THE SUPPRESSED PAPERS.

MR. WILSON ARRAIGNS THE PRESIDENT.

THE "INNOCUOUS DESUETUDE" OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S REFORM POLICY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The debate on the relations between the Senate and the Executive Departments was renewed in the Senate at 2 p. m. to-day, Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, having the floor. The galleries were again crowded but only about one-half the Senators remained in their seats. Mr. Wilson read his speech, but in a way easily understood in all parts of the chamber. He reviewed what he called "the political comedy of errors" of this Administration, holding that if the President had fulfilled his pledges there would have been no need to withhold papers in order to cover up unjust assaults on the character and reputation of honorable men. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Judiciary Committee and a lawyer of high standing. His argument against the legality of the President's action in this matter was a strong one, well fortified by precedents and by citations from the statutes.

Mr. Wilson said that for the first time in the progress of this Government its executive power is now being used as a means of assault on the character and reputation of its citizens. He stated the fact and would not now stop to determine whether it was the result of purpose, inexperience, want of thoughtful action, or other cause whatsoever. It was an unexpected fact, however, and doubtless it would have been guarded against if the framers of the Constitution had believed such a result possible in the administration of the executive power under the provisions of that instrument as proposed by them. It was reserved for the closing years of the first century's existence to develop the danger which attends the citizen in this regard. That this danger should now occur was a curious political phenomenon, and the method of its appearance was as curious as the thing itself. That it was here at all was calculated at first contemplation to induce belief in political evolution. Who could have anticipated that from the political protoplasmic presence which floated on the bosom of the Democratic platform of 1884, and whose indefiniteness was expressed in the words, "We favor honest Civil Service reform," could have evolved a result so harmful to the character and reputation of a citizen as the practice of the present National Administration?

Mr. Wilson read an extract from Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance. "Here," he continued, "and in his words, the protoplasmic presence seemed to take in some degree definite shape. The evolutionary process continued its movement, but its next state was not reached until Mr. Cleveland, the candidate of his party for the great office of President of the United States, had become President-elect. When the latter character had become assured to him he took occasion to announce in his letter to Mr. Curtis that the political evolution was going steadily and resolutely on toward those higher conditions and purer practices which show the presence of reform in the method of executive action." Here the Speaker read at length from a letter to Mr. Curtis. "These expressions," he continued, "marked the second stage reached by the political evolution. No one could doubt the marked character of the advance which it indicated. The 4th of March, 1885, was reached and Mr. Cleveland became President of the United States in fact and in law. On that, to him, mighty occasion he gave further utterance and told the assembled people of the country that the third stage of the political evolution had been reached."

Mr. Wilson read the portion of Mr. Cleveland's inaugural address relating to Civil Service reform. "This," he continued, "marked the official and highest stage of the political evolution whose subtile forces had wrought wondrously well in elevating Mr. Cleveland to the Presidency of the United States. In his annual message to Congress he seemed most earnestly to have desired to impress the country with the belief that the indefinite protoplasmic presence in the platform on which his party placed him at Chicago had evolved a substantial and forceful principle which would purify the politics and bless the country in general." Here Mr. Wilson read the President's message forwarding and commending the report of the Civil Service Commission. "Those utterances of Mr. Cleveland as Presidential candidate, President-elect and President contained many things which thoughtful men approved. The convention gave him a bad start by its meaningless expression—'we favor honest Civil Service reform'—and so we need not wonder at the result he has reached. It was simply a political hermit crab stored away in an appropriate shell of that better political organism called reform, which had increased in size and elaborated its ugliness but had not changed its species."

The people, the speaker continued, had given Mr. Cleveland generous credit for sincerity, but they could not reconcile his actions in suspending competent and faithful public officers with his repeated assurances that such things would not be done. He had said that men would not be discharged for partisan reasons, but only for cause. The people had believed that he had the courage of his convictions. It had logically followed that whenever an officer was suspended the people believed that some grave charge had been made against him. Indeed, every suspended officer was by the President's own declaration made to stand before the country as unworthy of trust and confidence. He had suspended 643 public officers and mar-halled them before the country as persons unworthy of trials or confidence. In this way the executive power was being used as a means of assault against the character and reputation of citizens of the Republic. No such outrage has been inflicted on American citizens from the first year of their National existence until the incoming of the present Administration, its pomp and circumstance of "reform" to the contrary notwithstanding. It was a most extraordinary manifestation of "reform" for the President to place himself before the country as the accuser of 643 public officers whom he had suspended, at the same time denying to them information as to the things of which they were accused. If he said to them "You are Republicans and I want your places in order that I might confer them on Democrats," he would have dealt frankly with them and would have manifested a manliness which would have challenged respect. The President had now asked the Senate to join him in his accusations against those men. When the Senate requested to be informed concerning the official conduct of the accused officers it was flatly told that no information would be given; and this, regardless of the effect on the citizen. Mr. Wilson read Section 1,768 of the Revised Statutes concerning suspensions from office during a recess of the Senate—giving the President authority in his discretion to suspend any civil officer, appointed by consent of the Senate, except judges, until the end of the next session of the Senate. Mr. Wilson inquired what did this mean; who might exercise this discretion? Not Grover Cleveland, but the President. Grover Cleveland was a person; the President was an officer. The discretion delegated was not a personal discretion, but an official discretion. Official discretion must be exercised for lawful purposes and in lawful ways. The President had overlooked or disregarded this rule in his official action. He and his Cabinet seemed to have confounded personal caprice and official discretion. The outraged citizen who stood arraigned before the country by the President as being unworthy of confidence must not inquire concerning charges made against him, because that would be an encroachment upon the kingly "prerogative" of the possessor of executive power. And when the Senate called for information of the Government files in order that the citizen may have fair play, common justice and opportunity for defence it is coolly informed that the public interests would not be promoted by the giving of such information. Thus the kingly "prerogative" of the President placed under lock and key the public records of the country.

