THE SUN.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

Number 10,476. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1866. Thirty-Third Year.

The Latest News

By Telegraph to the N. Y. Sun.

CONGRESS.

Another Amendment Proposed.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN ALL STATES.

Military Peace Establishment.

The Amended Bill.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE.

The Metropolitan Health Bill.

A Warm Discussion.

HIGHLY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS

Senate Bill Defeated in the Assembly.

City and Miscellaneous News.

The Naval Race.

A START AT LAST.

The Great Concord Robbery.

ARREST OF SEVERAL MEN.

Recovery of $200,000.

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.

To-day the Church delegation appointed by the Conference of the Baltimore Branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in session at Alexandria, Va., waited upon President Johnson. Rev. Mr. Wilson addressed the President, assuring him of the hearty co-operation of their body. The President received the delegation courteously, each member being introduced to him personally.

Brevet Brig. Gen. J. H. Bell resigned his commission to-day. Gen. Bell entered the service in April, 1861, as a private, and has worked his way up to his present position. He was wounded very severely at the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg.

At Dr. Sunderland's church, to-night, Chief Justice Chase introduced Frederick Douglass to a dense auditory, speaking of him in highly complimentary terms. The latter then occupied two hours in a lecture on the "Assassination and its Lessons." There were present many members of Congress and a number of the lecturer's own race. He was applauded throughout. Judge Kelley, of the House of Representatives, responded to the call and placed himself squarely on the platform of the brotherhood of man.

Information has been received at the Treasury Department from Assistant Secretary Chandler, that he will return to Washington by Monday night. His absence in the South will have reached nearly seven weeks by that time

The Ways and Means Committee is considering the tax on whiskey and cotton, and the income tax. A report will be made very soon on these three points.

The Freedmen's Bureau bill, having passed the Senate and House, will be sent to the President to-day.

Official dispatches received here assert that heavy reinforcements of French and Austrian troops have been sent to Matamoras and Bagdad, as a precaution against further danger.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Thirty-Ninth Session.

Senate.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Mr. Morgan, of New York, presented the credentials of Mr. Lewis E. Parsons, Senator elect from Alabama. Mr. Morgan said:

As the State of Alabama is one of the States that, during the period of four years, has been in rebellion against the United States, and, as Congress has not determined whether the political condition of that State is such as to entitle the State to representation in the Senate, I do not expect that Governor Parsons will be requested to come forward and take the oath at this time; and I will ask that the credentials be received and laid upon the table to wait the further action of the Senate. It was so ordered.

Several petitions for equal civil and political rights were offered, and referred.

Mr. Wade, of Ohio, offered the petition of colored soldiers, asking the right of suffrage.

Mr. Saulsbury, of Del., wished to ask a question. The Senate and the country were very familiar with this word "colored," as applied to the negro race; he would like to know what authority there was for the use of that word? The only place he had ever seen it in history so applied, was in the history of St. Domingo, where it was used to denote mulattoes.

Mr. Fessenden, from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported a joint resolution to amend the Constitution with a constitutional article, as follows:

Congress shall have power to make all laws necessary and proper to secure to the citizens of each State the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States, and to all persons of the several States equal protection in the rights of life, liberty and property.

The resolution was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Brown offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Commerce, to inquire what legislation is necessary to protect the lives of passengers in Western steamboats from dangers incident to the explosion of tubular boilers.

Mr. Morgan called up the bill to extend the hour for withdrawing goods from public stores and warehouses, in which Mr. Sprague's motion for reconsideration was pending.

Mr. Sprague spoke against the bill, and the subject was finally postponed till to-morrow.

