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JAMES GORDON BENNETT.
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE, Astor Place—LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—LITTLE DEVIL—NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS—SIEGE OF CORINTH.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—RENT DAY—POOR GENTLEMAN.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—SERIOUS FAMILY—HAL-A-LAW.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Chatham square—JUMBO JUMPHREY MAN—THE MUMMY—HONEST THIEVES.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS—SARATOGA SPRINGS—INVISIBLE PRINCE—REVOLT OF THE POOR HOUSE.

CHRISTY'S OPERA HOUSE—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY.

AMERICAN MUSEUM—AMUSING PERFORMANCES, AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

MELODEON—WHITE'S SERENADERS.

New York, Friday, February 1, 1850.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"C." is requested to call; the editor would like to see him.

Mr. Clay's Compromise, and the Cabinet.

The very fair and reasonable proposition made by Mr. Clay, the other day, in the Senate, to settle the slavery question and all its agitations, receives no attention, no encouragement, no approbation from the organs of the cabinet, either at Washington or elsewhere. In fact, those organs discourage all attempts at a practical settlement of the question, and seem to think that their purposes can be better served by granting a constitution to California, and leaving all of the rest of the new territory an open question, to serve the purposes of agitation, up to the point of disunion. When the agitation shall have reached the point of disunion and rebellion under the constitution, then they will endeavor to avail themselves of such a happy contingency, and bring out General Taylor with a prodigious proclamation—put down the attempt at dissolution, for the purpose of operating on the public mind and organizing a splendid Union party, for the purpose of continuing in power the same set of weak, and imbecile, and incompetent men who occupy the cabinet.

The state of the public mind in the South, and the weakness of the small politicians there, offer a very favorable opportunity for the realization of such stool-pigeoning purposes in political action.—In certain portions of the South there are expeditions forming for the purpose of sailing to San Domingo, and of conquering that island; and in other parts, expeditions are forming for a descent on the Island of Cuba; and others are looking to the acquisition of Mexico, with the ultimate creation of a new republic, commencing with Virginia at the North, and embracing San Domingo, Cuba, and Mexico up to Central America. All these wild measures, to our certain knowledge, are embraced more or less by certain parties now in Washington, and scattered over the South. We have similar cliques of wild, impracticable and unprincipled, but resolute, fools at the North. The whole tribe of socialists in this region, are looking to a great Northern republic, embracing Canada down to the North Pole. The ultra and original abolitionists of New England and New York are of the same kind of men. Thus we see there is plenty of inflammable materials in every section of the country, sufficiently mad to enable the present cabinet of General Taylor to humbug and deceive that good man, and to postpone the settlement of the slavery question until a revolution, in its first stages, should break out. Of course, the cabinet and their unprincipled associates in Washington and elsewhere, care nothing about the compromise proposed by Mr. Clay, nor will they see anything in any other compromise sufficient to encourage their friends to adopt that, or make it the basis of a final adjudication of this troublesome question during the present session. We have hope, however, that by enlightening the public mind on the wicked purposes of the cabinet and their counsellors, something yet may be done by the present Congress.

DRURY'S TRIAL—MORE SINGULAR DISCLOSURES.—We call the attention of our readers—and particularly that of all our honest readers—to the proceedings on the trial of Drury, which are contained in this day's paper. The singular disclosures brought out yesterday and the day before, in this case, especially in reference to One-eyed Thompson, are causing a great deal of curious feeling. Some laugh, and some look grave. It would be improper, however, to form any exact opinion of the affair, either of the criminals or the accusers, the counsel or the editors, the police officers or the stool-pigeons, until the whole trial is concluded, and the verdict of the jury, if any at all, shall be known. This is, however, only the first chapter of these mysteries, all of which will throw a great deal of light on the stool-pigeon wonders that have characterized the Tombs of New York, and the columns of the *Police Gazette*, for the last two years.

As the matter now stands, we think if we were to take Drury and his son, also One-eyed Thompson and George Wilkes, and likewise Arlington Bennet, and we don't know how many others, either for or against, and elect them all to be governors of the State Prison and Penitentiary next year, or at least to some moral reform institution, there would be some considerable fun perpetrated in the management of such valuable institutions during such a *regime*. George Wilkes seems to be the amiable and virtuous dupe in these curious mysteries—the very funny or silly Homer of the stool pigeon Iliad. A torpedo box has now certainly exploded, and scattered all the parties to the seventh heaven of notoriety. Hitherto the lawyers alone have been laughing, partly in their sleeve, while they were thrusting their hands into their pockets, each with a good fee. Now the actual public begin to laugh with a "broad ha! ha!"