Mr. Wilson referred to the constitutional amendments proposed by the 1st Congress, to show the anxiety of the founders of the Government that the rights, property and reputation of accused persons should be protected by confronting them with the witnesses against them. This, he said, was the rule of fair play. The utterances of Mr. Cleveland were against his present practices. No less than three members of his Cabinet were personally and officially committed in opposition to the doctrine stated in the letter of the Attorney-General which gave rise to the question in dispute. As he looked at it the present attitude of the Administration was the result of an after thought. Its chief, both as candidate and President, had "protested too much" in respect of Civil Service reform and improved methods.

Mr. Wilson read the resolution condemning the Attorney-General for refusing to furnish the papers and information called for. Had the President practised his reform professions, he continued, it was not probable that any occasion would have arisen for the resolutions. The attempt to invent a method of surrendering to partisan pressure and at the same time preserving a similitude of reform was what had brought the Administration to its present condition. It was never safe to do wrong. What was the method invented? The star chamber method—inviting assaults on the characters of men and then denying to the men all knowledge of the nature of the charges against them. The President had said that this Administration was to not "behind glass doors," and was to have "no secrets." This was courageous; the country applauded it; but it had not lasted long. The Administration finally showed that it was loaded down with secrets, and the glass doors had been abandoned.

Mr. Wilson argued at some length the question as to the privacy of the papers on file in the departments, maintaining that they were not the President's private papers. It was another instance of the manner in which the President confounded the individual with the public official. It was probably the most pronounced instance of "personalism" to be found in the history of this Government, and showed how one false step led to another. The speaker quoted the first sentence of the President's recent message to the Senate, in which occurs the statement that the "reasons" for the suspension of officers had been asked for by the Senate. That was a "misstatement of the action of the Senate—unintentional, doubtless," said Mr. Wilson. Every member of the Senate knew that no request for "reasons" had been made. It was surprising that the President did not recognize the marked difference between the Senate resolution and the statement communicated by him to the Senate. The Administration has been engaged in a "comedy of errors," and its position, in the light of all that had been promised, was not a little discouraging.

Mr. Kenna, of West Virginia, obtained the floor to speak on the resolutions but gave way for an executive session. Mr. Edmunds said he would next week press the Senate to "stick to" these resolutions so as to get them finished and out of the way of other business.

MORE PRIVATE PAPERS.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Secretary Manning has sent to Senator Morrill several letters identical in substance relating to the suspension of officials whose successors' nominations are under consideration by the Finance Committee, and stating briefly but more emphatically than anything hitherto uttered the views of the Administration in respect to suspensions. Both sender and receiver are willing the letters should be made public, but the courtesy held to be be due from each to the other prevents either from giving them out.

CONSIDERING THE EADS SCHEME.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—The Senate Committee on Commerce devoted two or three hours to-day to the consideration of the Eads ship railway scheme. A number of amendments were proposed, but none of them was disposed of. The committee is about equally divided on the measure in its present shape. It is not likely to pass the Senate, however, without the adoption of material amendments, and it is doubtful if a majority can be got for it in any shape.

CONGRESSIONAL DOINGS IN BRIEF.

SILVER IN INDIA—DEBATE ON THE INDIAN PROBLEM IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—In the Senate to-day among petitions presented and referred was one by Mr. Jones, of Nevada, from the National Bimetallic Coinage Association. The memorial, he said, showed in a striking light the disastrous effects on the silver products of the United States of the competition of India. The extraordinarily rapid development and expansion of all the resources of India since 1873, Mr. Jones said, was the direct result of its use of silver money.

