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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXIII. No. 337

AMUSEMENTS THIS DAY AND EVENING.

- ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth Street—Evening—GRAND OPERA OF THE MESSIAH.
MADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Evening and Matinee—THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.
ROBERT THEATRE, Bowery—Evening—CHILDREN IN THE WOOD—ANDROUS—ROBERT MACAIRE. EVENING—LAST THREATS—FOURTEENTH—MAGIC—THEWREY—FLEET STREET.
CORTON'S NEW THEATRE, Broadway—Afternoon—THE TWO CARDS—CHILDREN IN THE WOOD. EVENING—RICHARD III.—THE STRIKE.
WALL CE'S THEATRE, Broadway—MORNING OF THE WITNESSES.
LAUREL THEATRE, No. 62 Broadway—Afternoon—THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO—THE CAPTAIN IS NOT A KING.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway—11 A. M.—JAMES KING, MINISTER AND DELEGATE. 2 P. M.—THE FINEST ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. 6 AND 8 P. M.—ALFRED MACE—GUY RAY—AND OTHERS.
WINDMILL THEATRE, BULLING, 56 AND 58 BROADWAY—AMERICAN AND FOREIGN THEATRICALS, MONSIEUR, 46—SOUTHERN LIFE LITERATURE.
MUSIC HALL, 47 BROADWAY—BREVET MESSIAH—AMERICAN AND FOREIGN THEATRICALS, MONSIEUR, 46—SOUTHERN LIFE LITERATURE.
CAMPBELL'S MISERABLES, 44 Broadway—Afternoon—THE FINEST ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. 6 AND 8 P. M.—ALFRED MACE—GUY RAY—AND OTHERS.
FLORENSKIE GALLERY, 63 Broadway—CLASSICAL PAINTINGS TO BE SEEN AT ALL HOURS.

New York, Saturday, December 25, 1858.

The News.

By the arrival from Aspinwall of the brig Caroline, Captain J. Potter, at this port yesterday morning, we have several days later advices from Central America than those brought by the Moses Taylor. The Caroline left on the 7th instant. The British mail steamer from Greytown arrived the day before. The South Pacific steamer had not arrived, and nothing was heard of the Valorous. The steamer Washington, which was to have sailed for San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua, yesterday, did not leave her pier as was expected. The reason of this was because she had not all her cargo and stores on board, and consequently was not ready to go to sea. The agents affirm, however, that she will positively sail to-day. The Washington takes out two hundred passengers, ninety-three of whom are those who returned with her on her last trip, when it was found that they could not proceed to California through Nicaragua. The cargo of the Washington is stated by the agents to be 100 barrels of flour, 600 barrels of bread, and a large quantity of tea, sugar and other provisions. She has also one thousand tons of coal on board. It is found impossible to pass through Nicaragua this time, the steamer will proceed to San Francisco via Cape Horn direct. A feeling of discontent seemed to pervade the passengers yesterday because the vessel did not sail. There were some rumors about yesterday, to the effect that the Washington had arms and other munitions of war on board for the use of Walker and his filibusters. One of these was that she had 800 muskets on board and several packages of gunpowder. All these rumors, however, are emphatically denied by the agents and the officers of the vessel. At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen last evening, the ordinance to fix the Comptroller's salary at \$5,000 per annum, instead of \$3,000, and to have a deputy Comptroller (appointed by the Comptroller) at \$2,500 a year, was brought up and debated. After sundry motions the ordinance was adopted by ten to four. A report in favor of reorganizing the City Inspector's Department was presented and referred. A resolution favoring the freedom of the city to Hon. John L. Orr, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and appointing a committee to receive him, was adopted. A petition, received from Mrs. L. Libby and others, to have Breckman street extended through the Park, and a resolution of Alderman Boole's, directing the Comptroller to advertise for proposals for opening a carriage way through the lower end of the Park, were laid over. The Board adjourned to Monday at the usual hour. The December term of the Court of General Sessions was brought to a close yesterday, when, as will be seen by our report of the proceedings, Recorder Harward sentenced a large number of prisoners for various offenses. James Larkin, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree, having had James Dowling, was sentenced to imprisonment for life in the State prison. Bernard Smith, convicted of rape, was sent to Sing Sing Prison for ten years and six months. Charles Davidson, guilty of burglary in the first degree, was sent to the State prison for the same period. The Grand Jury were discharged, after submitting a large number of indictments and a presentment in reference to the disposal of the money obtained by fraud and penalties. The Court of Inquiry held at Fort Bliss, Texas, to examine into certain accusations against Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Grayson, Commissary of Subsistence, of guilty complicity with the contractors for the supply of commissariat stores, found that there were no guilty intentions on his part, and that no further proceedings in the case were necessary. This finding, with a reservation as to some minor features of the opinion of the court, has been approved by Colonel Bonneville. Judge Russell rendered his decision yesterday, denying the motion of counsel for James Sutton Elliott, the alleged English defaulter, to discharge him from custody. This being Christmas day, the law courts have adjourned to Monday. The December term of the Superior Court is continued over for the purpose of finishing the case of Slater against Wood. The Commissioners of the Patent Office, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior, has issued circulars to certain of the leading agriculturists in different sections of the Union, to attend a convention to be held at the Patent Office building on the 3d of January next, at 10 A. M., for the purpose of discussing such facts in practical husbandry as may have come under their experience and observation, and of suggesting means by which our crops may be increased, improved in quality, and made more profitable to the producer. The Department will allow the delegates a mileage of five cents to Washington and back, with an additional sum of twenty-five dollars to cover their hotel expenses. The Police Commissioners met yesterday, passed another resolution disapproving of the crying of Sunday newspapers, complimented policeman Davy, of the Eighth ward, for his recent bravery, re-elected two dismissed policemen, and dismissed one.