RETRENCHMENT IN THE CUSTOM HOUSE.—We are very happy to perceive that retrenchment has actually been begun in the Custom House, by the removal of several unnecessary and useless agents in that quarter. We hope it will be carried out through the whole line of custom houses throughout the country, and that other portions of the revenue service may feel the pruning operation as much as the custom houses. It is very easy to see, however, that Mr. Meredith and his advisers have not ordered this retrenchment with any good motive, or for any justifiable ends. They have been driven into such a course out of revenge for the delay of Congress; but there can be no doubt under the retrenchment already made, and that which will follow, the revenue of the government can be collected with sufficient promptitude and exactness, provided the men employed work the same number of hours and perform the same services that other *employées*, in other service, perform every day. There have been always too many idle and lazy persons around the Custom House. This establishment has been an asylum for dirty politicians, where they were pensioned in idleness and luxury; and there are at this moment a number of vagrant and idle politicians retained by Mr. Maxwell. Why don't he remove them at once? Why not abolish the naval officer here, and naval storekeeper at Brooklyn, at once?

The Emperor Nicholas and our Yankee Writers.

Within the last few years, the people of this country have been furnished with a good deal of reliable information about the Autocrat of all the Russias, by Yankee travellers, who have gone through portions of his dominions. Mr. Maxwell published, not long ago, a very racy account about "The Czar, his Court, and People," which threw a considerable light upon the character of the Emperor and the Russian nation; but a work has recently appeared, entitled "A Tour to Circassia," by George Leighton Ditson, Esq., of Boston, which has thrown more light upon his policy, and the spread of his dominion in the East, than pretty nearly all the other works together. This volume is dedicated to Prince Woronzoff, the Governor of Southern Russia—a man who has had an extraordinary history, and can be compared to only a few other great contemporaries, who have passed through very similar scenes. He enacted a part in the history of the world, from the time of Napoleon's empire till his final overthrow, almost as conspicuous, and, perhaps, still more important, in some respects, than the Archduke Charles, or even the Duke of Wellington. It was mainly under his counsel and military guidance that Napoleon met with his fatal overthrow in Russia; and, for many years, Woronzoff distinguished himself by the bravest and most heroic achievements, in the cause of the Holy Alliance, when the desperate effort was making to crush the French empire. As a reward for very long services, Prince Woronzoff has been covered with almost every honor in the gift of Nicholas, and he now occupies the most important post in the empire—unless, indeed, the Prime Minister himself, Count Nesselrode, may, from always having the ear of the Emperor, sway a larger influence in the affairs of Russia. Woronzoff has, for a considerable time, been the Governor of Southern Russia, which, from the rapid and sure spread of the Emperor's dominions in the East, now embraces a territory half as large as the settled portions of the United States. For a long period, the encroachments of the Russian emperors, upon the old dominions of the Mussulman power, have been continually increasing, until the very foundations of the Turkish monarchy are sapped, and awaiting a final overthrow.

This book of Mr. Ditson is taken up, to a considerable extent, with portraying the progress of the Russian power in the East, and some considerable prominence is given to the brave, but unsuccessful struggles of the dauntless Shemel, the Chief of the Circassians. It is really a curious spectacle to see that noble race, from whom the European nations have derived their origin, yielding inch by inch to the resistless inroads of the great Northern Barbarian; and the account which he has given in this volume of the noble struggles of the Circassians against the despotism of Russia, will excite the sympathy of every lover of liberty throughout the world. Hitherto we have known very little, and the world has known very little, of the facts here treated of; and although there is less information given than was probably in the possession of the author, yet we have no reason to complain of what he has done, and, perhaps, on a future occasion, he may gratify still further the curiosity of those who are tracing with interest the fortunes of the Circassian race and the progress of the resistless empire of the Czars. Considerable portions of the book are taken up with picturesque and pleasing accounts of the morals of the people of Circassia, most of which is new, and all of which will prove intensely interesting to popular readers. It is a book which will be likely to rival, in popularity, the stirring and graphic accounts which Ledyard has given of the "Ruins of Ninevah;" but we have been chiefly interested in it because of the light it throws upon a region from which originated the race we have sprung from, and about whom, in modern times, we have had so few reliable and authentic accounts.