Mr. Morrell asked Mr. Jones if the reason for the depression of the wheat growth in Great Britain was not that the importer of that cereal could buy Indian rupees for one shilling and six pence and then pass his rupees in India for two shillings.

Mr. Jones admitted that that affected the price, but said the reason why the rupee could be bought at one shilling and six pence was that the annuitants—those who had fixed incomes—desiring to increase the value of the money which they received, entered into a conspiracy to destroy silver as money, to take away from it its principal use, to deny it the royal privilege of coinage.

Mr. Logan, from the minority of the Committee on Military Affairs submitted the views of the minority members on the Fitz John Porter bill.

In the House, on motion of Mr. Dunn, of Arkansas, a Senate bill was passed providing for an American registry for the steamship Caroline Miller, of Baltimore.

Mr. Weaver, of Iowa, entered upon a criticism of the present Indian policy. He quoted from the report of the Superintendent of Indian Schools to show that at the Sniloeco School there was no law available to protect the school from the incursions of Indians or the raids of cowboys. The cattlemen loosed their herds on the school farm and defied any one who attempted to interfere with them. More drunkenness could be seen at that school than at all the agencies in the Indian Territory. The whole Indian question should be overhauled by Congress at once. The Indian Territory constituted one of the foulest blots on the civilization of the country. He then went on to advocate the opening to settlement of the Oklahoma and Cherokee strips and the reservations to the southwest of Oklahoma. The question was no longer whether the red man or the white should occupy the Cherokee strips. The white man already occupied it in violation of law.

Mr. Dunham, of Illinois—Why does not your administration enforce the law?

Mr. Weaver—I am sorry to say I haven't any administration.

Mr. Long, of Massachusetts—Why does not the Administration enforce the law?

Mr. Weaver—I will come back at the gentleman with another question. Why is it your administration allowed these cattle syndicates to occupy this country? This was done by Chester A. Arthur.

Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa—Did you not say during the campaign in Iowa that President Cleveland had removed all intruders from the territory?

Mr. Weaver—I am glad the gentleman asks the question. He affords me an opportunity to apologize to the whole country and to my constituents for having made a statement which I believed then to be correct, but which I now ascertain was not correct.

Mr. Allen, of Massachusetts, thought that the policy of tending the Indian on a pillow and feeding him with a spoon should no longer obtain. He favored the breaking up of the reservation system.

Mr. Cutcheon, of Michigan, criticised the Administration for a failure to appoint the Oklahoma Commission. Mr. Peel, of Arkansas, defended the Administration for not appointing the commission. Mr. Rogers, of Arkansas, took the same ground, and also defended the Administration from the criticism made upon it for not compelling the cattlemen to leave the territory.

The House at 5:15 adjourned.

MANUFACTURERS PROTESTING.

STRONG ARGUMENTS AGAINST TARIFF REDUCTION.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—A delegation of the Philadelphia Textile Association, headed by T. C. Search, appeared before the Ways and Means Committee to-day. Mr. Search presented a tabulated statement to show that the English manufacturer could lay down woollen yarns in this country at 61½ cents a pound, while it cost the American manufacturer 70 cents to produce a pound of yarn. The difference, said Mr. Search, was in the wages, and he showed that the American operative received more than double the wages of the English operative. The proposed reduction of duty would be unjust to the manufacturer of yarns and goods, to the farmers and to the workmen.

Mr. Ferguson, of New-York, representing the thread manufacturers, said that this trade above all others required steadiness in duties. Wages of labor employed in this industry in the United States were more than double the wages in England. The strongest proof that the duties were not too high was the fact that yarns were imported into this country from England at a price for which they could not be produced here. Mr. Ferguson also said that a lower duty would mean a reduction of wages. If a cut of 5 per cent were made in wages every workman would walk out of his mills.

Mr. Sanford, of Fall River, Mass., a manufacturer of fine cotton yarns, said the English manufacturer could put fine yarns in this country at a price three cents a pound lower than the cost of production here, and the result of the change proposed would be to lower that rate four cents a pound. Mr. Sanford read a letter from a clothmaker to whom he had endeavored to sell yarns, in which the clothmaker said that he could buy English yarns in New-York at 47½ cents a pound with a discount of 2½ per cent for cash. With that price Mr. Sanford could not compete.

John A. Walker, representing the manufacturing lead-pencil industry, read a statement prepared by the Faber, Eagle, Dixon and American pencil companies, deprecating any reduction in the duty on pencils.

Mr. McMeans, representing 400 workmen of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, read a protest against any reduction of the duty on soda.

