MR. SPOONER'S ABLE SPEECH.

A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR THE ELECTION BILL.

HIS ANSWER TO THE STRICTURES OF MESSRS. GRAY AND DANIEL—DEFENDING JOHN I. DAVENPORT—HEARTILY CONGRATULATED BY HIS REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES—MR. INGALLS ON SOUTHERN METHODS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 20.—The debate to-day in the Senate on the Election bill was made notable by a striking and eloquent speech in defence of that measure by Mr. Spooner, of Wisconsin. Mr. Spooner, during his six years of service in the Senate—unfortunately for his State and for the country at large, to be terminated on March 4 next—has easily won his way to the front rank of debaters in that body. He is always clear, impassioned and vigorous on the floor of the Senate; but his speech to-day, in point of force, virility, fire and all the other attributes of genuine forensic eloquence, may be justly said to have surpassed any one of his previous efforts. Mr. Spooner, as is well known, is a hard worker and a logical thinker, a trained and accurate lawyer, and yet young enough to be full of that fervor and enthusiasm which give to the periods of the political orator their greatest value and effectiveness. To-day he spoke from the heart, and his telling sentences only voiced the natural indignation and resentment of his colleagues at the continued misrepresentations with which the Democratic Senators have been seeking for weeks to befog the real issues involved in the pending bill. The necessity of Federal control of elections for Representatives in the South was dwelt upon and enforced in a scathing but not exaggerated review of the treatment of the negroes in the southern States, and especially by some timely and effective criticisms on the recently adopted constitution of Mississippi.

Mr. Spooner began speaking about 11 o'clock, taking up in turn for review the various criticisms made upon the details of the Election bill, and then advanced gradually to the discussion of the great question behind the whole measure—whether or not the southern States should be permitted longer by the General Government to override the plain letter of the Constitution, and deny by violence and fraud the rights of thousands of colored citizens to vote and have their votes counted as they were cast.

No abler nor more noteworthy speech on the subversion of the political rights of the negro in the South has been made in Congress for some time, and Mr. Spooner's colleagues on the Republican side showed their unanimous appreciation of its unusual eloquence, force and significance by crowding round him at the close, and offering him their warmest and heartiest congratulations. It was clear that the Wisconsin Senator had appreciably advanced the chances of a solid Republican vote for the Election bill, and there were few observers in the galleries, which were crowded all the afternoon, who did not feel that the defeat of the Lodge measure in the Senate had been made practically impossible by Mr. Spooner's inspiring eloquence.

A stranger in the gallery, Mr. Spooner began, listening to this debate, without a knowledge of the history of the country, would be impressed with the idea that all the love of liberty and devotion to the Constitution and freedom from partisanship were to be found on the other side of the chamber. He hoped that gentlemen on the other side would not assume that Republican Senators were not, equally with them, lovers of liberty. He took pride in belonging to a party whose history had been love of liberty and defence of liberty. Gentlemen opposing this bill denounced it as clearly unconstitutional, and spoke of their devotion to the Constitution. He begged them to remember that devotion to the Constitution was not confined to the Democratic side. The Republicans were denounced as partisans. He begged to suggest that possibly some persons might imagine that the fierceness of the opposition to this bill was attributable in part to partisanship. Senators ought to be willing to concede that in the consideration of a measure of this character, there was room for an honest difference of opinion, and should not forget that denunciation is not argument, and that epithets never convinced any intelligent mind. Almost every Senator on the other side had made harsh and bitter reference to the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Hoar). That Senator needed no defence; and, if this were otherwise, he was abundantly able to take care of himself.

Mr. Spooner then proceeded to defend John I. Davenport from the attacks made upon him and contended, fortifying his contention with documentary evidence, that the Federal Election law, instead of being offensive to the Democrats of the North had been put in operation at their request in many instances. It would not do, he said, for Mr. Daniel or any other Senator to refer to Mr. Davenport as the creature of Judge Blatchford. Honest men had no creatures. Why, he asked, had the Senators from Delaware and Virginia (Gray and Daniel) deemed it their duty to go to the rescue of the people of New-York. The state was represented by two distinguished Senators, one of whom had been, for the last fifty years, the most distinguished champion of personal liberty in the world. If Mr. Davenport had ridden roughshod over the honest people of New-York City, arresting them by thousands and casting them into bastiles, it was strange that the Senators from that state had not come to the defence of their outraged constituents. In the face of the fact that "liberty lay bleeding in the streets" of New-York City, it was strange that the citizens of New-York should be dependent upon the Senators from Delaware and Virginia to vindicate their rights. He did not know, however, that any Democrat from the North or from the South, had introduced a bill to repeal the law under which Mr. Davenport was acting.