The writer had certainly every opportunity to explore the country he went to visit, and in dedicating his book to Prince Woronzoff, has only paid a merited compliment to him for his attentions to the traveller. He seems to have furnished Mr. Ditson with every facility he could desire, to penetrate to the centre of Circassia; and every convenience and necessary means were put at his disposal, for rendering his bleak and wild journey as agreeable as possible. It is a matter of some importance, in making up an estimate of the progress of the Russian power in the East, to have the means of forming a correct estimate of the character of such men as the Governor of Southern Russia. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of great empires always has been, that its distant provinces were governed by men who understood and carried out, in all their actions, the home policy of the empire. In this way only has England belted the globe with her dominions. In this way only Rome drove her chariot wheels to the ends of the earth. In this way only has Russia emerged from her eternal snows, to subject some of the fairest and richest portions of the oriental world. With such men as Prince Woronzoff on the southeastern extremity of his empire, Nicholas is preparing for his final stroke, which will level the fabric of the Moslem power with the dust. Those who wish to gain either a clear and reliable idea of the condition, at the present time, of the Circassian nation, or be furnished with the materials for drawing a correct conclusion as to the final result of the struggle now going on between the Russian empire and the Eastern world, will read the "Tour to Circassia" with profit and pleasure.

PRINTING OF THE CORPORATION.—A movement has been made by the Corporation, and is now in the hands of the committee, purporting to mature measures for publishing the Corporation advertising in the journals of this city having the largest circulation. Such a purpose can be easily effected, if there is really any intention to do so. It is very easy to ascertain which journals have the largest circulation in this city. We are perfectly willing to throw open our whole establishment to the committee, so that they can satisfy themselves of the extent of our circulation. But we doubt the real intentions of this committee in making such a movement, and we rather think the whole of the project is intended for Buncombe. We shall wait, however, and see the issue of this affectation of honesty and integrity in our new Corporation.

FOG SMITH AND THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The amiable and accomplished Mr. Morse went through a great deal of labor before he was able to bring forward and exhibit the practical utility of his invention of the electric telegraph. We are afraid, however, that some of his associates, by their arrogance and insolence, will do more injury to his interests, than all the opposition that can come from rival inventors. The developements recently made by Fog Smith, down East, are beginning to operate on the public mind very much to the disadvantage of Mr. Morse. Fog Smith, we understand, owns one-fourth of the whole patent; but from his restless disposition, and his ambitious temper, he is taking a course that will injure more seriously the prospects of Mr. Morse, than any ten men in the country, with all their original inventions at their back, could do.

ANOTHER SPLENDID LAUNCH.—The new ship Isaac Webb, of 1,500 tons burthen, to be commanded by Capt. T. B. Cropper, will be launched from the ship yard of Wm. H. Webb, foot of Fifth street, East River, on Saturday next, 2d of February, at 1 o'clock, P. M.—She is intended for C. H. Marshall & Co.'s "Old Line Liverpool Packets." Her length on deck is 190 feet, beam 40 feet, and hold 28 feet. She measures 1,400 tons register. This fine ship is named after Mr. Isaac Webb, who was so extensively known as at the head of the list of ship builders. It is a high compliment to the son, who fills the place of his father in so worthy a manner.

William H. Devoe, on trial at Albany, for the murder of Philo Redmond, on the 29th of November, 1848, has been acquitted.

STATISTICS OF LAWYERS IN NEW YORK.—A great deal has been said and written with regard to the comparative success in life of merchants in our large cities, compared with mechanics, manufacturers, and farmers, while we are not aware that any one has taken the trouble to examine into the condition of those who follow the profession of law, a class of citizens which has been for many years, and still is, constantly increasing in number. It is, in fact, the favorite and most favored profession in the United States, to qualify for which most of our rich men and others, aiming at distinction for their families, educate one or more of their sons. It is also the class forming a large proportion of American aristocracy, so called, and the profession which engrosses by far the largest share of the offices of honor, trust, and emolument in the United States—from this profession being taken, with few exceptions, our Presidents and Vice-Presidents, members of the Cabinet, Ministers to foreign countries (save when editors are to be rewarded, as in the case of Colonel Webb), Members of Congress, Governors of States, and the judiciary, of course.

The present number of lawyers in the city of New York is about twelve hundred, without counting the lower class of pettifoggers and the hangers-on at the Tombs, and those frequenting the purlieus of other notorious places, where rogues and vagabonds "most do congregate." Of these twelve hundred lawyers, about one-tenth, or one hundred and twenty, are ranked in the category of our wealthy men, including those who have within a few years retired from the profession of the law, in consequence of fortunes accumulated by that business, speculation, or marrying rich wives. Probably two hundred on the list of lawyers are the sons of rich men, doing but little or no business, and to these we may add five hundred more, as a set of adventurers, leading a rather precarious life, from the small amount of their earnings in the pursuit of their overdone profession. This class are always extremely greedy in the pursuit of office, and are remarkably busy about the time of elections, and particularly previous to the nominations of the respective parties, among whom these adventurers divide themselves, according to their inclinations, or more commonly with regard to the prospects of success in obtaining office.