of wheat sold of moment was one of prime Kentucky white at \$1.55. Corn was firm and in good demand, with sales of Western mixed at 76c a 78c. in store and delivered; new Southern yellow sold at 76c a 77c., and new white at 72c a 74c. Pork was low bought, with small sales of new mess made at \$18 12, and of new prime at \$18 75. Sugars were firm, with sales of about 400 hhds. at \$7.00 bags at rates given in another column. It is ascertained that the stock of foreign sugars in this market, including bags, boxes and hogsheads, does not exceed in amount over 12,000 hogsheads. Coffee was in fair request, with sales of Rio at steady prices. Freight engagements were light and rates unchanged.

The Political Events of the Year Behind us, and the Prospects of the Year Before us.

In posting up our books for the calendar, the last sands of which are running out, we present our readers to-day the first instalment of our summing up, in the shape of a recapitulation of the political events of the year behind us, federal and local, within the limits of the Union. Thus, within the compass of a few brief paragraphs, the great questions and issues and movements of our general and State governments, and of our political parties, together with the revolutionary manifestations of the State elections of the year, are given, as in a birdseye view, to the inquiring reader. In this record, Kansas, of course, occupies the foreground; and between the dreadful Kansas excitement, the Lecompton and anti-Lecompton party complications, the Douglas rebellion, the troubling Northern democracy, and the ferocious republicans of last December, and the dead calm upon Kansas which has followed the labors of the administration to settle this disgusting intrigue, there is a very remarkable contrast. The people of Kansas have rejected the English bill; and thus, having overwhelmingly decided against the institution of slavery, the question is settled in behalf of a free State. With their destiny thus positively fixed, the people of Kansas appear to be in no hurry to assume the expenses of State sovereignty, but rather disposed to suffer a year or so longer the burden of their government liabilities to be borne by the federal treasury.

The returns of the Northern elections of the last spring, summer and autumn, however, present a startling array of figures against the demoralized democracy. Of the seventeen Northern States we find but two, (Indiana and California), which the opposition have not carried upon the popular vote. So much for the general result. But upon the Congressional issue the consequences have been scarcely less disastrous than those of the fearful anti-Nebraska revolutionary reaction of 1854. And why? Because of the unpopularity of Mr. Buchanan's administration? No; for his administration is stronger now, in the party and out of the party, than it was in December last. Why, then, these election disasters from Maine to Minnesota? They are the consequences of the demoralizations and defections created among the democratic rank and file by the factions and rebellious proceedings of the aspiring leaders and unscrupulous demagogues of the party, in both houses, at the last session of Congress.

In this connection the rebellious course of Mr. Douglas against the Lecompton constitution, the English compromise and the administration, has done its full share of mischief among the tenderfooted of the Northern democracy on squatter sovereignty, and among the scheming managers and pipe layers of the party for the Presidential succession. Close upon the heels of the results of the November contest in New York and in Illinois, the democratic managers and organs in the interest of Douglas, and the republican engineers and organs devoted to Seward, were mutually emphatic in their declarations that the popular voice of the North, beyond a peradventure, had determined in favor of Douglas as the democratic candidate, and of Seward as the inevitable champion of the opposition, for the next Presidency.