Mr. Wilson reported a bill to fix the military peace establishment of the United States as follows:

Five regiments artillery, 12 cavalry, 50 infantry, cadets, etc. The five regiments of artillery are now organized, but the organization of the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th shall be like that of the 5th. The adjutants, quartermasters and commissaries to be extra first lieutenants. To the six cavalry regiments existing there shall be six more added; the 1st and 2d lieutenants and two thirds of the higher officers to be selected from the officers and soldiers of the volunteer force, and the other third from the Regular Army. Four companies of each regiment may be drilled as infantry at the discretion of the President. The fifty regiments of infantry are thus made up: Ten regiments now organized of ten companies each; the remaining nine, each with three battalions of eight companies, are made twenty-seven regiments by adding two companies to each battalion; five additional regiments of ten companies each, and eight regiments of colored troops, to be officered by officers of colored troops who have distinguished themselves in the field. It requires the distribution of officers among the States in proportion to the number of troops furnished during the war. Each regiment shall have one colonel, two majors, one regimental commissary, one adjutant, one regimental quartermaster, ten captains, ten first and second lieutenants, one sergeant major, one quartermaster's sergeant, one hospital steward, one commissary sergeant, two principal musicians; each company one captain, one first and one second lieutenant, one first sergeant, four sergeants, eight corporals, two musicians, one wagoner and fifty privates. It provides an ordnance sergeant and hospital steward for each military post, and authorizes the President to appoint a superintendent of national cemeteries, established or to be established, with the rank and pay of ordnance sergeant, to be selected from non-commissioned officers. Enlistments shall be for five years. It also provides for one lieutenant general, five major generals and ten brigadier generals. The adjutant general shall have the rank and pay of a brigadier general, also two assistants, colonels of cavalry, four assistants, lieutenant colonels and thirteen assistant, majors. Four inspectors and eight assistants shall have respectively rank and pay of colonels and lieutenant colonels of cavalry. The Judge Advocate General to rank as Brigadier, with an assistant to rank as Colonel of Cavalry. The Quartermasters' Department shall have one General, four assistants, eight deputies, and sixteen quartermasters, grading as above, and in addition forty-eight more quartermasters, to rank as Captains. The Commissary General shall have two assistants ranking as Colonels, two as Lieutenant Colonels, eight commissaries as Majors, and sixteen as Captains; Surgeons—75 Majors, assistants, 150 First Lieutenants for three years, then Captains. The Paymaster General is given two assistants, two deputies, 60 paymasters. The Chief Engineer shall have 6 Colonels, 12 Lieutenant Colonels, 26 Majors, 80 Captains, 26 First and 10 Second Lieutenants.

Other provisions of the former Military bill have been somewhat changed in this.

Mr. Morrill called up the joint resolution to amend the Constitution on the subject of representation.

Mr. Sumner offered an amendment to insert the following words at the close of the original proposition: "and they shall be exempt from taxation of all kinds"—so as to make the amendment provide that those who are excluded from the right of suffrage, on account of color or race, shall be exempt from taxation.

Mr. Henderson addressed the Senate at length in favor of the amendment offered by him recently, prohibiting any State from withdrawing the elective franchise on account of color. He said the President, in his speech to the Virginia delegation, had said that he regarded what was known as the radical party as the great danger to this country. He (Henderson) had honestly and earnestly supported the President and his administration since his accession to the Executive chair, but he denied the right of the President to grant amnesty to rebels except on the conditions prescribed by the act of July, 1862, which requires that an oath must be taken before amnesty can be granted. Adverting to the proclamation reorganizing the State of North Carolina he denied the right of the President to prescribe the qualifications of voters as he had done in that proclamation. He believed the State governments in the South must be recognized before there could be a perfect union of the States. But if the State governments were turned back to the men who had been in rebellion was it not reasonable to expect that they would rebel again? He would ask the Senate if Congress could not pass an act depriving the late rebels of their rights of citizenship, notwithstanding the Presidents amnesty? If Congress had the power to do that, it ought to be done. The men who went into the rebellion ought to be disfranchised and prevented from taking part in the work of reorganization. He read from the address of the Virginia delegation to the President, and remarked that it was signed by a man named Baldwin among others.

Mr. Wilson asked if that was not the Baldwin who was a member of the rebel Congress, and who nominated Gen. Lee for Governor of Virginia.