We should say that not more than five hundred, certainly less than half of our city lawyers, are engaged in the successful pursuit of their profession, and if their average earnings are $2,000 only per annum, we have the snug sum of one million of dollars in each year, paid by the citizens of New York, and other persons doing business here, for the support of the better class of lawyers. The remaining six or seven hundred are supported in one way or other; some by their rich parents and wives; others are dependent on what they can pick up. Probably they are a tax upon the citizens to the amount of half a million of dollars annually—so that adding the expenses of the courts, such as salaries of judges and other officers, fees, &c., and we have two millions of dollars paid by the industrious and producing classes for the advantages and amusement which the law and the lawyers afford them.

On examining the list of wealthy citizens of New York, published some time since, and adding thereto some names from our own knowledge, we find the following among those still living, who are, or have been, on the list of lawyers, and are now reckoned in the category of rich men, or may be considered in easy circumstances, most of them being estimated as worth over one hundred thousand dollars:—

NEW YORK WEALTHY LAWYERS, INCLUDING SOME WHO HAVE RETIRED

Abel T. Anderson,	William S. Johnson,
John Anthon,	William Kent,
David Banks, (Law Bookseller.)	Hiram Ketchum,
Saml. R. Betts,	Daniel Lord,
R. M. Blatchford,	John Leveridge,
Frederic Bronson,	William B. Maclay,
Benj. F. Butler,	Thomas McElrath,
Charles Butler,	William Mulock,
Philip Burrowes,	Hugh Maxwell,
Geo. B. Butler,	William T. McCoun,
Joseph Blunt,	Charles O'Conor,
Stephen Cambreleng,	Samuel B. Ruggles,
Charles A. Clinton,	James I. Roosevelt,
A. B. Conger,	Saml. B. Romaine,
Francis B. Cutting,	Edward Sandford,
Edward Curtis,	Lewis H. Sandford,
George Curtis,	William Stillman,
David D. Field,	Dudley Selden,
Samuel A. Foot,	John L. Stephens, (the oriental traveller,)
Hamilton Fish, (Governor)	George W. Strong,
George Folsom,	Francis R. Tillou,
George Griffin,	James Tallmadge,
Francis Griffin,	Michael Ulshoeffer,
David Graham,	Aaron Vanderpoel,
James W. Gerard,	Henry M. Western,
J. Prescott Hall,	Stephen C. Williams,
John C. Hamilton,	Caleb S. Woodhull, (Mayor.)
James A. Hamilton,	George Wood.
Horace Holden,	
William Inglis,	

The above list is far from showing the names of all the lawyers in this city who have become rich; the number of names, we are inclined to think, might be doubled from those who are known to have been successful in business, and still not exhibit all the names of our rich lawyers.

Taking into consideration the vast number of lawyers who crowd to this commercial metropolis, from the country towns, for the purpose of prosecuting their profession with the hopes of acquiring wealth in a shorter time than it can be done, if at all, in smaller places—considering, also, the many incompetent men who enter into the practice of the law—it must be admitted that the lawyers, as a class, are much more successful than the merchants, of whom it has been computed that only ten per cent of the whole number escape bankruptcy, and only three in every hundred retire with fortunes amassed by their business.

There were, 20 years ago, in 1830, in practice in this city, about 450 lawyers—of these, two-thirds have passed off the stage of action, by death or removals; the remaining third, or about 150, are still in practice, after twenty, thirty, or more years of experience, and it is this class generally which have become wealthy, or in independent circumstances, with few exceptions. These old lawyers still do the largest share of the most profitable business of the profession.

On the whole, we like the lawyers, as a class; they are generally liberal and clever fellows, patronizing newspapers, and otherwise spending their money with freedom among the less fortunate classes; forwarding all works of benevolence and public utility, and possessing among them a great share of the kind of piety which is extant in this community. In the latter particular, however, the Wall street brokers claim a pre-eminence. We must leave to casuists the determination of this knotty point.

Brooklyn City Intelligence.

CITY COURT.—Before Judge Greenwood.—The Mayor and Common Council of Brooklyn vs. Joseph O. Hageman.—This action was brought to stay the proceedings of defendant through Horatio G. Onderdonk, to foreclose a mortgage held by him, on a part of the Washington Park property. Plaintiff alleges that they have been at all times ready, and had offered to pay the mortgage to Mr. Onderdonk, together with all the legal charges, but the payment of illegal charges had been insisted upon. Plaintiff desired that defendant be enjoined from further proceedings, and be compelled to receive a satisfaction of the mortgage. The case was tried, but the decision was reserved.