A month has intervened, and mark the change! Douglas, by his democratic peers and judges of the Senate, has been put into a black seat in the party synagogue, where he is at liberty to choose between the policy of submission and repentance, or the scanty heritage upon the bleak hills outside the party pasturage. Nobody now supposes that he has a living chance for the Charleston nomination, and every body is prepared to see him fly off at a tangent, after the fashion of Van Buren in 1848.

Next, with regard to Seward—it is manifest that that bold and comprehensive abolitionist Rochester Manifesto has settled the business of 1859 for him with the conservative balance of power of the republican camp. Even the Chevalier Webb, who so lately decried the inevitable nomination of Master Seward by the republican party, now finds that the discussion of the question of a Presidential candidate "is premature and mischievous," and that the party has not yet assumed a definite shape, but is still in the cauldron, boiling and bubbling, and that in its crystallization it is now impossible to tell what elements will sink to the bottom and what will rise to the surface.

These late Northern elections, therefore, so overwhelmingly carried by the revived Kansas agitation against the democratic party, under the rebellious auspices of Douglas & Co., have practically, in reference to the great political perils of the day, accomplished nothing more than a general overthrow of the Northern democracy, a general dislocation and fermentation in the opposition camps, and the shelving of Douglas and Seward. The administration, instead of having gone down under the general pressure, has risen bravely above it, and now occupies a position before the democratic party and the country of commanding strength. On the other hand, with the expiring members of the late Kansas confederation, the republican party, organized upon this issue, is all split; and Seward, from his bold step in advance, has gone beyond the reach of anything but an abolition caucus or convention. And so Douglas, from his desperate experiment to crush the administration and to dictate the law to the democratic party and the country of commanding strength. On the other hand, with the expiring members of the late Kansas confederation, the republican party, organized upon this issue, is all split; and Seward, from his bold step in advance, has gone beyond the reach of anything but an abolition caucus or convention. And so Douglas, from his desperate experiment to crush the administration and to dictate the law to the democratic party and the country of commanding strength.

The administration has not been shaken by these late political revolutions, but they have torn the opposition and the democracy into a number of clashing cliques and factions, North and South. The democratic members of the Senate have commenced their work of reconstruction with the recommendation of Douglas; but whether the sessions of the party will or can be held in defiance of 1859, upon this or any other basis, is exceedingly doubtful. The opposition factions, meanwhile, are casting about for some common groundwork of a coalition; but their efforts to this end thus far are altogether unpromising. And thus, from the political events of 1858 upon our domestic affairs, from their development down to this day, and from all the signs in the political horizon, on all sides, the prospects for 1859 and 1860 are much more strongly tinged with a general racial race for the succession,

and of an election by the House of Representatives, than of a sharply defined sectional battle, like that of 1856.

With the uncertain lights before us, is the best horizon we can give of the drift and manifest destiny of the demoralized and disorganized political cliques and parties of the day. With the opening of the new year we may expect, in Congress and out of Congress, some new and more positive indications of the shaping of the democracy and the opposition for the Presidency.

The Extraordinary Will of Mr. Thordike, the Boston Millionaire—Poor Mortem Itegens.

It has been generally supposed that the flinty hearted fathers who occupy so large a space of the comedies and romances of the last century went out of existence with the wig, knee breeches, stage coaches and shoe buckles. In fact, it is the general theory that now-a-days, owing perhaps to the great progress of the age—the telegraphs, railways, and so on—the world has so far advanced that the order of things domestic has become entirely changed, and that parents obey their children, instead of the old rule of patriarchal discipline. But there is occasionally a marked exception to this rule, and the stern parents of real life go far beyond the testy old gentlemen that figure in romance. Fielding, Sheridan and Goldsmith always make the patriarch forgive his erring child; but such cast iron fathers as Mr. Augustus Thordike, of Boston, whose will we print elsewhere, carry their malignity beyond the grave, and make their revenges posthumous.