Mr. Henderson understood it was.

Mr. Sumner inquired if that was the sort of men who gave advice to the President.

Mr. Henderson was speaking of Mr. Lincoln's plan of reorganizing on the basis of one-tenth of the people of a State, when Mr. Wade inquired how under a republican form of government one-tenth of a people could govern nine-tenths.

Mr. Henderson asked if the government of South Carolina was not republican when she entered the Union.

Mr. Wade said it was not.

Mr. Henderson said our fathers must have lied about it then.

Mr. Wade—They were mistaken—that's all.

Mr. Henderson continued. He contended for the right of giving the control of the State Governments to loyal men, yet men who did this were denounced as jacobins and roundheads.

Mr. Sumner—By whom?

Mr. Henderson—The President says so to the Virginia delegation. He refers to such men as the Senator from Massachusetts. He is the most dangerous man I know of. He is always making whitewashing speeches, and doing other dangerous things. The President alludes to him when he talks about hammering at one end, while the anvil was going at the other.

Mr. Sumner said that did not apply to him. It must be meant that the Democrats were hammering at this end.

Mr. Henderson assured Mr. Sumner that he was the man whom the President meant. Referring again to the interview between the Virginia delegation and the President, he was interrupted by

Mr. Wilson, who said, I want to ask the Senator if he has any reliable knowledge whatever in regard to the opinions of this Mr. Baldwin, or any man of that class, or believes that he or they will be able to influence affairs in any of the States that in 1864 voted for Mr. Lincoln for President? I ask if he does not believe that these States by a most decisive majority a majority larger than they gave in 1864, are to-day opposed to the admission of any of those States to representation in this Chamber unless they give security for the future?

Mr. Henderson—As I before stated, I am a conservative. I am regarded as a conservative, not as a radical. I want these States back immediately.

Mr. Wilson—So do we.

Mr. Henderson—But I am not so anxious about it as to take them back in their present condition. Mr. Henderson then discussed the right of Congress to disfranchise rebels. He believed that right existed and ought to be exercised.

On motion of Mr. Doolittle the Senate went into executive session, Mr. Henderson not having concluded his speech, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Whaley, of West Virginia, submitted the following preamble and resolutions, namely:

Whereas, This House, at its last session, interpreting the sentiment of the American people, passed a resolution endorsing the traditional policy of the Government towards the republics of this continent, and reprobating in unmistakable language the erection of a monarchy upon the ruins of the neighboring Republic of Mexico; and

Whereas, The flagrant infraction of this American Continental policy occurred while this nation was in conflict for its own unity, which conflict is now happily ended; therefore,

Resolved first, That this House do hereby reaffirm the resolution of the last session and declare that the establishment of a political protectorate by France in behalf of an Austrian Prince over the Republic of Mexico, and the introduction of a scheme of policy which carries with it a right to interfere in our own as well as the affairs of all the Republics of this continent, is a measure to which this country can never submit, and which should be resisted by all the means in our power.

Resolved Second, That to the end of making good this resolution the President solicit the alliance of all the Republics of this continent and the use of all the means in their power.

Mr. Whaley demanded the "previous question," but the House by a vote of 13 to 95 refused to second it.

On motion of Mr. Banks, of Mass., the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Smith, of Ky., moved that James M. Johnson, claiming a seat from Arkansas, be allowed the privileges of the floor of the House pending the consideration of his case.

Mr. Stevens, of Penn., said it was monstrous to thus admit men as members from defunct States.

Mr. Smith repudiated that idea, denying that the Southern States were defunct.

Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, advocated the admission of Mr. Johnson.

The resolution was laid upon the table by a majority of eight.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, from the joint select Committee on Reconstruction, reported a joint resolution embodying the following article in amendment of the Constitution of the United States, to be presented to the Legislatures of the several States for their ratification:

That Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to secure to the citizens of each state all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states, and to all persons in the several states, equal protection in the rights of life, liberty and property.

