nation shall not be considered as original, but shall be filled by regular promotion.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the President be, and he is hereby authorized to receive into the service of the United States, *for the purpose of conducting intrenchments, or performing camp service, or any other labor or any military or naval service for which they may be found competent*, persons of African descent, and such persons shall be enrolled and organized under such regulations, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws, *as the President may prescribe.*

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That when any man or boy of African descent, who by the laws of any State shall owe service or labor to any person who during the present rebellion has levied war or borne arms against the United States, or adhered to their enemies by giving them aid or comfort, shall render any such service as is provided for in the first section of this act, he, his mother and his wife and children, shall *forever thereafter be free, any law, usage, or custom whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding:* Provided, that the mother, wife and children of such man or boy of African descent, shall not be made free by the operation of this act, *except where such mother, wife and children owe service or labor to some person, who during the present rebellion has borne arms against the United States, or adhered to their enemies by giving them aid and comfort.*

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That the expenses incurred to carry this act into effect shall be paid out of the general appropriation for the army and volunteers.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons who have been or shall be hereafter enrolled in the service of the United States under this act shall receive the pay and rations now allowed by law to soldiers, according to their respective grades: Provided, That persons of African descent, who under this law shall be employed, shall receive $10 per month and one ration, $3 of which monthly pay may be in clothing.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the medical purveyors and storekeepers shall give bonds in such sums as the Secretary of War may require, with security to be approved by him.

The Senate adopted the following:—"That in the opinion of the Senate no person should be commissioned as a general of division except such as shall exhibit superior competency in the command of men or gallantry in action against the enemy." In the course of debate it was stated that one hundred and eighty brigadier generals had been appointed, the pay of each being $6,954, besides allowances for commutation of quarters, amounting to $300 annually, besides other commutations and supplies. The cost of maintaining these brigadier generals amounts to one million dollars annually. A bill was also brought up in the Senate limiting the number of major and brigadier generals in the regular and volunteer forces.

A joint resolution was also adopted empowering the President to assign the command of the forces, wherever military operations may require the presence of two or more officers of the same grade on the same field or department, in such field or department, without regard to mere seniority of rank. The passage of a law of this kind was found necessary, to avoid the embarrassments which threatened the efficiency of the service at the commencement of the rebellion.

A bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer force of 25,000 men for the protection of the State of Kentucky was brought into the House, and on its passage excited warm and protracted debate. The chief opposition to it was based upon the clause which confined the services of the proposed force within the limits of the State of Kentucky. It, however, passed the House but in the Senate the whole bill was rendered nugatory by a clause embodied in a bill entitled Defence of Washington bill, which enacts that "no volunteers or militia from any State shall be mustered into the service of the United States on any terms or conditions confining their services to the limits of said State or Territory, beyond the number of ten thousand in Maryland and four thousand five hundred in Missouri, heretofore authorized by the President of the United States."

A bill appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for completing the defences of Washington passed both houses, and was signed by the President.

The thanks of Congress were voted to the various officers who have distinguished themselves in the land and naval expeditions of this war.

THE NAVY.

A bill to promote the efficiency of the navy was, after considerable debate in both houses, passed. The bill provides that whenever the name of any naval officer now in the service or who may hereafter be in the service of the United States shall have been borne on the naval register forty years, and shall be ordered from active service and his name entered on the retired list of officers of the grade to which he belonged at the time of retirement, the President may assign such officer to shore duty, receiving the full shore pay of his grade when so employed. It gives authority to the President to detail from the retired list of the navy for the command of squadrons and single ships such officers as he may believe that the good of the service requires to be placed in command, &c. The bill further provides that whenever any one of those officers shall, on recommendation of the President, receive a vote of thanks of Congress for gallantry in action, he shall be restored to the active list. Also that the President may select any officer from the grade of captain and commander and assign him to the command of a squadron with the rank and title of flag officer, over commanders of vessels in his squadron, the dates of whose commissions are older than his. As the law stood, seniority conferred supreme rank. This bill was signed by the President, December 23, and his first action in pursuance of it was to nominate Captain David G. Farragut for continuance as flag officer in command of the Lower Mississippi squadron, and to recommend that Captain Farragut receive the thanks of Congress, &c.