The attendant circumstances of this Thordike affair are interesting. Many years ago—say before the war of 1812, when Boston was an important commercial city—Israel Thordike was one of the greatest merchants in the Modern Athens. He was the cooper and the friend of Thomas H. Perkins, William Gray, and other fine old gentlemen of the same school. With them he carried on a great trade in the Indies and China. Then Boston monopolized the traffic in silks, teas and other Oriental products. Great were the gains of the Thordikes, the Perkinses and the Grays of that day. Right royally did they live, too, those princely merchants, and died full of years, honors, crusty port and Old South Church sermons. Their sons belonged to the aristocracy. They inherited fortunes that had been acquired in trade, and sneered at persons engaged in the pursuit of commerce which the old fellows, the fathers of the sneerers, were so proud of. Well, Thordike the elder left three sons, Israel, Charles and Augustus, with a comfortable fortune of half a million each. Of course they never sold tea or traded in silks or opium or fire crackers. They were all gentlemen, and brought up their children in a proper way. One of these children—the daughter of Charles, we believe—intermarried with the French Minister at Washington, the Count de Sarthe. Another, Rebecca, daughter of Augustus, is the wife of M. C. Marin, a Lieutenant in the navy of the United States. The last marriage provoked the anger of Mr. Thordike *per se* to an alarming extent. Some people said he had a personal dislike to the husband of his daughter; others, that he had lived so long in Europe as to have become a thorough tuff hunter, and was disappointed because his son-in-law was not a nobleman. Whatever may have been the cause, the enmity of the old man never died or even softened. Lieutenant Marin bears the reputation of being a good officer. He served with distinction in Mexico, was second in command to Hunter, who captured Alvarado in the Scourge, and was selected, on account of his acquaintance with the Spanish language, to complete the arrangements for the formal transfer of the port to the authority of the United States. Under the action of the celebrated Board of Fifteen he was placed on the reserved list of the navy, but has lately been restored by the President.

The daughter—Miss Rebecca—had certainly attained the age of discretion before she was married, being seven and twenty when she eloped with the lieutenant. The theory of old Thordike seems to have been that everybody was scheming to get his money, and, having made dollars his only god, he gradually brought himself to believe that every one else held the same faith. Although a free liver, he never had a house of his own as a residence, and endeavored to evade the payment of taxes on his personal property. The city of Boston gained a suit brought by him to test this question. The time came, however, when even State street could not save Thordike. Impolitic as it may appear to persons who have a proper respect for money, the grim archer flew a shaft at this man with the pithoric bank account. In his last illness he refused to see his daughter Rebecca, and in his will he has attempted to guard in every possible way against her or the children by her present marriage receiving any benefit more than a small annuity from his estate, which is supposed to be something over half a million. Her relatives are utterly forbidden to assist her in any way; they, as well as other legatees, will forfeit all claim to the bequest in case they recognize her or her children. Harvard College receives a bequest for a Professorship of Music, subject to similar conditions. We presume that this binding clause is clearly illegal, so far as the College is concerned. It is certainly absurd. James Stewart, son of the same Mr. Augustus Thordike, married his cousin, Henrietta Delprat. This connection was likewise unpopular with the head of the family. The testator also cuts off his daughter-in-law, who was also his niece, and her family from any share of his estate, and ties up his bequests to the son in the most formidable way.

In the event of the death of his children, Mr. Thordike leaves the bulk of his property to a young man named Perkins, grandson of Thomas H. Perkins, of Boston. This residuary legatee is not connected with the Thordikes by blood, but bears the name of the testator. Should Perkins decline to comply with the provisions of the will, half the property is to be devoted to the proportionate increase of the annuities, legacies, &c., especially mentioned in the testament, and the other half to Harvard College. We have heard many remarkable testamentary devices, but this of Thordike's is the most curious of all. It is really an extraordinary document, and in its dry legal phraseology is a more graphic exhibition of the worst passions, meanness and revenges of the human heart, than ever could be limned by the most eloquent, graceful and graphic descriptions of the ablest romancers. The testator has prepared for the contesting of the will, and has filed several others, to be taken up in regular order, should the first

or any other be cancelled. It seems probable that, in the excess of his malignity, the poor old man went too far, and that his instructions will never be carried out. There will probably be a good deal of talk, much legal lore, and then an amicable agreement between all parties. The issue depends very much upon the residuary legatee, Perkins. We incline to the belief, on the whole, that Thordike's little revenges will never be accomplished, and that his labors will have no other result than to increase the bank accounts of some of the leaders of the Suffolk bar, and diminish those of the unfortunate legatees in the same ratio.