Mr. Spooner then proceeded to discuss and to defend the details of the pending measure, and to reply to the strictures upon them made by Senators Gray and Daniel. A good deal had been said, Mr. Spooner remarked, in connection with what was called "domiciliary visits," but nothing had been said of the domiciliary visits of night riders at the South, or of the shooting of men and the whipping of women. All the indignation of Democratic Senators had been directed at domiciliary visits, including only a polite inquiry by a Federal official as to who lived in the house, so as to enable him to judge whether persons registered from that house were legal voters.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections, Mr. Spooner said, had been criticised because it was not able to give an estimate as to the cost of the enforcement of the bill. It was impossible to form an estimate, because the committee could not know to what extent it might have to be enforced. The people could afford, after having saved the Republic, to spend as much money as might be necessary to protect themselves in the free and honest expression of their will at the polls. (Some applause.) They could afford—and what it might, if the means only proved effective—to protect the foundations on which the splendid superstructure of the Republic rested from being undermined and destroyed, and they could not stop to count, penny by penny and dollar by dollar, the cost, if it would only insure honesty and security at the ballot-box.

Was there, he asked, any necessity for a Federal law of elections? He wished that there was not, but who would have the effrontery to say that there was not? As to the North, the necessity for it and its efficiency had been tested and established in twenty years of administration. The people of the North had not complained of it, nor found it offensive. How about the south? It had been said on the other side that the bill was aimed at the South. It was in part. It was aimed at every spot in the United States where by fraud or force men who had a right to vote for members of Congress were cheated of that right. The south, he thought, was where the bill was specially needed. In proof of this, he read extracts from a speech made by Mr. Chrisman, in the late Constitutional Convention of Mississippi, declaring that since 1875 there had not been a fair election in that state; that in plain words they (the white people) had been stuffing ballot-boxes, committing perjury and carrying the election by fraud and violence until the whole machinery of elections was about to rot. He also read the qualifications for voters contained in the new Constitution of Mississippi, among others being the ability of the voter (after January, 1892) to read or to give reasonable explanation of the meaning of any clause of the Constitution of the State. Mr. Spooner had his doubts of the ability of some Senators on the other side to understand some clauses of the Constitution of the United States (laughter). If the Constitution of Mississippi had stopped at the educational test and excluded from the right of suffrage every man, white or black, who could not read that instrument, nobody would complain of it; but now the ignorant white voter might have the simplest clause read to him and be asked if he understood it, and answering "Yes," might be permitted to vote; while an abstruse clause in the right of eminent domain or some legal and technical question might be read to the colored voter, who would be asked to give a reasonable explanation of it. The scheme was plainly devised to let the ignorant white man vote, if he voted the Democratic ticket, and to keep the ignorant black man from voting, unless he voted the Democratic ticket.

There was a wrong in the suppression of the votes of the South by force and fraud and violence and constitutions. It was a wrong on the North, of which the North had a right to complain; and Southern men should not turn deaf ears to that complaint. The results of Southern policy were not simply local results. They reached up to the North and they constituted a wrong on the entire people of the North. As the negro population increased, and as the negro vote was suppressed, that wrong upon the North became intensified. Southern men ought not to fold their arms and say that they would keep their increased representation, while they would suppress the negro vote. Why should they not do anything that honorable men could do to restore equality and justice among the States in that matter of representation?

Mr. Spooner pronounced an eloquent and glowing eulogy on the black race for its fidelity to the whites of the South throughout the war, and inquired whether it was too much to ask that such a race as that, such a people as that, should have justice.

Referring to Mr. Stewart's speech yesterday, and to his remark that the election law should not be enforced in the South, because public opinion would not support it, Mr. Spooner remarked: "To that complexion have we come at last? Have we fallen on a condition in our country that calls for preservation by law of the purity of the ballot at the North, but that we must stop at Mason and Dixon's line, because public opinion in the South is in favor of dishonest and fraudulent and violent suppression of the suffrage? I cannot believe it."

Mr. Spooner spoke for more than five hours, and his speech was listened to with marked attention and interest on both sides of the chamber.

Mr. George said that he was not in the chamber while the Constitution of his State had been under discussion, and could not now reply to Mr. Spooner's remarks. But he would do so in good time and in a way that would remove the imputations made on the Constitution by Mr. Spooner to-day and by Mr. Dolph some days ago. He would show ample precedents for it in the Constitutions (past and present) of other States.