The bill making appropriations for the naval service for the year ending June 30, 1863, was amended pending its passage by striking from it an item of $15,000,000 appropriated for the building of wooden gunboats. On reconsideration in committee it was deemed advisable to frame a special bill for the appropriation and the uses to which it was to be put. At the same time an additional section to the bill, appropriating a sum of $733,294 to finish the Stevens battery, was added. This section excited considerable debate, in the course of which was reviewed the circumstances of the engagement between the Monitor and Merrimac. The opponents of the Stevens grant had the following proviso added:—That in the contract for the completion of said vessel it shall be a stipulation that the payment of the sum already expended by Mr. Stevens shall be contingent upon its success as an iron-clad seagoing war steamer, to be determined by the President, and fixing the time within which the vessel shall be completed, and providing that the money shall not be expended unless the Secretary of the Navy is of opinion that the same will be an effective steam battery. Mr. Lovejoy said the Stevens battery had been hanging by the gills for twenty years—was like the woman in the Gospel who, after suffering much from many physicians and spending all her substance in remedies, found herself worse instead of better. The Naval Deficiency bill, however, appropriated a sum of $13,000,000 for building war steamers, iron-clad, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy. This sum is in addition to the ten millions appropriated in special bill for gunboats.

A bill appropriating $10,000,000 for the construction of twenty iron-clad gunboats for the Western rivers excited some debate in House and Senate. It was eventually passed.

NAVAL GRADE BILL.

The bill introduced by Mr. Sedgwick in the House, for regulating the rank and pay of naval officers, in a manner that should have been settled years ago, has passed both houses of Congress and received the President's signature. Since its first appearance in last February the bill has undergone many important alterations and amendments. Among its provisions are the following:—

"The annual pay of retired naval officers shall be as follows:—Admirals, $2,000; Commodores, $1,800; Captains, $1,600; Commanders, $1,400; Lieutenant Commanders, $1,300; Lieutenants, $1,000; Masters, $800; Ensigns $500, and no rations shall be allowed to any officer of the navy on the retired list. And the pay of all staff officers appointed by virtue of 'an act to provide for the temporary increase of the navy,' approved July 24, 1861, shall be the same as that of officers of a like grade in the regular navy." By amendments, Admirals shall be called "Rear Admirals," and Passed Midshipmen "Ensigns."

PAY OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

A joint resolution, emanating from the Senate, requesting the Secretary of War to procure from the officers and enlisted men in the United States Army that are now, or may be hereafter, held as prisoners of war in the so-called Confederate States, their respective allotments, to pay their families, &c., was adopted. There was also a bill passed to provide prisoners of the United States Army in the revolted States with clothing and other necessary supplies. Also a bill authorizing the President to issue a commission to visit the several departments of the army, and procure from time to time from the volunteers their respective allotments for their pay to their families or friends, on which certified allotments the paymaster shall give drafts, payable to such friends in the city of New York.

A joint resolution was adopted providing—That, in order to develop, concentrate and bring into effective action the mechanical and other resources of the United States for the suppression of the rebellion and the future defence of the government, the Superintendent of the Census be authorized to furnish the Secretary of War with such war statistics as from time to time the Secretary may deem necessary for the use of his department.

PENSION LAW.

A pension law was passed last week, making the following provisions for cases of total disability:—

Lieutenant colonel, and all officers of a higher rank, $30 per month; major, $25 per month; captain, $20 per month; first lieutenant, $17; second lieutenant, $15 per month, and non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates $8 per month. The pension for total disability for officers, warrant or petty officers, and others employed in the naval service of the United States, shall be as follows, viz.—Captain, commander, surgeon, paymaster and chief engineer, respectively ranking with commander by law, lieutenant commanding and master commanding, $30 per month; lieutenant, surgeon, paymaster and chief engineer, respectively ranking with lieutenant by law, and passed assistant surgeon, $25 per month; professor of mathematics, master, assistant surgeon, assistant paymaster and chaplain, $20 per month; first assistant engineers and pilots, $15 per month, passed midshipmen, midshipmen, captains' and paymasters' clerk, second and third assistant engineer, master's mate, and all warrant officers, $10 per month; all petty officers, and all other persons belonging to the naval service, $8 per month.

Provision is made in case of death for the widow or children to receive the pension.