Hotels.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Colonel Campbell, St. Louis; Mr. Ingersoll and Mr. Stett, Philadelphia; General J. W. Tyson and lady, Maryland; W. H. Hart, Troy; J. Butterfield, Utica; J. J. Walker, Schenectady; S. M. Welsh, Buffalo; W. B. Deane and lady, New York; J. T. Aderance and family, A. Vankleeck, and S. Slesons, Poughkeepsie; D. Boyd, jr., Philadelphia; M. F. White and D. Dickey, St. Louis; M. Campbell and G. W. Page, Philadelphia; Captain J. Gallagher and lady, steamship Philadelphia; F. Tresner, Philadelphia; M. W. Chapin, Hartford; S. Salisbury, Worcester; C. Collins and lady, Hartford; M. Collins, St. Louis; T. P. Aydlett, Memphis; M. E. Golf, C. B. Blanchnell and J. A. Hinely, Philadelphia; E. S. Burnett and lady, Philadelphia; Captain Van Allen and lady, Buffalo; F. Castro, Mexico; Dr. Peebles, New York; Lieut. S. B. Binskner, U. S. Army; Mrs. Millard Fillmore, son, and daughter, Washington; W. W. Upham, Boston; S. B. Robins, New Bedford; J. E. Otis, Boston; R. B. Anderson, Louisville; Mr. and Mrs. Mickle, Baltimore; R. H. Chamberton, Norfolk; J. Angell, Fishkill; D. R. Amkin and F. Wink Deviver, Philadelphia; J. H. Smith, Baltimore; F. H. Mason, St. Louis; A. Hamond, Lexington, Ky.; G. F. Mason, A. Mercer, Penna.; E. W. Bailey, Philadelphia; C. Richmond, and R. J. Cider, were amongst the arrivals at the Irving House yesterday.

TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

Summary.

In the United States Senate, a message was received from the President, in reply to a call for information in relation to the boundary question between New Mexico and Texas.

The resolutions of Mr. Cass, for suspending diplomatic intercourse with Austria, occupied the attention of the Senate during the remainder of its session, without, however, coming to a vote.

The House of Representatives convened, and adjourned over, to pay the usual tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Dickinson, who died shortly after the adjournment of the last Congress.

In the New York Legislature, a memorial was presented in the Senate, from merchants of this city, praying for a reduction of the rates of toll on canals. The bill amending the charter of the Hudson River Railroad Company, was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and passed the committee, and was ordered to a third reading.

The House passed a bill amending the charter of the New York Hospital. The discussion of the slavery resolutions consumed the balance of the session.

Affairs in Washington.

OUR SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON CITY, Thursday, Jan. 31, 1850.

We reported you the appointment of Neil S. Brown, of Tennessee, as Minister to Russia, some days ago. The President yesterday sent it to the Senate.

On Monday next Sam Houston is to speak on the Territorial question, on the basis of the Missouri compromise.

Mr. Calhoun still improves, but Mr. Hackett continues dangerously sick.

There is a party at Secretary Preston's to-night.

The correspondence relating to New Mexico was laid before the Senate to-day. It amounts to little else than reports of military operations. Governor Henderson, of Texas, writes, in 1847, that if General Kearny occupies New Mexico as a separate territory, Texas must protest against it. Mr. Buchanan replies that he expects Texas will get her just rights, but that Congress must settle the question, and not the Executive.

Mr. Crawford, on the 28th of March, 1849, wrote that it was not expected that Texas would undertake to extend her civil government to Santa Fé, but that if she did the United States troops were to avoid coming in conflict with the authorities of Texas. Mr. Crawford, on the 19th of November, advised the Commander and his accociates, in New Mexico, to encourage the people to organize themselves into a State.

Thus, it will appear that the last administration sustained the claims of Texas, while the present, as far as practicable, takes the ground that Texas has no right to the disputed territory.

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, January 31, 1850.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. DOUGLASS presented a memorial of several hundred merchants and shippers of Chicago, asking the adoption of measures to secure the free navigation of the St. Lawrence river.

FUGITIVE SLAVES.

Mr. MASON submitted an amendment, which was intended, he said, as a substitute for the bill in relation to the recapture of fugitive slaves. It had been drawn up with a great deal of care, and it was believed would obviate all the principal objections known to be entertained towards the bill reported from the committee.

MR. BRADBURY'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. SMITH made a few remarks relative to Mr. Bradbury's resolution calling upon the President for information in relation to removals from office, and moved that it be made a special order—intimating, at the same time, that he wanted to be heard upon it. After debate relative to the propriety of making special orders, the motion was withdrawn.

THE LATE HON. MR. DICKINSON.

A message was received from the House, announcing their action with regard to the death of Rudolphus Dickinson.