AGAINST CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Senator Hawley presented an adverse report to-day, from the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, on the bill introduced by Senator Vance to repeal the Civil Service act. Senator Voorhees, who is a member of the committee and who favors the bill, concluded not to present a minority report, but he may make a speech in the Senate in favor of the bill. Senator Vance intends to make some remarks on the same side. Senator Cockrell favors the bill and he remarked in debate yesterday that if he had "had control of the Administrative branch a cleaner sweep would have been made. Senators Gorman, Eustis, Ransom, and, in fact, nearly all the Democratic Senators have been equally outspoken on the subject. The only one who has been heard to favor the Civil Service act is Senator Gray, of Delaware. With few exceptions the Democrats are not willing to be placed in opposition to the professions of the Administration; hence there is not likely to be any vote taken on the subject in the Senate.

PERSECUTION OF JOHN ROACH.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Controller Maynard has disallowed two claims of John Roach—one of $38,840 for extra work on the monitor Puritan, the other of $20,274 for the care of the monitor Roanoke from March 17, 1877, to September 24, 1883. He holds that there is no special statutory authority for the construction or repair of the Puritan. In this decision he differs from every Secretary who has preceded Mr. Whitney. The extra work was caused by raising the sides of the Puritan after construction had begun. A board found the amount due and it was approved and allowed by the department. In regard to the Roanoke claim, the Controller says that the contract for the construction of the Puritan contemplated the use of the condemned material of the Roanoke which was towed from the New-York Navy Yard to Chester, Penn. It is true that if the material of the Roanoke had been used in rebuilding the Puritan Mr. Roach would have had no claim for taking care of the Roanoke; yet, as Secretary Thompson stopped the work and the contract never was recognized by the Department subsequently and as it finally took the Roanoke away from Mr. Roach and sold her for about $45,000, it seemed just to pay Mr. Roach for taking care of her for six or seven years. In this case, too, a board found this amount to be fair and allowed it. The disallowance is part simply of the Democratic plan to break down Mr. Roach.

SENATOR MILLER'S FUNERAL.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—While in executive session to-day the Senate adopted resolutions inviting the President and the members of the Cabinet, members of the House, heads of departments and others to attend the funeral services of Senator Miller in the Senate Chamber on Saturday. The services will be simple, consisting of a prayer by the chaplain and reading of the Episcopal service. Under a resolution of the Senate, the President, pro tem., appointed Senators Jones (Nevada), Frye, Cullom, Butler and Gray, as a committee to accompany the remains to California. As this will require an absence of three weeks from the Senate, some members of the committee are unwilling to go, owing to pending legislation, in which they are particularly interested; and for that reason some changes in the membership of the committee will probably be made. The funeral party will start from this city at 10 p. m. on Saturday.

FOR AND AGAINST THE MATTHEWS NOMINATION

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Mr. Evarts presented in open session of the Senate to-day a petition of lawyers of Albany in favor of the confirmation of J. C. Matthews, the colored man whom the President has nominated for Recorder of Deeds in this District. As such matters are only presented in Executive sessions, there was some surprise shown by other members, and Mr. Hawley informed Mr. Evarts of his error. A strong effort has been made in the District to defeat the confirmation of Matthews. The local Democrats have shown unusual indignation over this matter and have denounced the nomination in various meetings. But this has no effect on the Senate. The colored men in New-York have sent a number of petitions in favor of confirmation.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Senate in secret session on March 3 confirmed the following nominations:

Postmasters—Henry P. Grant, Helena, Ark.; M. M. Barnett, Madison, Ind., Alexander A. Davison, Seymour, Ind.; Nathaniel S. Bates, Rensselaer, Ind.; Thomas E. Haynes, Franklin, Tenn.

Charles F. Wilkins, of Benson, Minn., to be Register of the Land Office at Benson, Minn.

Henderson M. Jacoway to be Receiver of Public Moneys at Dardanelle, Ark.

Frank Gordon, of Georgia, to be principal Clerk of Surveys, General Land Office.

THE PAN-ELECTRIC INQUIRY.

DR. ROGERS INDIGNANT.

INSISTING THAT GARLAND AND HARRIS BE SUBPŒNAED AS WELL AS HIMSELF.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Dr. Rogers seems to fear that the pending Pan-Electric investigating will not be sufficiently thorough to get at the whole truth. He insists that thoroughness demands that Mr. Garland and Senator Harris as well as other Pan-Electric shareholders shall give their testimony under the same conditions with himself and other witnesses. This seems to be only fair, and it is difficult indeed to see how all the facts can be brought out without their assistance. Probably neither of them will decline to testify. Such a refusal would have a suspicious appearance, to say the least. Mr. Garland's friends do not believe he is the kind of a man to flinch in the face of an inquiry designed to elucidate the truth of a matter in which he is so deeply concerned. After a subpœna had been served upon him to-day by Sergeant-at-Arms Leedom, Dr. Rogers addressed to the committee of investigation the following letter:

PARTHENON HEIGHTS LABORATORY,
BLADENSBURG, Md., March 11, 1886.