Bills were passed to increase the efficiency of the medical department of the army; authorizing the President to confer the title of Lieutenant General, by brevet, for eminent services in the field; providing for the appointment of army sutlers and defining their duties; for the appointment of surgeons and chaplains to the army and volunteer force; authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension rolls the names of all such persons as have or may hereafter take up arms against the government of the United States, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels or manifested sympathy with their cause; providing that the arms ordered prior to the 1st day of January, 1862, by the authority of any State which has furnished militia or volunteers for the suppression of the rebellion, for arming the volunteers of such State, shall be imported free of duty; appropriating six and a half millions of dollars for the construction, preservation and repairs of certain fortifications and other works of defence, including works at Portland harbor, Delaware Bay and harbor, Narragansett Bay, &c.; authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to test plans and materials for rendering ships and floating batteries invulnerable, and appropriating $25,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Secretary for this purpose, was referred; authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to furnish to the sailors and men on board the sloop-of-war Cumberland, who lost their clothing and other property, in the action with the Merrimac at Fortress Monroe; bill providing for the equitable settlement of the accounts of the officers and crew of the frigate Congress, and any other vessel or vessels of war, the books of which were lost or destroyed in the naval engagement at Hampton Roads; bill for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers, seamen, and marines of the United States ships Congress and Cumberland; bill for the relief of the officers in command and the officers and privates of the battalion of marines on board the transport Governor, on the 3d of November, 1861 (the Governor was a transport engaged in the Port Royal expedition); to compensate crew of steamer Varuna, sunk in engagement at New Orleans.

A bill to facilitate judicial proceedings with regard to captured property, and for the better administration of the law of prize. (The bill provides that the decree of the court, instead of adjudging the persons among whom prize money is to be distributed, names merely the vessel, and leaves the distribution to be made by the Navy Department.)

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Pacific Railroad bill was early taken up in the House. It was made a special order for the 8th of April. There were several bills with this title. That which passed is entitled "A bill to aid in constructing a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri river to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, military and other purposes." The bill provides a middle route, repudiating both the Southern and extreme Northern route. It recognizes two Eastern connections and authorizes certain existing railroad companies to construct branch roads—one from the western borders of Missouri at Kansas City, the other from a point in Iowa—by which branch lines the whole Eastern network of railroads is gathered up and converged and made to form one grand thoroughfare to the Pacific. The bill passed the House by a majority of 79 to 49.

It was amended by the Senate, and the amendments were all agreed to by the House. The bill received the signature of the President, and is now a law.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL

Was early reported to the House from the Committee on Agriculture. It was on the same day referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and, after brief consideration by that committee, again reported to the House. Opposition was principally directed to a new section on the old bill so long before Congress, extending the benefits of the bill specifically to the volunteer forces. The section provides that any person who has served in quelling the rebellion, no matter what his age or nation, shall be entitled to all its benefits, the same not affecting his right in any way to the bounty of $100 at time of discharge provided by government. It provides also $30 bounty for three months' volunteers. The bill also provides one hundred and sixty acres of land, free of cost, to every actual settler who is a citizen, or who has declared his intention to become such. The bill passed the House by a majority of 107 to 16. The bill was briefly discussed in the Senate and slightly amended, and finally adopted by a majority of 33 to 7.

AGRICULTURAL BUREAU AND COLLEGES.

A bill passed both houses establishing a Bureau of Agriculture at the seat of government, the general duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture, in the more general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants, &c. Mr. Morrill's famous Agricultural Colleges bill also passed, and has become a law.

SOUTHERN COTTON LANDS.

A bill which passed the Senate, and in the House was referred to the Committee of Agriculture, contemplates the taking possession of the islands in South Carolina on which the Sea Island cotton grows, the occupation of those lands and their cultivation by the negroes that are there now unemployed and in a starving condition. Three commissioners to be appointed, who shall manage all the property that may be committed to them by the military authorities for the benefit of the United States. It passed the Senate, after much opposition in debate, by 26 to 14.

CULTIVATION OF COTTON AND TOBACCO.

A bill appropriating $3,000 for the purchase of cotton seed for general distribution, and $1,000 for the purchase of tobacco seed for like purpose, was passed and became a law.

THE COOLIE TRADE.

A bill prohibiting the Chinese coolie trade by American citizens in American vessels was passed and became a law.

INCREASED REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS.

Two bills were passed enlarging representation in Congress; the first passed gave a member each to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Vermont and Rhode Island. A special bill was passed giving an additional member to California.

THE ATLANTIC FISHERIES.

A bill passed and became a law authorizing the President to appoint a commission to meet commissions appointed by France and England, and to frame measures to protect the fisheries of the coasts of Newfoundland and North America against deterioration by means of cat lines on the spawn banks and like destructive practices.

SHIP CANALS.

An important bill to make a canal and river navigation for gunboats between the Mississippi river and the Northern lakes elicited some discussion in the House. It also contained a provision for the enlargement of the locks of the Erie and Oswego canals, so as to give passage for gunboats from the Atlantic to the Lakes. The importance and easy feasibility of the latter proposition were generally recognized, and if it had stood alone there would have been no difficulty about its being carried. But the other project was regarded as of too great magnitude. The bill was laid on the table by a very close vote; but that vote was afterwards reconsidered, and the bill postponed till next session. In the meantime the pressing necessity of being able to defend the lakes by a fleet of gunboats, in view of a rupture of relations with Great Britain, is so manifest that the general government may, in the exercise of the war power, order the enlargement of the locks on the canals, or request the State government to do so, with the understanding that the expense of the work shall be refunded.