Defects of Our Consular System.

The chairman of the House Committee of Ways and Means has reported to Congress a bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service.

The connection which this phrase expresses between the consular and diplomatic service, and which was established by the present law regulating those branches of service, is an impurity in fact, and inflicts a great injustice upon one of the most useful classes of our public officers. While the diplomatic service is one of limited labor generally, the consular is one of active employment. Our ministers abroad, with few exceptions, and particularly in Europe, have little to do but study the fine arts in a book their thumbs. Our consuls, on the contrary, are the active servants of our commerce. Wherever an American ship goes she has calls upon our consul for both service and protection. As a natural consequence the labors of any consul are great or small, according to the magnitude of our trade with the port where he resides. Under our consular system, which appropriated the fees of office to the pay of the consul, that officer received a remuneration in exact proportion to the labor he performed. But certain viscerates in Congress, in the fullness of their wisdom, insisted that they could improve upon this equitable system of remuneration, and the present consular law was enacted. The great working consulates were cut down, and the multitude of little idle ones were left up by a multitude of fixed salaries. We will only cite the cases of three of the working consulates to show the effect of this ridiculous alteration. London is one of these. The work which the consul there is obligated to perform cannot be done with less than three clerks and the necessary office room. The official fees for this labor amount to about \$25,000 a year, and yet the salary is cut down to \$7,500, with an allowance of ten per cent on that for office expenses. As a natural consequence, Gen. Campbell, after paying office rent and clerk hire, has to look to his plantation in Texas for his own living. The consulate at Liverpool was formerly estimated as equal to or better than the London consulate. It is now cut down to \$7,500, and ten per cent for expenses. When the law was passed, Mr. Hawthorne, the incumbent, wrote to Gen. Cass that he could only send there as consul "a rich man or a rascal."

None other could pay the clerks, office expenses, and live out of the salary. Mr. Hawthorne resigned, and considerable difficulty was found to get a successor who would promise to work for nothing and find himself. At last Mr. Beverly Tucker agreed to accept it; but as he was neither "a rich man nor a rascal," his friends made up a purse of \$10,000 to enable him to do his duty to the government and our commerce without plunging himself over head and ears in debt. He is now filling the office, but how long he will continue to do so for the poor pay of "more kicks than coppers," depends upon his own good nature.

But the most flagrant case of all is the consulate at Havana. The salary there has been cut down to \$6,000, and ten per cent; but to make the pill more pleasant the incumbent is raised to the grade of consular general. The number of American vessels that clear annually from Havana is one-half greater than that of those clearing from Liverpool. It is true that their aggregate tonnage is less, but this does not in any way diminish the labor of the consulate. Besides this, while the labors of the London and Liverpool consulates are transacted entirely in our own language, the necessities of the Havana consulate require its clerks to be well versed in two languages—Spanish and English. Besides the increased expense of clerks from this cause, Havana, in comparison with any city in England, is doubly as expensive as they. The price of living, rents, and every concomitant of social intercourse, bears the same increased proportion; and, in addition to all this, the incumbent is obliged to perform much diplomatic duty and to keep up a semi-diplomatic state.

The consequence of this state of things has been that we have not for some time been able to retain a consul there for any long period. Bitter experience soon drove them away, and the duties of the consulate lapsed into the hands of clerks, who were unequal to the charge devolved upon them. The records were not kept up, the public documents were scattered and lost, and the business finally got into such a snarl that a public outcry was raised against its condition. On throwing up the office a year ago, Consul Blythe wrote to General Cass, "the compensation provided for this office is mean, contemptible, and unworthy of our government. After paying the expenses of the office the balance of the salary is insufficient to procure food." In fact, the necessary business of that office cannot be performed with less than three clerks, and when these and the office rent are paid, the only resource for the consul general for a livelihood is to suck his own thumbs.

This state of things is disgraceful, and should not be permitted to continue. Our legatees, with nothing to do, have better salaries and a further allowance for secretary and office expenses. Our consuls are necessities for our ships and merchants, and their duties increase with the increase of our trade. The number of our vessels is increasing, and we hope will continue to increase until they are as thick as flies in summer. It is an old truth that the laborer is worthy of his hire; and in accordance with it, the system of remuneration to our consuls should be entirely reconstructed. Will some justice loving member of Congress take up the subject, and bring in at once a bill for that purpose?