To the Pan-Electric Investigation Committee:

GENTLEMEN: I have just learned that I am expected to testify before your honorable body, but that other gentlemen (officers of the company), standing on their official dignity, will not be subpœnaed. Mr. Leedom, who has just left my house, advises me that neither Mr. Garland nor Senator Harris has been served. I wish your honorable committee to understand thoroughly that I am in no sense an informer, and that what I have published contains substantially what I know about the matter. True, an effort has been made to show that the Pan-Electric Company was a Credit Mobilier affair, and that I had done something discreditable in forming the enterprise. Therefore, to protect my own reputation I have tried to get a general denial of this and the proofs before the public, but have not succeeded as fully as I wished; and on that account I would be most happy to testify, but am unwilling to be made a mere catspaw—to go into the whole business in a *quasi* court while the officers of the company and other stockholding political dignitaries are exempt. It was not proper that Senator Vest should have been permitted (but for his illness) to make an affidavit without efficient direct interrogatories or cross-examination, although I believe he was influenced by the most honorable motives. Mr. Garland's carefully prepared statement to the President should not be taken as final, for every lawyer knows that a single interrogatory may bring a flood of light upon ex-parte affidavits and reports. I have no desire, not the least in the world, to pursue the gentleman; but having stated in my letter to THE TRIBUNE, September 29 (as Colonel Young had told me and my son), that Mr. Garland had promised the suit to be brought by referring it to Mr. Goode, and believing at the time that he had done so and that there was nothing wrong in it—yet since he appears to deny it, it is very pertinent that he should be questioned categorically on the subject, to show whether unwittingly I had made (through Colonel Young) an incorrect statement.

Senator Harris should also be on the stand to verify my statement if he had communications on the subject with Young or Garland. The truth must be looked to as well as the interests of the Democratic party and the Cleveland Cabinet, and I will not (neither will the public) be satisfied if Colonel Young, after six months silence, should forget what he told me and my son and others. Mr. Garland's and Senator Harris's corroboration is what I demand for my own and my son's protection and not by any means to injure Mr. Garland. I believe that he promised the suit and that he will so state on the stand. If these gentlemen are to be exempt, things have come to a pretty pass, when servants of the people may stand on some artificial prerogative or dignity from which the sovereigns are excluded. Does modern Democracy intend to overthrow the very foundations of Democratic government?

Of course, if compelled under threats of punishment (subpœna) I must obey your behest, even though put into the breach alone, for I have nothing to conceal, but most earnestly protest in the name of constitutional liberty and of ancient Democracy against this unjust discrimination and every other ghost of royal prerogative. Respectfully, J. W. ROGERS.

BOLSTERING UP GARLAND.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—In the House to-day Mr. Hammond reported from the Committee on Judiciary that no legislation by Congress is necessary to authorize the bringing of a suit by the Government to annul a patent obtained by fraud or misrepresentation. The original resolution upon which the report is based was offered by Mr. Little, of Ohio, but its scope was broadened subsequently, and it would seem that the document presented by the majority of the committee is designed to fortify the Department of Justice in the position taken regarding proposed proceedings in the name of the United States to annul the Bell Telephone patent. The committee says it seems to be not only the right, but the solemn duty of the United States to say that its seal attached to such a contract shall not cover a fraud. From the beginning of the Government such suits have been allowable. Of late years they have been frequently brought by the Department of Justice on the suggestion of the Department of the Interior. There are many forcible reasons why the right shall not be restricted. Mr. Parker obtained leave to present the views of the minority. It is understood that several members of the committee, including one or two Democrats, will join with him in opposing the report of the majority.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE CABINET.

TALK ABOUT SUCCESSORS TO MR. EATON AND MR. CANNON—ARMY PROMOTIONS.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—The reorganization of the Civil Service Commission was the principal topic of discussion at the Cabinet meeting to-day. Dorman B. Eaton's resignation took effect yesterday. A number of names were considered in connection with the vacancy. By some it is thought that either Mr. Coon, late Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, or Mr. Graves, the present chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, will be appointed. The latter has for a long time been connected with every movement in favor of a reformed Civil Service. It is doubtful, however, whether his political opinions would come up to the standard of the Republican sentiment which demands a representative on the Commission. Mr. Coon's Republicanism is doubted by no one. There is talk also that Mr. Trenholm, one of the Democratic commissioner, is dissatisfied with his present position. He finds its duties irksome and not to his taste. He is a banker, and no doubt he would like to be transferred to the office of the Controller of the Currency. That vacancy was also considered by the Cabinet. Mr. Manning, it is understood, attempted to push the claims of some New-York man whose ideas of finance would be in harmony with those entertained by Treasurer Jordan and the Secretary himself. Mr. Vilas, however, claims that the appointment belongs to the Northwest, both the late Controller, Mr. Cannon, and his predecessor, Mr. Knox, having been citizens of Minnesota. It is understood that business in the Controller's office requires the immediate appointment of a chief of the office, but no decision seems to have been reached by the Cabinet to-day.