Mr. Bingham, at the suggestion of Mr. Stevens, moved to recommit the resolution, and that it be printed. Agreed to.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Michigan contested election case—Baldwin against Trowbridge.

The Report of the Committee on Elections say there is no question of fact and only one of law involved in this contest. By the act of the Legislature a larger number of votes were cast by soldiers outside of the limit of the State. If these votes can be lawfully counted, Mr. Trowbridge has a majority of the whole, and is elected to the seat. If not, Mr. Baldwin, having a majority of the home vote, is entitled to it.

Mr. Marshall, of the minority of the Committee, says, in his statement, that having carefully considered the questions of law involved in this case, he has come to the conclusion that Mr. Baldwin was duly elected.

Mr. Beaman addressed the House in behalf of Mr. Trowbridge, and was followed by Mr. Marshall on the other side.

Mr. Baldwin, the contestant, being too unwell to speak, obtained consent to print his argument.

The House, at 4.20, adjourned.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

Albany, Feb. 13.—Remonstrances were presented against giving to the owners or lessees of wharves and slips in New York exclusive use of the same.

Mr. White introduced a bill to provide for the safety of persons attending public assemblies by making it lawful and punishable by fine not exceeding $1,000 to use any hall, theatre, opera house, church, school house, or building of any kind in any city or incorporated village for the assemblage of people, unless the same is provided with ample means for the safe and speedy egress of persons therein assembled in case of alarm.

BILLS PASSED.—Incorporating the Fort Richmond and Bergen Point Ferry.....Amending the charter of the North Hempstead and Flushing Turnpike Company.

Assembly.

The Governor sent in a message communicating the action of the Albany Common Council in complying with the act of last winter relative to the erection of a new Capitol, and recommended early appropriations towards carrying out the previsions of the law.

The special order, the Health bill, was then taken up.

Mr. Littlejohn moved to substitute the minority report, including the Senate bill, for the bill reported by the majority of the House committee.

Mr. Berryman said he made the minority report, and as a representative from New York, and a member of the Republican party, he felt that his only course was to support the Senate bill. That bill met with no opposition from his party in New York. He had voted for the Republican caucus resolutions, and was sorry for it. Had he known as much then as now concerning the situation of affairs, he would have pursued a different course.

Mr. J. L. Parker asked at what particular hour he was converted.

Mr. Berryman said at no particular hour. He had always sympathized with the Senate bill. The influences that surrounded him here were of such a character that it was difficult to resist them, and for a moment he yielded to them.

Mr. T. E. Stewart said that he had the honor early in the session to introduce a bill similar to the Senate measure. Six weeks have passed, and no objection has been made to the commission named therein. None indeed has been made personally to those named in the Senate bill. That bill is thoroughly understood in New York, and is very generally approved there.

Mr. Congdon gave a history of the bill before the committee of which he was chairman. At first he thought he would report the bill just as it came from the Senate. His conversion came just about the time that Horace Greeley's did.

Mr. T. E. Stewart—Or a little sooner.

Mr. Congdon said it was claimed that there was nothing political in the Senate bill, and great pretences were made that it represented the wishes of the party in New York—but he soon discovered that the people of that city had not been very extensively consulted in regard to it, and he had a protest of sixty-eight physicians against the appointment of Dr. Mason. Gentlemen here, to "log roll" the Senate bill, have said that if they cannot have that, then let the measure fail.

Mr. T. E. Stewart—Give the names of the gentlemen referred to.

Mr. Congdon—Colonel Bliss is one. The fact is that certain gentlemen seem to have more confidence in Mr. F. I. A. Boole than in the Legislature or Executive. For one he (Congdon) was opposed to nonpartisan boards, for they encouraged collusion.