MILEAGE, FRANKING PRIVILEGE, ETC.

On December 19 Mr. Colfax introduced his bill for the abolition of the franking privilege. As it proposed to completely deprive members of Congress of their long cherished, persistently defended and much abused privilege, it was strongly opposed in toto by some members, while others, by supporting various amendments, sought to retain some of the advantages of the system. The bill, without amendment, was passed, by a vote of 107 to 42. The Senate has declined to take any action upon it.

A bill, submitted by Mr. Vallandigham, "To regulate the franking privilege," was rejected.

There was a good deal of contemptible scheming in respect of mileage of members. The act which increased their salaries to $3,000 a year contained a provision that mileage should only be drawn for regular sessions. In despite of that, however, members drew their mileage for the extra session in July last, and sought to draw mileage for this session also. That claim the Treasury Department refused to recognize. The objection was sought to be evaded in several ways. Members finally succeeded in having an appropriation made for the purpose, with a proviso that the act should not be construed as allowing more than two mileage for the Congress.

Mr. Colfax introduced a bill to reduce the rate of mileage of members of Congress fifty per cent. Mr. Aldrich moved to amend the same, providing for the repeal of all acts authorizing the payment of mileage. The bill so amended was further amended, on motion of Mr. Thomas of Massachusetts, to the effect that the provisions of the bill be applied to the present Congress. In this shape it was passed and sent to the Senate.

BANKRUPT LAW.

The select committee to whom this subject was referred reported a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. On motion to postpone its consideration till next December the bill was set aside by a majority of 67 to 50.

IMPEACHMENT OF A JUDGE.

Charges of high crimes and misdemeanors were preferred by resolution against West H. Humphreys, Judge of the District Court of the various districts of Tennessee, to the effect that, while retaining his seat, and claiming to be a Judge under the government of the United States, he acted under the commission of a Judge of the Confederate States, and was very active in confiscating the property of Union men in the State of Tennessee. The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom the subject was referred, reported in favor of impeachment, and a committee of six members of the House was appointed to go before the Senate, and, in the name of the House of Representatives and all the people of the United States, impeach West H. Humphreys of high crimes and misdemeanors. The Senate subsequently found true articles of impeachment against said Humphreys, and a writ, entrusted for service to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, was issued. The Senate resolved itself into a High Court of Impeachment on the 26th of June, and heard the testimony of several witnesses, among others of the famous Parson Brownlow, and on the same day brought in a verdict of guilty and sentenced Judge Humphreys to a deprivation of office, and to be forever hereafter ineligible to hold any place of honor, profit or trust under the United States. The finding was unanimous.

POLYGAMY IN UTAH.

An act was passed providing for the punishment of polygamy in the Territories of the United States, no matter under what sanction of church usage, spiritual sealing, sacrament, "or other contrivance." Utah was an applicant for admission as the State of Deseret, and two gentlemen were present anxious to represent her in the Senate; but they were disappointed.

WEST VIRGINIA.

The Senate refused, by a test vote of 15 yeas to 16 nays, to recognize the State of West Virginia.

A bill has passed the Senate—by 23 to 17—for the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a State, with a provision for the gradual abolition of slavery therein. In the House, July 16, on motion of Mr. Conkling, the bill was postponed till the second Tuesday in December next, by a vote of 63 to 53.

MAIL LINE TO CHINA.

A bill passed into a law providing for the establishment of a line of steam mail ships between San Francisco, Cal., and Shanghae, in China, touching at the Sandwich Islands and Japan, the Postmaster General to contract for a term not exceeding five years, for a sum not exceeding $500,000 per annum, for the transportation of the United States mail monthly—the vessels to be not less than 2,000 tons burthen, and to be equipped as war steamers.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

A bill to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office, and which has passed both houses, provides for the sending back to the signers all the letters sent to the Dead Letter Office. Postage to be charged on all returned letters to meet the increased expense of labor.

POSTAGE DELIVERY IN CITIES.

The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads reported a bill for establishing by law a system for the receipt and delivery of all mail matter in cities and villages containing ten thousand inhabitants according to the European postal system. The bill provides a charge of one cent (prepaid) additional to the regular postage of every letter deposited, &c. The bill passed and is now a law.

REVENUE COLLECTORS.