The Attorney-General submitted a veto of the bill directing a judicial test of title to the Des Moines River lands, which later in the day was sent to the Senate. The subject of army promotions was also touched upon, and the drift of the discussion is said to have indicated that the President intends again to overlook the claims of Brigadier-General Howard, when a vacancy in the rank of major-general occurs next Tuesday by the retirement of General Pope. From other sources it is learned that there is some idea of appointing General Newton, chief of engineers, in General Pope's place. Messrs. Bayard and Lamar were the only members absent from to-day's meeting.

CRITICISING A VETO MESSAGE.

THE PRESIDENT'S REASONS FOR NOT CONCURRING IN A POPULAR MEASURE.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—The Iowa Representatives in Congress were indignant to-night over a veto message the President sent to-day to the Senate. The vetoed measure was a bill introduced by Mr. Wilson to quiet titles of settlers on the Des Moines River lands, and while the Senator was speaking to-day against the President's course in withholding papers the message was received. The bill passed both Houses almost without opposition. It had been before Congress for several years, passing one branch one session and the other the next, but never getting through both in one year. It was five times unanimously reported from committees, and passed the last House as well as this one. The bill concerns a tract of land set aside in 1851 to be used by Iowa in payment of improvements on the DesMoines River. The courts decided that the act of Congress did not cover a part of the land "reserved," and which Iowa had granted to a corporation which was to make the improvements. That part of the land was entered by settlers, some of whom were granted patents by the Government. But under a decision of the courts rendered later it was found that they could not get a clear title to the lands, as the corporation which was to improve the river, but which did not do so, still claimed them. This act, which was unanimously reported by the House committee, was intended to open a way to settle the question. It had the warm support of the Iowa members, and they are indignant over the veto. The President in his message says:

"I cannot but think that every possible question that can be raised, or at least that ought to be raised, in any suit relating to these lands has been determined by the highest judicial authority in the land. And if any substantial point remains yet unsettled I believe there is no difficulty in presenting it to the proper tribunal. If it be true that these are public lands, the declaration that they are so by enactment is entirely unnecessary; and if they are wrongfully withheld from the Government the duty and authority of the Attorney-General are not aided by the proposed legislation. If they are not public lands because the United States have conveyed them to others, the bill is subject to grave objections as an attempt to destroy vested rights and disturb interests which have long since become fixed. Notwithstanding the fact that there may be parties in the occupancy of these lands who suffer hardship by the application of strict legal principles to their claims, safety lies in the non-interference by Congress with matters which should be left to judicial cognizance; and I am unwilling to concur in legislation which, if not an encroachment upon judicial power, trenches so closely thereon as to be of doubtful expediency, and which at the same time increases the elements of litigation that have heretofore existed and endangers vested rights."

THE BROOKLYN FEDERAL BUILDING.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Mr. Miller to-day introduced in the Senate the two bills which Felix Campbell some time ago introduced in the House in regard to the Federal Building in Brooklyn. One bill extends the limit of the cost of the building, exclusive of site, to $2,000,000, and the other provides for the purchase of the remaining part of the block upon which the building is situated, the cost of the additional land not to exceed $350,000. The passage of these two measures would enable Brooklyn to have a public building for the Post Office, courts, Internal Revenue and other Federal offices commensurate with its importance. The entire cost would be much below that of buildings in several cities of not one-half the size of Brooklyn.

TRUXTON'S POLITICAL INTOLERANCE

A SCATHING REJOINDER TO THE COMMODORE'S LETTER

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Representatives Boutelle and Brady have prepared a statement in the nature of a rejoinder to Commodore Truxton's letter which was sent to the House of Representatives by Secretary Whitney last Monday, in response to the Boutelle resolutions of inquiry. Passing over the matter of the cannon, the inscriptions on which Commodore Truxton states he had renewed in June, they say that his assertion that the dry dock "was never destroyed" is answered by the official reports of Admirals Smith and Goldsborough and others, showing the destruction of the gates, pier-ends, buildings and engines. The original engine was destroyed by the Rebels in 1862, so that the plate bearing the makers' names could not have been and was not "removed" by anybody. The engine was rebuilt at the navy yard under the supervision of Mr. Lyons, and, on its completion in 1863 the tablet bearing the inscription so obnoxious to Commodore Truxton was placed on the engine by authority of Admiral Joseph Smith.