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CONGRESS.—The Senate chamber at Washington on Thursday presented a novel spectacle at the opening of the day's proceedings. The prayer for the day having been allotted to the pastor of the Catholic Church of St. Patrick, he performed that ceremony in the black cassock and white surplice of his order, and was surrounded by a number of other priests similarly attired, which imparted to the scene an air not alone of novelty but of awe. We are told that much interest was excited on the occasion, and that the Senators showed symptoms of unusual devotion. Probably they fancied themselves in Rome for the nonce, though they did not do exactly as Rome does, nor did the inspiration of the moment convert them into grave and reverend Roman Senators. The account of this scene will be read with some surprise in Catholic countries. People there will begin to think that the United States is all right, that they have reposed their several heads on the bosom of Mother Church and become a part of the family.

The explanation of this deviation from the ordinary method of opening the proceedings of the Senate is very simple. The custom of appointing a chaplain for the whole session has been abandoned, and the President of the Senate, a few days before the session commenced, made out a list of the clergy of every denomination in Washington—including, of course, the Catholic—and allotted to each a day upon which to officiate. By this arrangement Thursday fell to the lot of the pastor of St. Patrick's, when the vestments of the Catholic priests were seen in the halls of Congress.

Personal Intelligence.

From Hamburg, in the steamer Saxonia—Y. O. Warner, 24th Feb'y, and Robert Fildes—will sail on the 26th inst. for London, via the North Atlantic. The draft of members from the Normal school has been outwards. Personal Intelligence. From Hamburg, in the steamer Saxonia—Y. O. Warner, 24th Feb'y, and Robert Fildes—will sail on the 26th inst. for London, via the North Atlantic. The draft of members from the Normal school has been outwards.

THE LATEST NEWS.

AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Our Special Washington Despatch.

AMERICAN DEPARTMENTS OF OUR COMRADE AT TAMPAICO—ATTEMPT TO MAKE GARZA INHUMAN—TOTAL BARRAGE—THE FIGHTERS—THE PENINSULA BILL, &c. &c. WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1858.

Parties intimately connected with Mexico, and having a widely extended knowledge of Mexican affairs, are urging upon our government the sending of several vessels of war to Tampico, with positive orders to compel Garza to restore what he has plundered from American citizens, in the same way that he was compelled to make restitution to the Spanish merchants. Five American vessels have been fired into, detained and looted by him, and the cargo of one was ordered to be discharged on the beach while he was besieging the city, and was then sent by him into the interior on his own account. The vessel was then made a cover to his teacher in an attack on a fort, well perforated with shot holes, and the chief mate's hand shot away. Her commander, Capt. Trevis, was imprisoned for eleven days, and only released on the arrival of the United States steamer Futuro; but no indemnity was exacted. Strong protests have been made before Mr. Chase, the Consul, but he, of course, has no means of enforcing them, while the want of action on the part of our government renders his official protection of little avail, and his influence daily weaker. The Spanish Consul is now the only strong man in Tampico, and Spanish interests the only ones respected by Gov. Garza.

The Postmaster General will respond to the call of the Senate or information as to how the expenditures of his department may be reduced and how his income may be increased, but will not connect with his report any recommendation beyond what is in his annual report, leaving it to Congress to act as it pleases from information he will give. The administration has not yet been informed of the landing of the filibusters in Nicaragua, although there is no doubt they have landed. It is a likely thing the pension bill just passed the House will pass the Senate, and it is generally known and freely spoken of that a great many members would not have voted for it but that they expected it would be defeated in the Senate.

THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1858.

It is said that Senator Taft, the Spanish Minister, has officially informed Secretary Cass that the difficulties between the Spanish authorities and the authorities of Tampico are settled; but letters from a commercial house in Tampico, just received here, contain a reverse statement, and further say, that as soon as the weather will permit, the Spanish fleet will concentrate on the whole coast, from Laguna to Tampico—thus confirming previous reports.

The corrected list, from an official source, of the naval nominations recently acted upon by the Senate, shows the position which have been assigned each officer. Capt. Youle is transferred to the leave and pay list, and Captains Yaine, Ramsey and Inman, to the active list. Commanders Promoted or Transferred.—Lecompte, to the leave and pay list; and Armstrong, Lord and Johnston, to be captains on the active list; also Shaw to the active list. Lieutenants Promoted or Transferred.—Porter, Williamson, Carter, Russell, Glason, Kiley, Chandler, Meade, and Gibson, to be commanders on the active list; and Flagg to the leave and pay list.