A joint resolution, passed both houses, requests the Secretary of the Treasury to institute an inquiry and report at next session of Congress what officers, if any, employed in the collection of the revenue may be discontinued without detriment to the public service.

COMPENSATION TO REVENUE OFFICERS.

A passed joint resolution provides for the limitation of compensation to collectors of customs, naval officers and other officers employed in the collection of the customs. Compensation to such officer shall in no case exceed the sum of $10,000 a year, including receipts from commissions, fees, fines, penalties and all other sources whatever.

WITNESSES BEFORE COMMITTEES.

An amended bill on the subject of witnesses before committees of Congress was passed. It provides that the testimony of witnesses before Congressional committees shall not be used as evidence in any criminal prosecution of such witnesses, &c.; and that no one shall refuse to testify to any fact for the reason that his testimony touching such fact may tend to disgrace him, &c.

DUTIES ON TEA, ETC.

A special bill was reported from the Committee on Ways and Means levying a tax of seven millions through increased duties on tea, sugar and coffee, which passed and has become a law.

REPRESENTATION OF SECEDED AND BORDER STATES.

At the opening of the session only two border slave States were in part represented in the Senate, one of them being a seceded State—Virginia, which was represented by Hon. J. S. Carlile, and Kentucky by Hon. Lazarus W. Powell.

In the House three border slave States—Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland—were in part represented at the opening. After the roll call the Hon. Francis Maynard claimed his seat as having been duly elected by the electors of the Second district of Tennessee prior to the passage of the ordinances of secession by his State. Mr. Maynard took the oath and his seat. The Hon. Andrew J. Clemens, from the Fourth district of Tennessee, elected at the same time, took his seat at a later period. From North Carolina, Mr. Chas. H. Foster claimed to be returned as representative from the Hatteras district at an election held under the proclamation of the Provisional Governor of that State. The Committee on Elections, to whom Mr. Foster's claim was referred, reported adversely. Mr. Foster came back a second and a third time, with no better success, and North Carolina was unrepresented throughout the session.

CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATION.

Mr. F. F. Lowe claimed to represent a district of the State of California under the new apportionment of representation. The Committee on Elections reported adversely to his claim, but he was subsequently admitted to his seat.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

The question to expel by formal vote members of Congress in arms, or otherwise in full communion with, or who had in any way given aid and comfort to, the rebels, was early taken up, and in the Senate, the cases of Senator Bright, of Indiana; John C. Breckinridge, Senator from Kentucky, and Senator Stark, of Oregon, gave rise to exciting and protracted debate. J. C. Breckinridge was expelled on the following resolution:—

Whereas, John C. Breckinridge, a member of this body from the state of Kentucky, has joined the enemies of his country and is now in arms against the government he had sworn to support, therefore, resolved, that the said John C. Breckinridge, the traitor, be, and is hereby, expelled from the Senate.

The resolution was adopted without division. Waldo P. Johnson and Trusten Polk, absentee Senators from Missouri, were expelled by resolutions unanimously adopted. Lazarus W. Powell, Senator from Kentucky, who was in his place in the Senate, was charged with disloyalty. A resolution for his expulsion, after debate, was negatived by 28 to 11. The charge of disloyalty against Jesse D. Bright was founded on a letter written by him, of which the following is a copy:—

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR—Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance my friend, Thomas B. Lincoln, of Texas. He comes your capital union to dispel some of what he regards a great misapprehension in this quarter. I recommend him to your favorable consideration, as a gentleman of the first respectability, and reliable in every respect. Very truly yours,

JESSE D. BRIGHT.

To his Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States.

The resolution of the Senate set forth that, as they believed this letter was evidence of Bright's disloyalty, and was calculated to give aid and comfort to the public enemies, therefore, resolved, that said Jesse D. Bright is expelled from his seat in the Senate of the United States. A protracted debate resulted in the adoption of the resolution by a vote of 32 to 14—over two-thirds for expulsion. The announcement of the vote was received with applause in the galleries. The question of the loyalty of Benjamin Stark, Senator from the State of Oregon, also excited lengthy discussion. His right to be sworn as member of the Senate was sustained, and on the Senator's own motion the question of his loyalty was referred to the Judiciary Committee. A resolution of expulsion was introduced in the case of Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, for corrupt conduct in receiving compensation for procuring contracts, and was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

In the House H. C. Burnett, of Kentucky, and John W. Reid, of Missouri, absent members, were formally expelled as traitors in arms against the government of the United States.