In answer to Commodore Truxton's statement that Mr. Lyons applied for that plate, stating that "he had acted on his own responsibility and that it was his private property," Mr. Lyons declares on oath that the statement is untrue. The plate was removed from the engine several days before and not after Mr. Lyons was removed. Of the card which Commodore Truxton states was published by Mr. Lyons in the Norfolk Day Book in 1861 professing allegiance to the Southern Confederacy, Messrs. Boutelle and Brady say:

"Mr. Lyons denounces the card as an unqualified forgery and falsehood, and he so denounced it publicly at the time of its first appearance, in a heated political campaign in 1868. Commodore Truxton states that when Mr. Lyons was removed his place was filled by a person whose competency was determined by an examination board appointed by the Secretary of the Navy. The facts show that when Mr. Lyons was removed a Mr. Corwine was appointed without examination and had the place for some four months, but proved to be incompetent and then the examination was had and the present incumbent, Thomas Carr, was appointed. This Mr. Carr was employed in the Norfolk yard by the Confederates at the time of its destruction in 1862, after which he became foreman at the rebel navy yard at Charlotte, N. C., where he served throughout the war."

It is curious to find, says the statement, that one colored man, J. E. Fuller, a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, removed by commodore Truxton for alleged "offensive partisanship," has since been appointed by Governor Fitzhugh Lee as a member of the Board of Visitors to the Colored Normal School of Virginia, so that the United States naval commandant at Norfolk has carried political intolerance to a degree unthought of by the Democratic Governor at Richmond. The document closes with the assertion that it is unmistakably shown that Commodore Truxton did cause the removal of an honorable inscription from the dry dock engine as charged, and has given no reason therefor, and that he made wholesale removals of Union soldiers and sailors, who places were filled by ex-Confederates, in flagrant violation of law.

TRUXTON RETIRED WITHOUT PROMOTION.

WASHINGTON, March 11 (*Special*).—Commodore Truxton was retired to-day without being promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. A majority of the Senate Naval Committee, including Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania, reported the nomination favorably, but the Senate refused to act upon it. The proof presented to members of the Senate concerning the misstatements made in the Commodore's letter concerning affairs at the Norfolk Navy Yard helped to prevent action on the nomination.

ARMY ORDERS.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Surgeon George W. Woods has been ordered to the Mare Island, California, Navy Yard, April 1, to relieve Medical Inspector W. K. Schofield, who has been ordered home and placed on waiting orders. Second Lieutenant James V. S. Paddock, 5th Cavalry, has been granted leave of absence for one year for disability. The leave of absence of Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis, 7th Cavalry, has been extended ten days for disability, and that of Second Lieutenant H. C. Carbough fifteen days.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Postmaster-General to-day appointed the following fourth-class postmasters:

Pennsylvania—At East Bethlehem, A. W. Nicserson; Mechanicsville, Silas H. Bonns; Middle Creek, A. H. Usa; Mostellar, E. G. Mostellar; Mount Negro, Isaac B. Walton.

Massachusetts—At South Middleborough, James M. Clark, jr.

New-York—At Buena Vista, John H. Ferris.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 11.

THE ERIE CANAL.—Representative Weber has been instructed by the Committee on Railways and Canals to call up in the House at the earliest opportunity the bill to enlarge and improve the Erie Canal.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT NEW-YORK.—The receipts from customs at New-York during the first ten days of March amounted to $4,473,000, of which 0.5 per cent was in gold coin, 0.3 per cent in silver coin, 32 per cent in gold certificates, 8.9 per cent in silver certificates, and 58.3 per cent in United States notes.

ACTING UNITED STATES TREASURER.—Senator Morrill from the Committee on Finance to-day reported favorably the bill to authorize the appointment of a clerk in the Treasury to perform the duties of United States Treasurer in the event of the absence or illness of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

SUMATRA TOBACCO.—Oscar Hammerstein, Editor of *The Tobacco Journal*, to-day urged a sub-committee of the Committee on Ways and Means having charge of the subject to strike out the clause in Mr. Hewitt's bill fixing at 35 cents the duty on tobacco unfit for wrappers and the clause relating to tobacco running 100 leaves to the pound—Sumatra wrappers. He would have the duty on all tobacco suitable for wrappers fixed at 75 cents for stripped and $1 for unstripped.

MORROW'S CHINESE BILL.—The House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day further discussed the Morrow bill to suspend for twenty years the operation of the Burlingame Chinese treaty. Mr. Rice, the Republican member of the sub-committee to which the bill was referred, presented a minority report adverse to the adoption of the measure, and it was considered in connection with the majority report in favor of the bill prepared by Messrs. Cox and McCreary, but final action was deferred.