Mr. Curtiss said that if the truth were told it would appear that this Health bill had been conceived in the most damnable hypocrisy, ostensibly for sanitary improvement in New York, but really only to advance the aims of a party faction. The Democrats of New York have been guilty of giving large majorities and hence the necessity for this scheme. It has been claimed on the one hand that the majority are in favor of the Senate bill, and on the other hand that the people favor the Assembly proposition. It is not true. The people are opposed to both propositions. They know well enough how to manage their own affairs, and protest against both the proposed measures. If the cholera should come to New York early in the Spring he would hold the Republican party responsible, because of its action in the Legislature last year on the street cleaning question. The result is that the streets are in a worse condition than ever before, and if the cholera comes and visits the homes of gentlemen in the rural district he would regard it as a just visitation of God for interfering with the municipal affairs of New York.

Mr. Brandreth spoke in opposition to the Senate bill, and in favor of the passage of a bill giving the Governor the appointment of Commissioners. He claimed the right to legislate on the subject, on the ground that a majority of the property in New York is owned by persons living in the rural districts. New York is unquestionably the most unhealthy civilized city in the world, and this because her health laws are grossly imperfect. Are we to have a non-partizan commission, or is the Republican party to take the responsibility. He was in favor of taking the responsibility. The Democrats have controlled the city for many years, and during their management of its affairs, it has been the most unhealthy civilized city in the world. In Boston, Philadelphia, Providence and other cities the deaths are much less in proportion to population, and they are Republican cities. In Paris the mortality is less than in New York, and their health laws are administered by a commission. Great success brought great responsibility. The Union party has crushed out rebellion and raised four million human beings to freedom. It has crushed out traitors and copperheads, and if they had the power they would crush out cholera too. Give us the Assembly bill, and we will clean the streets and make them fit to live in. We could almost annihilate cholera, as we have the other pests that have visited the country. To do this our Union Governor must have power to appoint, and thus take the responsibility that belongs to us, and which we are competent to discharge. We can confide in Gov Fenton. The country has confidence in him, and the Union party certainly ought to have. Ten men in the Senate are for giving the power to the Governor, and so are seventy-five in the House. Eighty five to twenty-seven Republicans are for the Governor, the majority will stand by their position. Boole cannot be ignorant of the fate of boilers. He knew there were divisions in the Union party, but the minority must submit.

Mr. Pitts thought the Legislature had a right to legislate for a city that rose in rebellion against the Government, burned orphan asylums, and hung men and women to lampposts, because God had given them a little different color. As to caucuses, he had not been able to pass from his room without being harrassed by some one of the eleven dissenters. The Democrats had had caucuses too, and the Great Mogul came down and told them, they must vote against the Republican Caucus bill.

A voice—Who is the Mogul?

Mr. Pitts—Ben. Wood.

Mr. Creamer—Mr. Wood advised in favor of voting for the radical bill down to the final vote.

Mr. Curtis—Mr. Wood advised to vote against both bills.

Mr. Pitts proceeded to say that he regarded the whole movement as an insidious blow at the Governor by men who would do anything for power, and who are now playing into the hands of the Democrats. Those at the bottom of the Senate bill are the very men who defeated the patriot Wadsworth, and elected Horatio Seymour.

Mr. J. C. Rogers was opposed to any political machine to contract for votes out of an anticipated pestilence. He regarded the Assembly bill as a scheme for the advancement of a faction.

Mr. Haskins had listened for some good reason against the Senate bill, but not one had been offered. The commission should be non-partizan. He believed there was never a commission organized upon a political basis to govern New York that did not injure the party responsible for it. For these and other reasons he should support the Senate bill.