Mr. CORWIN stated that the death of Mr. Dickinson was announced in the Senate, and funeral honors were paid by that body, during the special session, last spring. He called for the resolutions then adopted by the Senate, and they having been read, Mr. Corwin moved that the Senate now adjourn.

Mr. CLAY submitted a few remarks. He thought that when a member of Congress dies at the seat of government, duty, respect, and propriety called upon Congress to give suitable token of their sympathy; but when he dies during the recess, in the bosom of his family, he thought the proceedings which had been customary were carried altogether too far.

Mr. CORWIN, after a word in reply, withdrew his motion to adjourn.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—THE BOUNDARY OF TEXAS.

A message was received from the President, in answer to the Senate resolutions calling for correspondence had between the federal and judicial authorities of Santa Fe, and between the authorities of Texas and the United States government, relating to the boundary and the occupation of Texas by troops of the United States; also, the reasons why the judicial authority of Texas has not been recognized by the military authorities at Santa Fe. The message transmits all the documents relating to the subject.

The President states that he coincides with the opinion expressed by his predecessor, that the boundary of Texas was a question belonging rather to the legislative than to the executive branch of the government.

THE CENSUS.

The census bill was taken up, and made the special order for Monday.

THE AUSTRIAN MISSION—MR. CASS'S RESOLUTIONS.

On motion of Mr. FOOTE, the Senate resumed the consideration of Mr. Cass's resolutions in relation to suspending diplomatic relations with Austria.

Mr. HUNTER addressed the Senate, stating his objections to the proposition of the resolution. The resolution seemed to suppose that one of the powers—the principal purpose—of diplomatic intercourse, was, to punish the nations of the earth for their acts of oppression and wrong, not only towards us, but towards every other nation. He could not assent to that proposition; diplomatic agents were ministers of peace, and could not be made the instruments employed for the chastisement of nations with whom we are at peace. He was opposed to the principle involved in the resolution, also, as unjust and unequal in its application to foreign nations, and because it casts a reproach upon our past history as a nation. If it was any part of our duty to investigate and punish the nations for improper acts, why had not the duty ever before been exercised? But the grand and fatal objection to the resolution was, that it assumes for us the right to interfere with the domestic affairs of other nations. In terms most arrogant and offensive, it claimed the right to insult foreign nations, if their course is not such as to suit our views and wishes. This was, in itself, the most outrageous and offensive insult which one nation could offer to another—it was a virtual denial of the sovereignty of Austria, and a virtual denial of the right of the people to self government. Mr. H. proceeded at length, with some forcible and eloquent remarks upon the general subject, showing the inexpediency and impropriety of the proposition; and contending that its adoption might be expected to involve us in continual war and agitation, instead of producing the peace and harmony which our institutions were intended to induce.

Mr. FOOTE replied, particularly devoting his remarks to principles of international law, which, Mr. Hunter contended, were violated by the resolution. He also went into a general argument relative to the propriety and expediency of the measure, arguing, among other points, that it did not involve an interference with the domestic policy of other nations—that it was wise, just, and due to the cause of Hungary throughout the world.

Mr. SMITH rose to make a few practical suggestions. It was somewhat difficult for him to see what was intended by this resolution. Its terms charged the Committee on Foreign Relations with the duty, not only of inquiring into the expediency of recalling our charge to Austria, but of dismissing also the charge from Austria now resident in this city, for diplomatic relations would not be suspended unless that course was pursued. What had the Senate to do with that matter? Was not the appointment or recalling of diplomatic agents an executive rather than a legislative duty? Congress simply made an appropriation for the expenses of the mission to Austria—that was the only way in which Congress recognised that mission. Congress had not established this or any other mission by the enactment of any law; and the only way that the legislative branch of the Government could move in the matter, would be by passing a joint resolution, repealing the appropriation made for the mission. During the present fiscal year, even that act would be nugatory, for, before the time necessary to get word to Mr. Webb had expired, the fiscal year for which the appropriation had been made would have expired. Congress had no jurisdiction over the subject at all, except by refusing to make the appropriation; and if anything was to be done, the proper time for the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Cass) to move in the matter, would be upon the consideration of the appropriation bill, by moving to strike out the appropriation for the mission in question. Again, as to raising the appropriation, he had a word to say. The only question before the Senate was, whether we should have a *charge de iure* or *de facto*. If the appropriation was refused, the mission broken up, and the charge should return home, the archives of the legation would, according to the universal practice, be transferred to the care of our consul at Vienna, and at the next session we would have the consul here, with a claim against Congress for services as acting charge. Was it better then to have an officer by law, or to have one, as he had already shown, in fact, but without law? Mr. S. also submitted a few words in support of the position, that the more tyrannical, unjust, oppressive, or blood-thirsty, Austria was proven to be—the greater the duty devolving on the executive to continue diplomatic relations with, and the duty of Congress to provide means of supporting a mission to that nation. If Austria was all that she had been represented here—and he had no doubt that the most which had been said of her barbarity was true—so much the greater the necessity that some brave spirit should be near that government, to stand up and defend the rights of American citizens, and the honor of the American name.