Mr. Edmunds asked Mr. George to name some of those States now.

Mr. George—Idaho is one; Connecticut is one, and I think Vermont is one.

Mr. Edmunds—Not at all.

Mr. Ingalls thought it important that some light should be shed on the subject to which Mr. George purposed to address himself, and he would therefore read some extracts from speeches of delegates to the Mississippi convention, and from editorials of local papers, on the subject of the qualification as to the ability to read or to explain clauses of the Constitution. He affirmed it as his understanding and belief, and as the conviction of the great mass of the people of the North, that the Constitutional Convention of Mississippi had been assembled for the avowed purpose of disfranchising a majority of its citizens, who were also citizens of the United States. It had been assembled for the express purpose of nullifying and defeating and overthrowing the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, by agreeing to which the State of Mississippi had secured its readmission into the Union.

Addressing his remarks to southern Senators, Mr. Ingalls said that their people had retained representation in the House of Representatives and in the Electoral College, while they had suppressed the colored vote. They had violated the compact. They had retained the representation which had given them for fourteen years supremacy in the House of Representatives, and had on two occasions thwarted the will of the people by placing on one of those occasions in the Presidential chair a man who had never been elected to his office in any fair and just sense, any more than the Khan of Tartary or the Czar of Russia.

Mr. Ingalls thereupon read extracts from several Mississippi newspapers in support of his contention.

Mr. Edmunds asked Mr. Ingalls whether that famous convention had been called in accordance with the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and whether the results of its deliberation had been submitted to the people.

Mr. Ingalls replied that he knew nothing about the way of its being called; but he was advised, and he believed, that, contrary to the usual course pursued in such cases in free communities, it had been assembled by some way, to have it declared the organic law of the state, without any action on the part of the voters.

Mr. Edmunds added that the convention came into existence by methods entirely outside of the Constitution of the state, which provided a particular way for its own amendment.

The Senate went into executive session, and at 5:15 adjourned.

THE PROPOSED ARMY CHANGES.

GOOD OUTLOOK FOR THE BILL REORGANIZING THE ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY.

Washington, Dec. 20 (special).—The chances of the bill reorganizing the artillery and infantry branches of the Army are extremely good. The measure, as reported by General Hawley from the Committee on Military Affairs, is in the nature of a substitute for the Artillery bill which passed the House last session, and is now high up on the Senate calendar. During the latter days of the last session, the bill was called up, but its consideration was objected to by Senator Cockrell. His objections were confined to the Senate amendments, which provided for the establishment of the three-battalion formation for the infantry. Since that time Senator Cockrell has become heartily in favor of both propositions, and so far no Senator on either side has intimated that he is opposed to the passage of the bill.

This radical change of opinion was produced by the provision for the enlistment of not less than 2,000 Indians. The secretary of War and General Schofield recommended that 5,000 Indians should be enlisted, but Senator Cockrell wished to make the language stronger by stating that the minimum should be not less than 2,000, thus leaving the maximum unlimited. Early in the present session the important committee of the Senate were requested by the "steering committee" to lay before it a list of the important measures which demanded consideration. The amended Artillery bill headed the list sent in by the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. Now that every member upon that committee is heartily in favor of the substitute, it is highly probable that an opportunity will be missed to pass the measure at this session. The bill will go back to the House, and upon a request for a conference it will go into Committee of the Whole, because the amendments of the Senate involve an appropriation. This procedure will not jeopardize the bill, however, as the House Committee on Military Affairs is agreed with the amendments proposed by the Senate.

BIDS FOR NEW VESSELS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Bids were opened at the Navy Department to-day for the construction of a harbor defence ram of 2,050 tons and a torpedo boat similar to the Cushing, of 112 tons. There were four bids as follows: For the ram, the Iron Works, of Bath, Me., for $650,000, according to the plans and specifications of the Navy Department, except the provision that the ram shall be rejected if she fails to make seventeen knots an hour; for the torpedo boat from the Cowles Engineering Company, of Brooklyn, for $119,940, according to Hidden's plans; from the Herreshof Company, of Bristol, R. I., for $125,000 for a vessel of 140 tons, according to Hidden's plans, and for a vessel of 112 tons, for $95,000, according to Hidden's plans. In regard to the ram, it is said that the Department will reject the Bath company's bid and either readvertise for new bids or build the vessel at a navy yard. All the bids for the torpedo boat are within the limit of cost fixed by Congress, $125,000.

