129 Chrystie-st.

COACHMAN, GARDENER or USEFU