In the House the Judiciary Committee was charged with the investigation of allegations of disloyalty against Clement L. Vallandigham, of Ohio, and Benjamin Wood, of New York. In the former case they reported that they found no facts to justify the charge. In the latter Mr. Wood offered a resolution requiring the committee to report. The resolution was objected to, and the subject is still under the consideration of the committee.

In the case of Senator Simmons the committee reported the facts as they appeared in evidence before them, but making no recommendation whatever. In expressing their opinion they say:—

That although Senator Simmons may have thought as he declares, that his act was neither unlawful nor wrong, a declaration which his age, respectability and a long, useful and honorable life, it would seem, should favor, while it is true that these very considerations should make a wilful departure from the correct line of conduct more glaring and censurable, still such a practice is entirely indefensible, and that it was highly improper for a Senator of the United States to have acted thus, even where the government sustained no loss thereby, but especially at a time when the very existence of the government and the Union was endangered by a fierce and huge rebellion, to suppress which the patriotism of the country was everywhere engaged—a rebellion which, first by robbery and afterward by occasioning unlimited requisitions for the purchase of supplies and arms, has subjected the public treasury to untold and fruitful drains.

THE INVASION OF MEXICO.

Mr. Vallandigham, early in the session, submitted a resolution requesting the President to communicate copies of any communications addressed to the Executive of the United States by the governments of England, Spain and France in regard to the armed intervention proposed by them in the affairs of Mexico, &c. The President, in compliance with the resolution, sent the documents asked for, which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The committee have not reported. Subsequently a resolution was adopted requesting the President to furnish copies of correspondence in connection with Mexican affairs since the announcement of the intended withdrawal of the allied forces from that country. Compliance with the resolution was not deemed expedient at the present time.

THE SURRENDER OF THE REBEL COMMISSIONERS.

On the 6th of January the President transmitted to both houses copies of all correspondence which had taken place up to that time between the Secretary of State and the governments of Great Britain and France on the subject of the removal of Mason and Slidell from the British mail steamer Trent. The question was first taken up and discussed in the House, on the motion of Mr. Vallandigham to refer the whole subject to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the Senate, also, important debate followed on the motion to refer to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The whole question was so referred in either house. Other documents, correspondence and despatches upon the subject were, from time to time, transmitted by the President to Congress, all of which were similarly referred. The subject was not again brought up, having been indefinitely postponed.

LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

At the extra session a joint resolution was adopted authorizing the President to take measures for the proper representation of the industrial interests of the United States at the exhibition of the industry of all nations, to be holden in London. A bill was drawn up to carry out the object of the resolution; but when put on its passage in the House it met with great opposition, and it was finally laid on the table without a division. The subject was set aside in the Senate by a majority of 22 to 17.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICANS AT THE TUILERIES.

Mr. Sumner, in the Senate, presented a resolution that the President be requested to furnish to the Senate any recent correspondence on the files of the Department of State relating to the presentation of American citizens at the Court of France.

EX-PRESIDENT PIERCE.

The alleged existence of a treasonable league in the State of Michigan to overthrow the government, and a charge against ex-President Pierce that he was an active abettor and agent of the conspiracy, which appeared in the columns of a country newspaper, the only foundation for either, was made the subject of a resolution and a relative debate in the Senate. Mr. Pierce, in requesting the attention of the Senate to the newspaper paragraph, said that the subject was not new to him, as it had been the occasion of a correspondence between himself and the Secretary of State some time previously. The Secretary of State furnished to the Senate all the correspondence on the subject.

OBJECT OF THE WAR.

The first action taken in the House which called for a vote on the all important subject of the war—a subject which occupied all minds in the Cabinet, in Congress and throughout the country—was on the introduction of the following preamble and resolutions, submitted by Mr. Richman, of Illinois:—

Whereas, the house, on the 22d day of July last, by an almost unanimous vote, adopted the following resolution, submitted to the House by the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky:—

Resolved, That the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the southern states now in revolt against the constitutional government and in arms around the capital; that in this national emergency Congress, banishing all feelings of more partisan or sectional nature, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that the war is not waged on our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the constitution and to preserve the Union, with all dignities, equality and the rights of the several States unimpaired, and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease.

And whereas, since that time no event has occurred to change the policy of the government, therefore,

Resolved, That the principles above expressed are solemnly reaffirmed by the House.

The preamble and resolutions were rejected by a majority of 71 to 65, on the ground principally that it was only a repetition of what had been already solemnly affirmed by Congress. Subsequently a resolution was submitted to the House to the effect that the war shall not be prosecuted for any other purpose than the restoration of the authority of the constitution, and that the welfare of the people is involved in maintaining the present form of government, under the constitution, without modification or change. This resolution was also laid on the table by a vote of 80 to 55.