IMPORTED SUGARS IN BOND.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Acting on the advice of the Attorney-General, the Treasury Department has decided that the provision in Paragraph 241 of the Tariff act for the refunding of imported sugars in bond is applicable only to sugars in the solid form and not to molasses. Assistant Secretary Spaulding has informed a correspondent that no regulations have yet been prepared for the execution of this paragraph, but that the general regulations governing the transportation, rewarehousing and withdrawal for consumption of bonded merchandise will probably be found applicable in most essential particulars to sugar to be refined in bond during the month of March next. He says that sugars refined in bond, like any other bonded merchandise, may be withdrawn either for transportation in bond or for consumption only by the persons who entered the raw sugars for transfer to the bonded refinery, and not by the purchasers of the refined product.

COLONEL McCAWLEY'S SUCCESSOR.

Washington, Dec. 20 (special).—Charles G. McCawley, colonel-commandant of the Marine Corps, will be retired for age next month, and there is a lively contest for the succession. The senior colonel is Clement B. Hebb, who will also be retired for age within a year. Owing to this fact Colonel Hebb was not inclined to make a number for selection as commandant, particularly as he would gain no additional rank thereby. He has been persuaded, however, by personal friends to enter the list of candidates. The hesitation of Colonel Hebb to enter the contest induced Lieutenant-Colonel Heywood, the officer next in rank, to ask for the designation as colonel-commandant. Colonel Heywood is in the vigor of manhood, with at least a dozen years of service before reaching the retiring age. He has an excellent record in the Marine Service and is regarded as one of the most competent officers of the corps. He is the choice of a majority of his associates in both branches of the Navy.

In view of the fact that Colonel Hebb will be retired within a year, it is thought Colonel Heywood will be selected by the President to succeed Colonel McCawley. Those familiar with the Marine Corps express the belief that the interests of that organization would be promoted by the selection of Colonel Heywood, who has not only merit and faithful service but seniority after Colonel Hebb to recommend him.

TO CARRY OUT THE CONFERENCE'S IDEAS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Acting Secretary Nettleton to-day transmitted to the House a draft of a bill prepared by the Lighthouse Board, to carry out the suggestions contained in divisions Nos. 11 and 12 of the report of the proceedings of the International Marine Conference. Division No. 11 relates to notices of dangers to navigation, and Division No. 12 to a uniform system of buoys and beacons.

AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTION BILL.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Morgan to-day introduced a resolution relative to the Election bill, the preamble of which recites that in the bill reported to the Senate certain sections of the Revised Statutes are amended and made applicable, but are not specifically mentioned, and that without the incorporation in the bill of the sections referred to of the existing law, it is uncertain what changes are intended to be made. The Committee on Privileges and Elections is therefore directed by the resolution to amend Section 31 so as to show what are the changes and modifications in the sections of the existing law which are intended to be made by the present bill. To avoid committing the bill and proposed amendment to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, the committee is instructed to make a supplemental report, showing the changes and modifications in the existing statutes, which they recommend and provide for in the amendment reported to the Senate.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

THE URGENCY DEFICIENCY BILL DISCUSSED AND SENT BACK TO THE SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 20.—There was a small attendance of members in the chamber when the House met this morning, and Mr. Rogers, of Arkansas, noting the fact, objected to the approval of the journal. On a yea and nay vote the journal was approved.

On motion of Mr. Grout, of Vermont, the Senate joint resolution was passed, defining a quorum of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia. In the morning hour a bill was passed to authorize the construction of a tunnel under the waters of the Bay of New-York, between the towns of Middletown and New-Utrecht.

Mr. Farquhar, of New-York, acting under instructions from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, called up the bill to limit and govern the changing of the names of vessels. Pending action the morning hour expired; and Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the Urgent Deficiency bill with Senate amendments thereto.

On a standing vote no quorum appeared, and this point was made by Mr. Rogers. The Speaker was unable to count a quorum, and the yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. Henderson remarked that if this bill were not passed the work of the Government Printing Office would have to stop, and there would be a lack of money to pay various laborers in the employ of the Government.

Mr. Henderson's motion was agreed to—yeas, 173, nays, 3—Mr. Burroughs, of Michigan, taking the chair.

Mr. Henderson moved a concurrence on the Senate amendments, with one exception. This exception was the amendment providing for the payment of Senate session employes, including the clerks to senators.

Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, advocated the speedy passage of the bill, predicting that there would be no quorum present next week whether or not a recess was taken.