Mr. FOOTE again took the floor in reply to Mr. Smith, and indulged in some sarcastic remarks in review of that gentleman's several propositions, particularly commenting upon his technical terms; and suggesting that the gentleman, in reading the Senate a lecture upon Parliamentary proceedings and decorum, should pronounce his technicals with a little more accuracy. He also ridiculed what he considered as the lecture on dignity by the Senator from Connecticut; and, in illustration, related the following anecdote:—"A young lady from the country was cheapening various articles at a city store, when the clerk took down a particular article, and asked her to buy it for the use of her mother, saying, 'it will make your mother look dignified.' The young woman rejoined, 'will it make mammy look dignified?' 'Oh yes,' said the clerk. 'Then I will buy it, for mammy is h—l on dignity!'"

Mr. SMITH said he could not reply to the personal allusions which the Senator had indulged in, with self respect; and then proceeded with one or two additional observations in explanation of previous remarks.

Mr. BERRIEN took the floor, and the Senate went into Executive Session, but soon after adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1850.

Mr. WOOD announced the death of Rudolphus Dickinson, a member of the last Congress, from Ohio, and elect to this, who died in Washington last March. Deceased was born in Massachusetts. He pained a eulogy on his character, and concluded by offering resolutions that the House heard of his death with unfeigned regret; that members wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days; that a copy of these proceedings be sent to the family of the deceased; and as a further mark of respect, that the House adjourn. Agreed to, and the House adjourned.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Jan. 31, 1850.

DAMAGES BY THE FORT MILLER DAM.

Mr. COOK presented the memorial of citizens of the Upper Hudson counties, relative to the damages occasioned by the Fort Miller dam.

NEW YORK CITY TAXES.

Mr. BEEKMAN presented a memorial of citizens of New York for an amendment of the laws in relation to the assessment and collection of taxes in the city of New York.

REDUCTION OF TOLLS ON THE CANALS.

Mr. MORGAN presented the memorial of Lee, Dater and Miller, Grinnell, Minturn & Co., L. M. Hoffman & Co., and other merchants of New York, asking for a reduction of tolls on the canals, believing that it will tend to increase the gross revenue of the State, and secure the trade now being diverted to other channels. They refer to the memorial recently prepared by citizens of Buffalo. It was referred to the Committee on Finance, of which Mr. Morgan is chairman.

OPPOSITION TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF RAILROADS.

Mr. GEDDES presented a remonstrance against the proposed consolidation of the railroads from Rochester to Syracuse.

INCORPORATION OF THE ALBANY CITY SAVINGS BANK.

Mr. COOK under the instruction of the Senate, reported a bill to incorporate the Albany City Savings Bank.

REFORMATION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

Mr. STANTON introduced a bill to aid the New York Society for the reformation of juvenile delinquents in the city of New York.

INCORPORATION OF THE NEW YORK HOTEL.

Mr. JOHNSON gave notice of a bill to incorporate the New York Hotel Company.

A MINT FOR NEW YORK.

Mr. MORGAN laid on the table the following concurrent resolution:—

Resolved, If the Senate concur, that the Senators and representatives in Congress from this State be requested to advocate the passage of a law establishing a mint in the city of New York.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE STATE LIBRARY.

The bill making appropriations for the State Library was brought up for its third reading; but, on motion of Mr. CARROLL, it was recommitted to the Committee of the Whole.

NEW YORK GAS COMPANY.

The bill to amend the charter of the New York Gas Light Company, so as to allow of its holding additional real estate, and sanctioning its prior election of trustees, was passed in committee.

BOUNDARY LINE FOR BROOKLYN.

The bill fixing the boundaries of Brooklyn, each ward separately, and establishing the division line between Williamsburgh and Brooklyn, was passed in committee.

VILLAGE HIGHWAY LABOR.

A petition was presented, praying that the money raised in villages, for highway purposes, may be spent in village highway labor.

THE HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.