Various resolutions of a similar character were submitted in the House and Senate, which were disposed of by being referred to committees who never reported.

PEACE CONGRESS.

In the Senate the temper of members was, as in the House, early tested by a vote relative to the prosecution of the war. Mr. Salisbury introduced a resolution proposing a peace conference between the United States and the States which had "assumed to form an independent government"—the following to be appointed commissioners on the part of the United States—Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, Roger B. Taney, Edward Everett, George M. Dallas, Thomas Ewing, Horace Binney, Reverdy Johnson, John J. Crittenden, George E. Pugh and Richard W. Thompson. To these names was added that of James Buchanan, the suggestion of whose name elicited a general laugh from grave Senators. The resolution closed as follows:—

That upon the appointment of commissioners, as hereby invited, by said States, and upon the meeting of the joint commission for the purpose of conference, actual hostilities shall cease and be suspended, and shall not be renewed unless said commission shall be unable to agree, or in case of an agreement by them, said agreement shall be rejected either by Congress or by the aforesaid States.

The Senate marked its sense of the proposition by consigning the resolution to the Secretary's table.

ARRESTS BY GOVERNMENT.

This subject was brought before the Senate by a resolution offered by Mr. Trumbull, calling on the Secretary of State to inform the Senate whether, in the loyal States of the Union, any persons have been arrested and imprisoned, &c., by orders from his department, and under what law arrests have been made and persons imprisoned. The resolution was debated and finally referred to the committee on the Judiciary. Subsequently a resolution, calling on the President to cause proceedings to be instituted in the courts of law against persons arrested by individual authority since the beginning of the rebellion, was adopted. Certain arrests in Kentucky, and the arrest of the Baltimore Police Commissioners, were subjects of debate in connection with the matter. A resolution, amended, requesting the President to furnish such information as he might deem compatible with the public interest concerning the arrest of certain citizens of Kentucky, was agreed to. A memorial to Congress from the Baltimore Police Commissioners, then under arrest, was, after debate, laid on the table by a majority of 108 to 26.

The Judiciary Committee reported and the House passed, a bill requiring the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus to be done by proclamation and directing the secretaries of State and War to furnish to the judicial authorities lists of persons held in confinement as prisoners of State, that they may be tried by regular process of law.

ACTS PASSED

Bills Passed by Congress, and Which Have Become Law by the Signature of the President.

An act to fix a duty on tea, coffee and sugar.

An act to promote the efficiency of the navy.

An act relative to courts martial in the army.

An act to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteer forces.

An act making an appropriation for gunboats on the Western rivers.

An act for promoting the efficiency of the Dead Letter office.

An act in reference to the letters of sailors and marines in the service of the United States.

An act to authorize the President to appoint two additional Secretaries of War.

An act amending the provisions of the second section of the act of January 24, 1857, enforcing the attendance of witnesses before committees of either House of Congress.

An act authorizing the increase of the clerical force in the War and Navy Departments.

An act to provide for the protection of overland emigration to California, New Mexico and Washington Territories.

An act to pay the expenses of the Special Committee of the House of Representatives, appointed to ascertain and report in relevance to the contracts with any department of the government, for provisions, supplies, &c.

An act to authorize the President in certain cases to take possession of railroad and telegraph lines.

An act making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year ending June 30, 1863 and additional appropriations for the year ending June, 1862.

An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the government, or who may have in any manner encouraged the rebels.

An act making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1863.

An act to authorize an additional issue of United States notes.

An act authorizing the detail of a naval officer to the service of the War Department.

An act making appropriations for the purchase of cotton and tobacco seed for general distribution.

An act to authorize the construction of twenty iron-clad steam gunboats.

An act to amend an act to regulate treaty intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace upon the frontiers.

An act to amend an act for completing the defences of Washington, and for other purposes.

An act to prohibit the coolie trade by American citizens in American vessels.

An act making appropriations for the construction, preservation and repairs of certain fortifications and other works of defence, for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1863.

An act making an appropriation to illuminate the public buildings.

An act to authorize a change for the payment of the necessary expenditure in the service of the United States for Indian Affairs.

An act making appropriations for the signal service for the United States Army.

An act making additional appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending 30th June, 1862.

An act to authorize the issue of United States notes and for the resumption of funding thereof, and for funding the floating debt of the United States.

An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the year ending 30th June, 1863 and additional appropriations for the year ending 30th June, 1862.

An act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue certificates of indebtedness to public creditors.

An act fixing the number of the House of Representatives from and after the 3d March, 1863.