Mr. Rodgers, of Arkansas, regarded the presentation of the bill as a confession of judgment on the part of the majority. The gentleman from Iowa, Mr. Henderson, had become, from his long association with the Committee on Appropriations, an adept in the art of running the Government cheaply before an election and facing up deficiencies afterward. He then proceeded to criticise the Republican side for a failure to make adequate appropriations for the carrying on of the Government.

Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, while not opposing the bill, suggested that the deficiency arose from a desire of the Republican party to keep down the appropriations until after election. Mr. Dockery then proceeded to criticise the financial administration of the Government, dwelling especially upon the purchase of bonds by the Secretary of the Treasury. Between August 3, 1887, and December, 1890, the Secretary had been compelled to purchase $300,000,000 of bonds, for which he had paid $416,000,000. Many of these bonds were not due for twenty years. The Secretary of the Treasury, from July until the election, had need of the surplus for purchase of bonds, to relieve the stringency of the money market, congressmen. To this must be added $12,000,000 of interest advanced. And any gentleman challenge the statement that this money had been employed to relieve the financial stringency.

Mr. Milliken, of Maine, asked what remedy the gentleman would propose.

Mr. Dockery replied that the first thing he would do would be to repeal the McKinley bill. (Democratic applause.) The second thing he would do would be to repudiate silver. (The third thing would be to change the Force bill now pending in the Senate. Democratic applause.)

Mr. Cutchen, of Michigan, said that the present secretary of the Treasury had found a large surplus in the Treasury, but in a hurry to a Democratic Congress. He found the money in the people's hands, and immediately proceeded to take it back. He found the money in the Treasury, and then proceeded to collect the surplus in the Treasury, and then piled up to fill the surplus in the Treasury. The present Secretary, subject to a Democratic House, had found that the people's money should be collected from the people's money, that it should be handed up to the Treasury, and that in accordance with a Democratic policy, it became one of a Secretary, not in the policy of the Administration, but in accordance with the existence of a surplus. Not until the Republican party had obtained control of the House did it become possible to pass a law to reduce the revenue. Mr. Cutchen argued that the surplus was due to the Democratic revenue system in the Treasury.

Mr. Springer, of Illinois, suggested that in this view the gentleman differed from our President, who attributed the deficiency to the money members of foreign nations.

The motion of Mr. Henderson was agreed to, the committee rose, the bill was returned to the Senate for its action and the House adjourned.

THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL REPORTED.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Naval Appropriation bill was reported to the House to-day. Chairman Boutelle, in his report says:

The unprecedented rapidity with which the work of construction has been pushed of late has resulted in completing a large part of the expenditure within the current year, and an increased appropriation is required sooner than the last estimate indicated. An examination of the proceedings and reports contained in this report will be found in the fact that, on the day following the approval of the act authorizing the construction of these battleships, advertisements were issued inviting proposals upon general plans prepared in the Department, and that in three months after the act of authorization, three proposals were received, and the contract awarded upon specifications that are believed to represent the best practical and efficient ships that have ever been designed. The contract for these ships contained provisions that were intended to secure the speedy completion of the work, and they are required to be completed in twenty months. Of all the vessels contracted for in the years following the appropriations never a single one of these contracts has been completed within the time specified. The committee have recommendations to propose the adoption of several new provisions to the building of new naval vessels.

TO BECOME THIRD-CLASS POSTOFFICES.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The following fourth-class postoffices will be raised to the third or Presidential class on January 1:

Auburn, Me.; Ozark, Ark.; Compton, Calif.; Delta and Rifle, Colo.; Jewett City, Conn.; Titusville, Fla.; Cairo, Ga.; Caldwell, Idaho; Dundee, Hardisburg, Kenilworth, Roseland, Vaughn and Hamilton, Ill.; Tipton and Fincastle, Ind.; Anthon, Ia.; South Gardner and Baldwinville, Mass.; Spencerville, Md.; Flushing, Chesaning and Howard City, Mich.; Benson, Madelia and West Lutsen, Minn.; Hermann, La Plata, Versailles, Bellefonte, Annie Tenn. and Marceline, Mo.; Hay Springs, Neb.; Carlstadt, N. J.; Chittenango, Ellenville, Lansingburgh, N. Y.; Greenville, Ohio; Carlisle, Hall, Vinton, Gallipolis and Spring City, Penn.; Abbeville Court House, S. C.; Centreville, S. D.; Crockett, Tex.; Waynesborough, Va.; Ravenswood, W. Va.; Lake Mills and Bayfield, Wis.

THE SITUATION IN THE SENATE.