The bill to amend the charter of the Hudson River Railroad was again considered in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. MANN proposed to add to the section which allows the company to borrow an additional sum—"but the amount which may be borrowed, as aforesaid, shall not be extended, as above provided, unless the said Hudson River Railroad Company shall give to the contractors for the construction of said road, who have agreed to take the stock of the company in part payment, and who are now entitled, or who will be entitled on the completion of existing contracts, to such stock, or who now actually hold such stock received by them on account of contracts for the construction of said road, the bonds of said company, in lieu of such stock, and for a like nominal amount, to be issued for such increased loan, and to be secured and payable in the same manner, and to bear the same interest as other bonds, for the increased loan authorised by this section."

Mr. GEDDES opposed the section, and defended the bill. He alluded to the great results produced by the completion of this road, even so far as Poughkeepsie; and who could doubt, but that when it should be finished to Albany, it would show such a condition of prosperity, as would prove that all that had been predicted of its success would be fulfilled? Its receipts then, he believed, would be $2,000 per day, and that all other roads would be feeders to this. There was but one great valley of the Hudson, and there would be but one Hudson River Railroad. The roads between Syracuse and Rochester the last year have earned $700,000, and that is far in the interior. What are those roads to the Hudson River? This company has now achieved its greatest, its costliest labor. The passage through the Highlands—the most expensive rock cutting—is over. Northward from Poughkeepsie the route is comparatively easy. Mr. G. eulogised the admirable engineering and good judgment which had been shown in incurring fearlessly the large expense so as to bring a grade even of seventeen feet down to seven feet, so as to ensure complete success. He predicted that when this road shall have been completed, it would pay handsomely on all its stock, and would be a road over which the travelling world would be transported, at two cents a mile, more safely than they ever rode in stage coaches at four cents a mile. Why, sir, said Mr. G., if this work was to stop at Poughkeepsie, the people from the West would come down, and seizing the instruments which had been suffered to stand idle, would themselves complete the work.

Mr. MANN advocated the proposed section as a measure of justice toward the contractors.

Mr. CROSS opposed it. It would give contractors a preference over other stockholders. The contractors had entered into this partnership with the stockholders, and they knew very well that the completion of the road to Albany would require an increase of the money to be raised. He did not believe that the effect of this bill would be to depress the value of the stock. The knowledge that the road would be completed would increase the value of the stock.

Mr. MORGAN read a letter from the President of the Company, (Mr. Boorman) which stated that, if this bill passed, the road could be finished by the winter of 1851-52, perhaps by July, 1851.

The Committee of the Whole rejected the section, and the bill passed in committee, and was ordered to its third reading. Adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Jan. 31, 1850.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were read and referred:—

Mr. RICHARDSON, of citizens of Cayuga county, for an Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

Mr. BARRETT, to prevent the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Mr. KINGSLEY, for an amendment to the new school law.

Mr. BISHOP, for the moral and mental education of what are called street children.

Mr. L. W. SMITH, for a reduction of tolls on foreign salt.

Mr. H. J. ALLEN, to incorporate the U. S. Mail Steamship Company.

Mr. VAN HORN, in relation to tolls on railroads.

Mr. LEAVENWORTH, remonstrance against the reduction of tolls on foreign salt passing through our canals.

Mr. J. ALLEN, in relation to sheriffs' fees on executions.

Mr. LEAVENWORTH reported a bill in relation to the sale of certain salt lands in the city of Syracuse.

Mr. GODDARD reported favorably a bill to provide for the existing liabilities and debts of the city of Brooklyn.

SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN.

Mr. FOX reported favorably a bill in relation to the general society of tradesmen and mechanics of the city of New York.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASTOR LIBRARY.

The first annual report of the Astor Library, to the Assembly, was received from Washington Irving, President of the Library, and on motion of Mr. Bowen, 500 copies of the report were ordered printed for the use of the Trustees of that Library.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.

The bill to amend the charter of the Society of New York Hospital, was read the third time and passed.

SLAVERY LECTURES AND RESOLUTIONS.

A long and desultory discussion was had on the question of re-considering the vote by which the use of the Assembly chamber was granted for this evening, to Mr. Burleigh, a colored lecturer. Before it was decided, the hour for the special order arrived, and the slavery resolutions were again taken up.

Mr. L. W. SMITH addressed the house in support of the Senate resolutions.

Mr. A. GREEN followed, in explanation of his position as a free soiler, in review of the position of the whig party in general, in support of the resolutions offered by Mr. Root, and in defence of the Wilmot proviso.

Mr. RAYMOND moved to amend the resolutions he had reported, in order to meet the views of certain gentlemen, as follows: Strike out the last sentence of the first resolution, and insert—

"And recognising the constitutional power of Congress to prohibit, by positive enactment, the extension of slavery into free territory, our senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our representatives are requested to use their best efforts to insert such a positive prohibition into any law they may pass for the government of the territories in question."

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. L. D. Smith, Wood, and A. B. Davis.

Adjourned.