Mr. Ferguson said when the bill first made its appearance here it had no names in it. It makes the term of the commission too long, and he thought Dr. Parker too old to enter upon the work. He regarded the Senate bill in the light of a close corporation got up to benefit Henry J. Raymond and his faction.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Littlejohn thought the question should be discussed in a different spirit than it had been to day. It is a great question afflicting the health of New York in view of threatened pestilence. The establishment of commissions is dangerous at best, for the Legislature can be a tyrant as well as the autocrat. It had been said to-day that men from rural districts have a right to legislate for New York, but he did not admit it except upon direct necessity. Citizens of New York and Brooklyn had consulted on the Health Bill, framed one and sent it to the Legislature; and that bill ought to have been passed promptly in order to get ready for the pestilence; but instead a lobby arrives, holds a caucus in the Delavan House, and determines upon a plan to defeat the bill. He believed if submitted to the people of New York and Brooklyn, not more than 20,000 votes would be recorded against the Senate bill. The EVENING POST, one of the most radical papers, has importuned us not to make a partisan commission. Horace Greeley was for the Senate bill until it was rumored that Thurlow Weed was in favor of the same thing, and then political considerations induced a change in the course of the TRIBUNE. He had faith in the Senate bill, and would support it. If you want a sanitary bill pass this and it would go into operation to morrow. Do you expect Senators to bow to your dictation? They are human, and if we radically amend the bill in the spirit here entertained, it will be lost.

Mr Tremain hoped the Senate bill would not be substituted, and he assured the Democrats that however they might flatter themselves of advantages over the family differences they have witnessed upon those bills, they are destined to be mistaken. Those differences will avail them nothing. The Health bill last year was lost because members forgot their caucus obligations. The bill as reported to the Assembly received the assent of all the Committee save one. This is a political question, and the party in power must take the responsibility. It has been claimed that the Chamber of Commerce are in favor of the Senate bill; only a small number were present at the meeting, and that body was simply in favor of a health bill, such a bill as was passed last session. That body is composed of about nine hundred persons and more, and yet only eleven persons were present. The loyal league is a respectable body, and anybody can join it by paying fifty dollars. It is in no sense a political organization, and it is easy to get an endorsement from such a body. The action of the Republican Committee had been flouted in our faces, but their meeting was on short notice, and the yeas and nays showed about thirty to twenty in favor of the Senate bill. The minority was headed by Judge White, and the majority by the Postmaster and the Surveyor of the Port. These are the men so much engaged in the non partisan bill. He thought that notwithstanding the dictation of the TIMES, the Legislature would elect a Police Commissioner in its own way. It is proposed to confer half the power in this commission upon the Democrats. They don't thank you for it. They propose to go before the people and denounce you for invading their ancient municipal rights. He found no fault with the gentlemen named in the Senate bill, but they would not be responsible to any one. The Police Commissioners have enough to do now. Bank messengers are now robbed in the streets, and crime is rampant there. Let them attend to their legitimate duties. The whole theory of the Senate bill is false. The four men named are green, new men. Such a double headed commission would result in the formation of a ring, such as now exists in the Board of Supervisors. The passage of the Senate bill would be an indignity to the Governor. Last year you proposed to give him the power. Now you propose the reverse. What has he done to forfeit public confidence? Will the Governor and Senate appoint improper persons? The movement shows want of confidence in Reuben E. Fenton, and would be so interpreted by the public. He did not propose to silently remain by and see this indignity inflicted upon the Governor of his choice and Commander-in-chief of his party. In conclusion, he said it was no insult to the Senate to propose to amend their bill. He believed that the Senate would accede to the action of the House in the matter. But if they chose to kill this bill, the odium of its defeat must rest with them, and not with the House.

Mr. Cochrane followed with an extended argument against the Senate bill; after which, the question was taken, and the House refused to substitute the Senate bill, by a vote of 44 yeas against 69 nays.

The Committee then, at midnight, proceeded to the consideration of the Assembly bill.

Texas.

Proceedings of the State Convention.

New Orleans, Feb. 13.—The Texas State Convention organized on Saturday. The Convention voted, by 66 to 11, that all the members should support the Constitution of the United States.

A resolution that all who had not hitherto done so should take the amnesty oath was reconsidered.

The Constitutional oath was administered to the members of the Convention *en masse* by Judge Everett, the members standing.

Gov. Hamilton was notified of the organization of the Convention, and sent a message among other things repudiating the rebel State debt.