THE FINANCIAL BILL AND THE RULE TO CLOSE DEBATE NOT TO COME UP UNTIL THE ELECTION BILL SPEECHES ARE ENDED.

Washington, Dec. 20 (Special).—The situation in the Senate was left practically unchanged by to-day's proceedings. The Financial bill passed upon favorably by the Committee on Finance was not reported by Mr. Sherman, nor was any move made to interrupt the programme of the last few days. Nothing further will be done until all the Senators now on the Vice-President's list have made their speeches on the Election bill. Then either the Financial bill will be taken up for a few days, or the new rule to close debate will be brought in. The general feeling on the Republican side is that an almost unanimous party vote for all three measures can be obtained by a delay just now, and no decided step toward the adoption of the "previous question" is likely to be taken until the two Idaho Senators arrive here. There has been some talk of another Republican conference; but, unless further differences of opinion arise, no additional caucus will be necessary. The Election bill is stronger to-day, perhaps, than it has ever been, and there can be little doubt that it will pass the Senate before the present session grows much shorter.

The Committee on Rules of the Senate has held no meeting recently, as has been reported; nor will any meeting be necessary to insure the introduction of a "previous question" rule into the Senate. Mr. Aldrich has already been authorized to bring in such a rule whenever he thinks best, and he is simply waiting for the proper opportunity. No difficulty is expected to be encountered by the Republicans in getting an immediate vote on such a rule.

RAILROAD LAND GRANTS TO BE ADJUSTED.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Secretary Noble has withdrawn his order suspending the approval of the final adjustment of the land grants in favor of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company and the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company. These adjustments were approved on February 12, 1890, but subsequently suspended because of pending legislation in Congress. A surplus of about 200,000 acres of lands is left within the withdrawals heretofore made for the Omaha road. This surplus the Secretary orders to be restored to the public domain, and, after ninety days' public notice, to be subject to settlement and entry under the general land laws and certain rules now prescribed. These lands are located in the northern part of Wisconsin and are said to be valuable.

PROGRESS WITH THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Washington, Dec. 20 (Special).—Fair progress is being made in the preparation of the regular appropriation bills. The Pension bill has passed the House; the Army and District of Columbia bills are on the House calendar, and the Military Academy bill is nearly ready to report. With proper diligence, the District of Columbia and Military Academy bills could be completed and sent to the Senate before the close of the year. The Diplomatic and Consular, Postoffice, Indian and Agricultural bills, which are in charge of the proper committees, should be ready to report immediately after the first of the year. These are purely business measures, and there should be no delay in their preparation and no trouble in their speedy passage.

MEASURES IN THE SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Mr. Pettigrew introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of firearms and ammunition to Indians on reservations. Referred.

Mr. Moody, from the Committee on Indian Depredation Claims, reported the House bill for the adjudication of claims arising from Indian depredations. Calendar.

Mr. Sawyer asked unanimous consent for the fixing of an early day in January for the consideration of the Postal Telegraph bill. Mr. Wolcott objected.

Mr. Beck, at his own request, received two weeks' leave of absence.

Mr. Platt introduced a joint resolution appropriating $100,000 to enable the President to take action to obtain from the German Government a supply of the remedy discovered by Dr. Koch and the formula for the manufacture of the same. Laid over.

REDEMPTION OF 4½ PER CENT BONDS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The amount of 4½ per cent bonds redeemed today was $30,000, making the total to date $7,016,150.

EFFECT OF THE BANK STATEMENT.

CONFIDENCE GENERALLY STRONGER AMONG WALL STREET MEN.

There was a distinct improvement in the feeling among Wall Street bankers yesterday as records the financial outlook. It has been the result of the developments of preceding days, but it received a decided stimulus from the publication of the bank statement. The gold which has arrived from Europe consisted for comparatively little in the bank averages, but nevertheless the statement showed a gain of almost $4,000,000 in the legal money held and of nearly $14,000,000 in the surplus reserve. The announcement of the figures imparted a strong closing tone to a stock market which had been dull and irregular previously. In the afternoon the statement was discussed with expressions of satisfaction on the part of many brokers and bankers. One prominent bank president said:

"It is the first day since the financial trouble became acute that I have been able to detect solid signs of a return of confidence. It is difficult to define the intangible sentiment, but it is here now. While some of the still existing sore spots may break out off and on, and while around the first of the new year money may suffer from a little flurry, I believe that the situation is improved and will continue to improve right along."