Senators on the Active List.—Walbridge, Doyle, Marvin, R. I. Perry, Boland, Parker, Fitzgerald, Boyd, McArthur, and Watson, Harrison and Hunter to the leave and pay list. Middlemen Promoted.—Hall, Byrnes and Moore, to be lieutenants on the active list. The above includes several of the nominations that were confirmed yesterday.

The balance in the Treasury on Monday was \$2,514,000. The receipts of the previous week were \$1,672,600. The amount of the drafts paid was \$1,969,000, and the amount of the drafts issued, \$2,208,000—a reduction from last week of \$1,226,400. The Secretary of the Treasury has decided on appeal that beet root used in the manufacture of paper is chargeable with a duty of 15 per cent; the cotton velvet part of dyed Coburg robes a quile, 24 per cent, and the worsted part 10 per cent; cotton duck is to be charged 10 per cent. The importers had claimed an entry at 19 per cent "made duck," but no such article is recorded in the tariff of 1857. Pearls, brought from abroad, if imported to be set in the United States, are to be charged 4 per cent. Bags of American manufacture, exported from the United States, filled with grain and afterwards imported empty, or exported empty and afterwards imported filled with grain, will be admitted free of duty. Tea, taken on board of junks in waters within the territorial limits of China, is considered as "laden in the ports of that country;" but tea, the product of China, purchased and laden on board of Chinese junk in the roadstead, harbor or waters of Singapore, cannot be treated as coming from the country of production, and will be subject to duty.

The Secretary has overruled the decision by which duty was charged on such stores, and places them with bare stores, rough or unroughed, but unmanufactured. The following regulations have been prescribed under the tariff of 1846, and have been reaffirmed on questions arising on appeal under the tariff of 1857:—Dutiable merchandise imported into the United States, and afterwards exported, although it may have paid duty on the first importation, is liable to duty on every subsequent importation. Wheat, when imported in moderate quantities exclusively for experiment and improvement in agriculture, is to be free of duty. The joint resolution introduced in the Senate by Senator Brown, creating the brevet grade of Admiral, was not passed, as erroneously stated in yesterday's despatch, but referred to the Naval Committee.

The telegraph made mistake yesterday in saying that the Senate was full of guests when Father Doyle opened it with prayer. The despatch should have said that he was in "full priest's dress," instead of the Senate being "full of priests."

MORRIS' POPULAR GOVERNMENT BILL.

A BILL FOR AN ACT GRANTING TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SEVERAL STATES AND TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT OF FREE AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE RIGHT OF FREE AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN SUCH MANNER AS SHALL BE PROVIDED BY LAW.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, That the people of the several States and Territories of the United States be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to elect, to elect their Senators, Judges and all other Territorial officers, in such mode and manner as their respective Legislatures may by law determine, and to define their powers and prescribe their duties; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as to interfere with the right of the existing officers in said Territories, or those that may hereafter be appointed by the President, to hold their respective offices until their successors are appointed or elected and qualified in pursuance of the laws of said Territory. SEC. 2. The people of the Territories heretofore organized by act of Congress shall be vested with the same rights and powers as the people of the States, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to elect their Senators, Judges, and all other Territorial officers, and to define their powers and prescribe their duties, which, by the provision of this foregoing section, are conferred on the people of the Territories. SEC. 3. That all acts and causes of action in the said Territories, arising under the constitution and laws of the United States, shall be tried at such times and in such manner as Congress may by law provide. SEC. 4. That the people of any Territory of the United States now organized, or which may hereafter be organized, are hereby authorized and empowered to call a convention, and frame a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union as a State, in such manner as their Legislatures may by law determine; provided, that no application for such admission into the Union shall not be made until the population of such Territory shall be sufficiently numerous to entitle it to one representative in the House of Representatives on the basis of apportionment of representation established by Congress for the several States; and provided further, that no such application shall be received by Congress until the people of such Territory shall have voted for their approval or rejection, and shall have been approved by a majority of the legal voters of said Territory; and provided further, that nothing herein contained shall operate against the immediate admission of Kansas and Oregon into the Union. SEC. 5. All acts and parts of acts coming in conflict with this act shall be and the same are hereby repealed.