RESTORED TO THE NAVY REGISTER.—Secretary Whitney has issued a general order restoring the names of the following cadet engineers to the Navy register: Gustave Kammerling, O. B. Shallenberger, James B. Byrne, Frank B. Dowst, Kenneth McAlpine, William Stuart Smith, William T. Webster, Lloyd Bankson, Dewitt C. Redgrave, Robert Stewart, jr., Isaac B. Parsons, William W. White, Bias C. Sampson, Lyman B. Perkins, Solon Arnold, Arthur R. Rice, Martin A. Anderson, Thomas J. Hogan, Robert J. Beach, William H. Gartley, Albert Moritz, Otto C. Gaastner, Clarence C. Willis, Frank H. Conant, Harry G. Leopold, Charles H. Howland, Ward P. Winchell.

SUGGESTIONS FROM SHIPBUILDERS.—The Board on Additional Naval Vessels has issued a circular letter to shipbuilders in regard to the construction of the four vessels provided for by the act of March 3, 1885, which is accompanied by a copy of a report describing the general features and requirements of the vessels. The circular says: "The plans for these ships are now under consideration and we are desirous of obtaining advice, suggestions, or information with reference to any part of the projected ships, and especially with regard to any matters pertaining to the propelling machinery and boilers, whether with reference to types or matters of detail. It being of equal importance to the private shipbuilding interests and to the Navy Department that plans now to be adopted should be those which will secure the best results, we trust we shall obtain your cordial co-operation."

THROUGH NEW-YORK STATE.

CHARGED WITH SQUANDERING AN ESTATE.

SYRACUSE, March 11 (*Special*).—In November, 1880, Thomas Parish Sherman, of New-York, was appointed guardian of the persons and estate of Hamilton and Florence Swift, minor children of his wife by her marriage with Dr. Swift. Henry W. Leroy and Charles R. Huntington, of New-York, became sureties on his bond for $8,600. In June, 1881, Florence Swift died and Mrs. Sherman took out letters of administration. Differences had in the meanwhile arisen between her and her husband, whom she charges with having squandered vast sums of her money as well as the estate of her children. Last August young Swift, to whom Mrs. Sherman had transferred her interests as administratrix of her daughter's estate, began suit against his stepfather and the latter's bondsmen to recover $4,300, the alleged value of the property entrusted to him as guardian. Recently Mr. Leroy, one of Mr. Sherman's sureties, settled with the plaintiff, paying him $3,000 in consideration of his release from liability on the bond. An order to that effect was entered in the Supreme Court here to-day.

In the separation case of Mrs. Sherman against her husband briefs were handed to Justice Kennedy this afternoon on a motion for nonsuit made by defendant's attorney.

JOTTINGS HERE AND THERE.

ITHACA, March 11 (*Special*).—The Engineering department of Cornell University has just received from the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey a valuable plaster cast representative of the topography of the United States east of the Mississippi, together with the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Only one other map like it is in existence, and is the property of the Coast Survey.

BINGHAMTON, March 11 (*Special*).—The fight for the postmastership of this city is not yet ended, although it was thought to be when E. Hamilton Freeman was nominated by the President two weeks ago. In the last few days a protest against Freeman's confirmation has been circulated and is said now to have the names of between 400 and 500 prominent Democrats, who, not satisfied with the making of an ordinary protest, make also grave charges against the character of Mr. Freeman. This will at once be sent to the Senate.

A Western Democratic editor mournfully asks what is the future of the Jacksonian Democracy. It has no future, brother; it simply has a Past.

NO DEAL WITH GOV. HILL.

PHELPS NOT LIKELY TO BE CONFIRMED.

WHY THE GOVERNOR SELECTED THE NOMINEES—TALKS WITH REPUBLICANS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 11.—There was a general denial to-day from every politician in the capital that there had been any "deal" for the confirmation of the men nominated by Governor Hill yesterday for Health Officer, Quarantine Commissioners, and Judge of the Court of Claims. Governor Hill himself stated that he had nominated the men simply because they were fit men to occupy the positions for which he named them. There was no arrangement for their confirmation. Dr. Phelps he considered to be a man of good standing and thoroughly competent to perform the work of a Health Officer. He had entertained Dr. Douglas, nominated for Quarantine Commissioner, at the time of General Grant's funeral, and had then formed a high opinion of his ability, which subsequent inquiry confirmed. Mr. Higgins, of Brooklyn, also nominated for Quarantine Commissioner, would be surprised at the nomination. The Governor considered him a shrewd business man. As for Marshall B. Blake, the Governor said he had shown himself to be an efficient officer when serving as Internal Revenue Collector.

The Republican Senators all denied that there had been any "deal." They showed that there had not been by postponing the consideration of the nominations in caucus for two weeks. Even then they did not select any day for holding a caucus. There is no possibility of Dr. Phelps's nomination unless Senator Griswold's bill is passed abolishing or reducing the fees of the Health Officer. No Republican dreams of giving that office with its fees of $25,000 to a Democrat to be used as a campaign fund next fall when the time arrives to elect the Assemblymen who will vote for