The steamer Lahn brought a heavy cargo of gold to port yesterday and a large part of it got into the Treasury Department and the Assay Office. The consignments were as follows:

To	From	Amount.
Vigo Hofman & Co.	Rayfield & Sons	$40,000
John Lusch & Co.	Rayfield & Co. Paris	20,000
French Brothers & Co.	Schuyler & Co.	25,000
Samuel Benson & Co.	H. M. Rothschild & Sons	10,000
Total		$95,000

Heidelbach, Ickelheimer & Co. — Harjes, Kane & Co. — Fr. $55,000

The Assay office yesterday received $200,000, made up of $150,000 in gold bars and $50,000 in English sovereigns and French pieces. At the Sub-Treasury the total deposits of American coin from the imports were $2,250,000. Although no formal notices were received, it is expected that about $300,000 will be turned in to-morrow.

A dispatch was received from Boston late yesterday announcing that the board of directors of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe had unanimously approved the Morgan railroad agreement and had selected George C. Magoun to act with President Manvel on the advisory board. Ethel, the president, spooner and John J. McCook were chosen alternates.

VALUABLE PAINTINGS BY GREAT ARTISTS.

Lovers of art will find a treat in a visit to the establishment of J. H. Johnston & Co., at No. 17 Union square. The firm has made extra exertions in view of the holidays, to make their art collection attractive. The central picture in their art room is a magnificent painting by Gatti, representing Milton on a visit to Galileo in the Star Tower at Florence. This is said to be Gatti's greatest work and is a remarkable picture. Art experts place its value at $10,000. Next to it is a country scene by Corot, valued at $3,000. A portrait of Thomas Paine, painted by the elder Jarvis, is a work of much interest. Its value has been placed at $10,000. Near this is a seaside scene by Sartorio, and a country scene by Ramirez. There are many other works by famous artists. The line of fancy porcelains, silverware and jewelry carried by this firm attracts fully as much attention as the paintings, for it is all in the highest style workmanship. They have just received a special line of Cologne ware, of new colors and patterns, that promises to have a large sale. Everything in diamonds, watches, jewelry and silverware can be seen at their establishment in infinite variety of style. The firm has introduced many special lines for the holidays.

LAMONT'S FATE IN A JURY'S HANDS.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 20.—The trial of Frank Lamont, charged with the murder of Fred Leech, a farmer, at Canadice, Ontario County, on May 7, which has been going on since Monday at Canandaigua, was given to the jury this noon. Lamont rented a farm of Leech, who lived near by on another farm. On account of frequent quarrels between Leech's young son and Lamont, Leech ordered Lamont to move off his place. On May 7 Leech went to Lamont's house, who was already packing up his things, and the quarrel was resumed in the cellar. Lamont ran upstairs and grabbed his shotgun, saying he would "fix him." Going outside he met Leech at the corner of the house, whereupon, Lamont asserts, Leech threw a large stone, hitting him on the cheek, he then firing his gun, killing Leech. Young Leech sat in a wagon in the road, an eyewitness. The defence claims that Lamont acted in self-defence; also that his mind is unbalanced.

Judge Ramsey charged the jury at 10:30 this morning. He said that one strong proof in favor of the people, a fact that corroborated the story of young Leech, was that the mitten that must have been dropped by Leech the instant he was shot was found on the very spot on which Myron Leech said his father was shot. Another, was that Leech, having received the shot in the side, must have turned to go away at Lamont's words, which were: "Now, get out, or I'll shoot you." On the other hand, could Myron Leech, from where he was seated in a light wagon, twenty feet from the cellar door, have seen and heard all the talk that was going on in the cellar before the shooting, as testified by him? It is uncertain what the verdict will be, and the opinion prevails that the jury will remain out a long time. Lamont's family gathered around him to console and cheer him after the jury had retired, and tears streamed down the young man's face.

GIVING A TEA ON THE ST. MARY'S.

COMMANDER AND MRS. CROWNINSHIELD ENTERTAIN THEIR FRIENDS.

Commander and Mrs. A. S. Crowninshield, of the training and school ship St. Mary's, gave a delightful afternoon tea on board their floating home yesterday, and the pier at East Thirty-first st., between 3 and 6 p. m., was crowded with the carriages of their guests. On account of its being the last entertainment of the kind given by Mrs. Crowninshield before leaving the St. Mary's, it was called on the invitations a "Farewell Tea." The gun deck was tastefully decorated with evergreens and bunting, and an orchestra played the music, to which scores of dainty feet twinkled merrily in both round and square dances.