The Convention appointed Committees on the condition of the State, on the Executive and Legislative departments, and on the Judiciary.

Judge Roberts, who was President of the Secession Convention, is Chairman of the Committee on the General Provisions of the State Constitution.

A resolution declaring that no person coming within the exception of the President's amnesty proclamation is entitled to a seat, and a substitute to refer all credentials of delegates to the Committee on Elections, were referred to that Committee.

Resolutions to adjust the debts contracted on the basis of Confederate money, to inquire after the records, library and furniture of the Supreme Court, to extend relief to parties owing debts prior to the war, and to establish a seperate criminal court, were all referred to appropriate committees.

Maine Legislature.

Augusta, Me., Feb. 13.—The following resolutions were introduced into the House branch of the Maine Legislature to day, by General Shepley, of Portland, in relation to equality of civil and political rights:

Resolved, That the grand result of a truly Republican Government can never be fully attained, until equality of civil and political rights be permanently secured, irrespective of differences of race and color.

Resolved, That so long as the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State on account of race or color, none therein of such race or color should be included in the basis of representation of such State, in the Congress of the United States; and we approve of the efforts of the Senators and Representatives from this State, in the Congress of the United States, to secure such an amendment of the Constitution as would effect this result, believing that the tendency, and hoping that the ultimate effect of the amendment, if adopted, will be to secure equality of political as well as for civil rights for all.

Connecticut Republican State Convention.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 13.—The Republican State Convention, which meets in this city to-morrow, promises to be one of the largest and ablest Conventions which has assembled in Connecticut for years. The attendance at the caucus to-night is quite large.

The Nebraska Legislature.

Omaha, Feb. 13.—The Nebraska Legislature adjourned yesterday. Resolutions endorsing the President's administration were passed almost unanimously. Bills providing for a geological survey of the territory, and a liberal provision to induce emigration, were also passed.

Fires.

Middletown, N. Y., Feb. 13. A fire broke out on Sunday in the building occupied by W. & J. Kirkpatrick, tobacconists, and A. A. Bromley, hats and caps. It extended to the adjoining building, occupied as a dry goods store. Loss $26,000. Mostly insured.

New Orleans, Feb. 13.—There was a fire in Austin, Texas, on the 4th inst., causing a loss of $25,000.

By the careless use of firearms, a Mr. McQuiny, who was showing how he drilled in Sherman's army, shot his wife dead, in Dayton, O., on Friday last.

MARINE DISASTERS.

Loss of Several Vessels.

Boston, Feb. 13.—The ship Hamlet, Captain Stevens, from Calcutta for Boston, with a valuable cargo of East India goods, went ashore during a thick fog last night, on Nauset Beach, at Orleans, Cape Cod, and will be a total loss. Crew saved. The Hamlet was seven hundred and fifty-seven tons burthen. She was owned by W. C. Rogers & Co. A large portion of her cargo was consigned to Israel G. Whitney, of Boston. The ship and cargo were valued at $200,000. About two thirds of the cargo was insured in New York. The remainder of the cargo together with the ship and freight money, was insured in Boston.

The United States steamer Pawtuckat, ashore off Cape Cod, was got off last night without damage.

The schooner Kossuth, of New York, which was ashore on Point Allerton bar, got off last night, and anchored in Hull Gut.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 13.—Last evening two schooners were sunk by the ice in our bay. The Mary Ann, Captain Bryant, from Elizabethport for Providence, had her lumber port knocked in, and she filled and sunk at Conniciut Point. The Mary, Stewart, Captain Burdick, from Elizabethport for Providence, with eighty one tons of coal, was cut down in the midchannel between Pomham and Pawtuxet. The crews of both vessels were taken off.

News Items.

By Telegraph to the New York Sun.

CHARLES RIPLEY, one of the most eminent lawyers of Kentucky, died on Monday at Louisville of erysipelas.

SMALL-POX is prevailing as an epidemic on the Rio Grande. On some of the plantations it is reported to be very fatal.