An act to provide for the appointment of additional clerks in the office of the Assistant Treasurer, and for other purposes.

An act requiring an oath of allegiance and to support the United States, to be administered to masters of American vessels clearing for foreign or other ports during the present rebellion.

An act to make an additional article of war.

An act for a joint commission for the preservation of the Atlantic fisheries.

An act to amend an act to incorporate the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and to make appropriations for the benefit thereof.

An act to authorize the purchase of coin, and for other purposes.

An act authorizing floats to issue in satisfaction of claims against the United States to lands held by them within the Las Omigas and La Nana grants in the State of Louisiana.

An act to provide for the appointment of sutlers in the volunteer service and to define their duties.

An act to provide for the appointment of clerks in the office of the Assistant Treasurer at Boston, to fix their salaries and provide for the absence of the Assistant Treasurer and for other purposes.

An act to secure to the officers and men actually employed in the Western Department of the Department of Missouri, their pay, bounty and pension. (The provisions of this act have been rendered nugatory by the passage of a later act.)

An act to facilitate judicial proceedings in adjudications upon captured property and for the better administration of the law of prize.

An act in addition to an act to refund and remit the duties on arms imported by States. Approved July, 1861.

An act to prohibit the allowance or payment of pensions to the children of officers and soldiers of the Revolution.

An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the district of Columbia.

An act to reorganize and increase the efficiency of the medical department of the army.

An act to authorize the Postmaster General to establish branch post offices in cities.

An act making additional appropriations for the naval service for the year ending June 30, 1862.

An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1863.

An act to establish a branch mint of the United States at Denver, in the territory of Colorado.

An act relating to highways in the county of Washington and District of Columbia.

An act to amend an act entitled an act to provide internal revenue from imports, to pay interest on the public debt, and for other purposes.

An act to establish a port of entry in the collection district of Beaufort, S. C.

An act to provide for the deficiency in the appropriation for the pay of the two and three years volunteers and the officers and men actually employed in the Western department.

An act to facilitate the discharge of enlisted men for physical debility.

An act to regulate the time for holding the courts of the United States for the district of Kentucky, and for other purposes.

An act to establish a department of agriculture.

An act to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company.

An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on public domain.

An act making appropriations to reimburse the contingent fund of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, including compensation of additional clerks who may be employed according to the exigencies of the public service, and for temporary clerks for the current fiscal year and for the year ending June 30, 1863, and to provide for the employment of additional clerks in the office of the Assistant Treasurer at St. Louis.

An act to provide for the public instruction of youth in primary schools throughout the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, without the limits of the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

An act prescribing the qualifications of electors in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, District of Columbia.

An act to provide for the codification and revision of the laws of the District of Columbia.

An act to authorize the appointment of medical storekeepers and chaplains of hospitals.

An act supplementary to an act approved on the 13th of July, 1861, entitled an act to provide for the collection of duties on imports and for other purposes.

An act to authorize the corporation of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, to lay and collect a water tax and for other purposes.

An act providing for the education of colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

An act to provide for the settlement of the accounts of John A. Smith, clerk of the Circuit Court and Criminal Court of the District of Columbia.

An act to amend an act entitled an act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1863.

An act to reduce the expenses of the survey and sale of the public lands in the United States.

An act for the survey of grants or claims of land.

An act to allow the State of California an additional representative in the Thirty-seventh Congress.

An act abolishing certain collection districts, and reducing compensation of officers of Customs in California.

An act to prevent and punish fraud on the part of officers intrusted with making or contracts for the government.

An act to establish a land office in Colorado Territory and for other purposes.

An act to authorize the President of the United States to appoint diplomatic representatives to the republics of Hayti and Liberia respectively.

An act supplementary to an act granting the right of way to the State of Missouri, and a portion of the public lands to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said State.

An act to incorporate the Mount Olivet Cemetery Company in the District of Columbia.

An act for the collection of direct taxes in insurrectionary districts within the United States, and for other purposes.

An act to fulfil treaty stipulations with Hanover.

An act to protect the property of Indians who have adopted the habits of civilized life.

An act providing for the selection of jurors to serve in the several courts in the District of Columbia.

An act defining additional causes of challenge and prescribing an additional oath for grand and petit jurors in the United States courts.

An act providing that the officers of volunteers shall

[CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.]

SPECIAL NOTICES.

CAUTION.—A NOTE FOR THE SUM OF $4,813 63, dated April 25, 1862, at three months, made payable to our order and by us endorsed, was lost on the 5th inst., enclosed in a letter addressed to Messrs. Richard a Hutton, New York, and placed in the Boston Post