Among those present were General Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Church, ex-Judge and Mrs. Charles P. Daly, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Derby, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. de Lagnel, Mr. and Mrs. John Ewing, the Misses Irving, Mr. Langdon Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Kiliian Van Rensselaer, Mr. and Mrs. Fairfax, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomfield Jones, the Misses Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. James Hargous, Commander and Mrs. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Johnston, Dr. and Mrs. Frederic E. Kinsman, Mr. and Mrs. James Gerard, Miss Livingston, Mrs. Joseph Lathbury, the Misses Lathbury, the Misses Chittenden, Captain and Mrs. Chadwick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hamilton Robb, Mrs. Francis Delafield, Miss Delafield, Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, the Misses Sands, Beverly Robinson and the Misses Robinson.

IN BEHALF OF COLORED CHILDREN.

The following appeal has been issued for aid for the St. Benedict's Home for colored children:

To the public:

In behalf of St. Benedict's Home for destitute colored children I make a Christmas appeal for aid. The home rescues and educates colored boys and girls. For four years it has cared for only thirty-six children. Over 200 most deserving cases were refused admission for lack of room. The sisters and children were lately removed from No. 120 Madison st. to Rye, Westchester County, where a new home to accommodate over 200 children is in course of erection. This building will cost $40,000. The home has no revenue. It receives no state or city aid. I have no money now to continue the necessary $10,000 home, and work on the building must cease unless the charitable and friends of the colored race come to my rescue. In many places a growing interest in the colored work is manifest. Two hundred more colored people in Washington, D. C., by Sister Catherine (Miss Kate Drexel), who is to devote her noble life and ample means to the 9,000,000 colored people and 300,000 Indians, for an industrial school for boys, lately, too, she purchased Rock Hill College, in Maryland, where an industrial school for girls will be opened. The wave has not reached New York yet. I have it devoutly in my heart that a similar financial windfall will soon favor the struggling St. Benedict's Home—the only institution of its kind "up North." To the wealthy and charitable of our city I appeal for funds in aid of my work.

Donations in money or goods will be gratefully acknowledged by the Mother Superior, Sisters, St. Benedict's Home, Rye, N. Y., or by the servant of the colored people,

JOHN E. BURKE, Pastor,
No. 120 Madison st., N. Y.

NEWBURG TO HAVE A SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

Newburg, N. Y., Dec. 20 (special).—This city is to have a fine soldiers' monument, which will cost $25,000. The formation of an organization to forward the enterprise has been nearly completed. Leading citizens are interested in the work, and committees from Ellis Post and Fulton Post, G. A. R., together with representatives of the citizens generally have the direct management of it. Among the members of the General Committee are Mayor Michael Doyle, ex-Mayor John J. S. McCloskey, ex-Mayor Abram S. Cassedy, District Attorney M. H. Hirschberg, Charles J. Lawson, president of the Board of Almshouse Commissioners, Colonel John D. Van Buren, Colonel William D. Dickey, Dr. David L. Kisil, John Delaney, Lewis M. Smith, Dr. R. V. K. Montfort, the Rev. J. G. D. Findlay, James B. Hulse, Colonel Joseph M. Leeper and Major Edward C. Boynton. The executive committee is as follows: Mayor Doyle, District Attorney Hirschberg, Dr. Montfort, ex-Mayor McCloskey, C. W. Mehrer, Lewis M. Smith and E. C. Boynton. The "plan and scope of the work," as recommended by the executive committee in a report which has been adopted, places the cost of the monument at $25,000, to be raised by subscription and public entertainments, and recommends the appointment of subcommittees on finance and audit, a subscription committee of nine members, an entertainment committee of five, a committee on legislation (state and local), of three, a committee on printing, and committees on design and location. The first contribution, although the books have not been opened, has been made by the 16th Separate Company, N. Y. S. M., Captain Joseph M. Dickey commanding, which has given $150.

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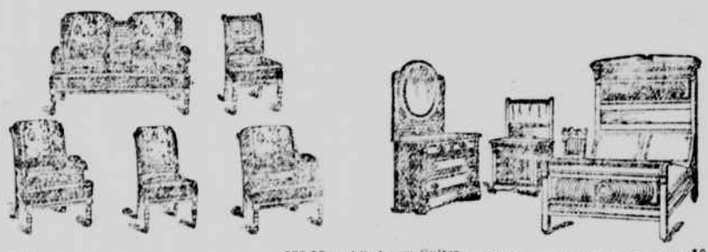

Parlor Suites	$20.00 up	Bedroom Suites	10.00 up
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Sideboards	7.50 up	Body Brussels	60c. yd.
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Hall Stands	5.00 up	No. 1 Oil Cloth	25c. yd.

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