THE Governor of Louisiana has vetoed the parochial bill, and it is doubtful if there are enough members in town to pass it over his veto.

THE Right Rev. John B. Fitzpatrick, Catholic Bishop of Boston, died in that city on Monday night, after a lingering illness, aged fifty-three years.

A GREAT Fenian reception was announced to come off at Nashville, Tenn., yesterday. General Sweeney and President Roberts were expected to arrive and address the Brotherhood.

THE Richmond (Va.) EXAMINER office was closed at nine o'clock yesterday evening by order of General Terry. The order is said to have emanated from General Grant.

THE National Soldiers and Sailors' League at Louisville, Ky., celebrated President Lincoln's birthday on Monday by special invitation and speeches. They were addressed by Gen. Palmer and Mr. Wolff.

A DISPATCH from Galveston, Texas, says that a private named Cook and two Lieutenants, not armed, of the Ninth U. S. Colored Regiment, were assassinated in the first week in February in Brownsville.

THE river is rising and pouring through all the "Chinn" plantations, near Baton Rouge, La. The great levee, building there under the State's management, is not finished, and great loss of property is anticipated.

CAPT. BURNETT, an ex-Confederate officer, has been sentenced at Nashville to three years confinement in the Tennessee Penitentiary, for the killing of Sergeant Pollard, of the 108th Ohio Regiment, at Shell Mound, on the 4th of July last. Pollard and Burnett simultaneously fired at one another. Burnett's wound was slight; Pollard was killed.

THE Military Commission at Louisville, Ky., in the case of the one armed guerrilla Berry, found him guilty of eleven separate murders, and sentenced him to be hanged. General Palmer has approved of the finding of the Commission. The 3d of March is fixed as the day for the execution.

AN accident occurred on the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad yesterday morning, about eight miles from Whitehall, N. Y., by which the morning mail train from Troy was precipitated down an embankment about twenty-five feet. Six passengers and one employee were wounded, only two of them seriously.

THE anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln was celebrated yesterday evening at Trenton, N. J. Senator Scovel presided. Hon. R. S. Field delivered an oration before the members of the two Houses of the Legislature, and a large number of citizens. Yesterday Senator Scovel introduced a bill making the 12th day of February a holiday.

General Intelligence.

[By Mail to the New York Sun.]

A PARTY of negroes "gutted" a house in Springfield, Mass., on Sunday, demolishing everything in it. Cause—occupied by miscegenationists.

THE question "Is a death-bed marriage legal" is being tried in the Circuit Court at Indianapolis. Considerable property is involved in the decision.

A RAFT containing two women, three men, and a horse, which was drifting out to sea, was stopped and saved by a pilot boat, off the harbor of Savannah, Ga., on the 4th inst.

A WORKMAN in Troy, while sawing a block of iron, on Monday, was struck by a piece of metal on the face, splitting open his nose and upper lip, but not otherwise injuring him.

THE workmen on the shore end of the Chicago lake tunnel have excavated a distance of about one mile out under the lake, while the workmen from the coffer dam sunk in the lake have advanced to meet 200 feet.

THE Rochester (N. Y.) DEMOCRAT reports an accident by which a lumber man, with his team of horses, fell over an embankment 60 feet high, near that city. One horse was dashed to pieces, and the man cannot recover.

THE Cleveland Express passenger train ran off the track near Schenectady, on Monday, and against the side of a deep excavation. After running along in that position for a few moments, it made a plunge and settled down again on the rails, the uninjured passengers meanwhile lying on their faces on the floor of the cars.

THE NAVAL RACE.

A Start at Last.

The gunboats Algonquin and Winooski have at last started. Mr. Dickerson's engineers turned up on Monday morning, but the weather was so bad that it was deemed advisable to postpone the race until a change took place. The weather being favorable both vessels left the Navy Yard shortly after 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The "start" would be made sometime during the afternoon; so, if both vessels hold out, the contest will be terminated on Friday.

(Continued on the Last Page.)