THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Grade of Lieutenant General to be Recreated.

The House, by a Large Majority, Recommend General Grant for That Position.

Virtual Censure of Major General Halleck.

The President Requested by the House to Place General Grant at the Head of All the Armies.

The Vigorous Recruitment of Colored Troops Urged.

The House Whiskey Tax Defeated in the Senate Finance Committee, &c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1864.

SURVIVAL OF THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL—GEN. GRANT RECOMMENDED FOR PROMOTION BY THE HOUSE.

The bill reviving the rank of lieutenant general was finally passed in the House to-day. The amendment recommending the President to appoint Gen. Grant to the position caused some discussion, and was opposed by some republicans, but the vote proved that the members of the House were nearly all Grant men. Mr. Washburne was particularly enthusiastic in his eulogies of General Grant, and declared *that to him we must look to fight out this war successfully and crush the rebellion.* The President will undoubtedly tender the appointment to General Grant, not only as a deserved recognition of his past services, but as the most popular, efficient, practical and successful of the commanders whom the war has developed.

ACTION ON THE ENROLMENT BILL:

The House this afternoon got to work upon the amendments to the Enrolment bill, and went at it in a very business like fashion. It is already evident that there is a large majority in favor of retaining the commutation clause; and what appears singular about it is, that the democrats are now its strongest advocates, while the opposition to it comes from a few of the republican members. The importance of prompt action upon the bill, in view of the call of the President for a draft on the 10th proximo, appears to be recognized by all parties, and as yet no disposition is manifested to make any factious opposition to it.

THE REPORTED REBEL PROPOSITIONS FOR PEACE.

The renewal of the canard to the effect that the rebel authorities are desirous of proposing to our government terms of peace, and will return to their allegiance if the amnesty be extended to them, has created no little amusement to-day in official circles. The latest reliable information from Richmond discredits such a statement; and even were it true there is no reason for believing that the government will depart from its widely promulgated policy not to treat with one rebel upon this subject outside of the rebel army. No proposition for peace can be entertained from any one except a rebel in arms.

THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION WANTED IN LEE'S ARMY.

Rebel deserters state that were the President's amnesty proclamation allowed to reach Lee's army a great proportion of the troops would throw down their arms and enter our lines. It is known that the rebel officers station guards to watch their own pickets in order to prevent desertion, and in one instance a small guard thus stationed came over in a body to our pickets. Arrangements are being made for introducing printed copies of the proclamation to the rebels through their lines.

THE HOUSE WHISKEY TAX STRUCK OUT.

The Senate Finance Committee has struck out the House tax on whiskey on hand.

THE PURSUIT OF HOSTILE INDIANS INTO THE HUDSON BAY TERRITORY.

A message from the President was transmitted to the Senate to-day, enclosing the correspondence relative to the request that permission be given our military authorities to pursue the Sioux Indians in the Hudson Bay territory. In a note to Lord Lyons, dated the 21st ult., Secretary Seward says that those Indians should either be restrained from making hostile incursions into United States territory, or United States troops should be allowed to pursue, subdue and disperse them. A report from General Pope to the War Department is included in the papers, which shows that the English government has no force in the Red river region to control these Indians, and that the Hudson Bay Company will give large quantities of provisions for their subsistence if they will return to the United States. Lord Lyons, in a note of January 22, says he has referred the matter to his government, by which, he says, it will not fail to be immediately taken into consideration.

THE CASE OF SENATOR HALE.

Senator Trumbull's report from the Judiciary Committee of the facts connected with the release of James M. Hunt from the Old Capitol prison, and the connection of Senator Hale therewith, declares that the employment of the latter was purely professional, and that he violated no law in accepting a fee for the defence of Hunt before any court, civil or military, or even for endeavoring to procure his discharge from prison. It is held in the report improper to accept compensation for the prosecution of claims, or for obtaining contracts or offices, or for transacting business in the several departments of the government, but not for accepting fees for services in judicial bodies.

CAUCUS OF REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN.

A caucus of the republican members of Congress is to be held in the hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday night. It is understood that this meeting is intended to accommodate, if possible, some existing differences in the ranks, and to agree upon the policy to be pursued in reference to subsequent legislation. This caucus is the beginning of the manœuvres looking to the republican Presidential nomination.

THE GUNBOAT EUTAW ORDERED ON SERVICE.

The United States steamer Eutaw leaves this week for the blockading fleet off Wilmington.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The anniversary of the Christian Commission will be celebrated to-morrow evening in the hall of the House of Representatives. Vice President Hamlin will preside, and Speaker Colfax and other distinguished speakers will address the meeting.

STAFF APPOINTMENT.

Major C. H. Raymond has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of General Augur, and assigned to duty at the headquarters of the department.

PORK DECLARED DUTY FREE AT STOCKHOLM.

Information has been received at the State Department that in an official publication of the Custom House rates at Stockholm pork has been declared duty free, the act making pork dutiable having been vetoed by the King on the 29th of December last.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL LIEUTENANT.

Lieutenant Semmes, of Stuart's cavalry, and cousin of the pirate Semmes, was captured yesterday in Maryland, near Fort Washington.

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW GUNBOAT WATEREE.

The new iron gunboat Wateree, built at Chester, Pa., arrived at the Navy Yard this morning. She is now receiving her crew and coal, and will leave immediately for active service.

A BLOCKADE RUNNER SENT TO PRISON.

A blockade runner, who has made a fortune in journeying between Baltimore and Richmond since the war, was consigned to the Old Capitol to-day.

FATAL RAILROAD CASUALTY.

On last Saturday afternoon as a company of Soldiers were on their way from Washington to Alexandria on top of the freight cars, when near the spot where the Georgetown Canal crosses the track, Sergeant James Hamilton, of St. Lawrence county, New York, got on top to tell the men to lay close to the cars, and while telling them was himself struck and instantly killed. A soldier was also struck, but it is thought he will recover.

EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS OF COLORED REGIMENTS.

General Casey's Board has examined during the past week sixty-two applicants, twenty-seven of whom were passed, including one lieutenant colonel, five captains and twenty-one lieutenants. The colored regiments are suffering from the lack of efficient officers, and the utmost expedition is required of the Board to supply the deficiency.

OUR TRADE WITH CANADA.

From statistics sent to Congress to-day by Secretary Chase it appears that our imports from Canada have decreased very materially during the past two years. Our exports to that province amount to about nineteen millions per annum.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1864.

RESIGNATION OF MR. BAYARD.

The VICE PRESIDENT presented a letter from Mr. Bayard, resigning his seat in the Senate.

MR. DAVIS' EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. DAVIS, (opp.) of Ky., rose to a privileged question. He explained at length the action he had taken in regard to the expulsion of Bright and his colleague, Powell. He thought that Mr. Morrill had departed from his usual courtesy and magnanimity in introducing these subjects in the manner he did. In his (Mr. Davis') resolution to expel Bright he admitted that a Senator could not be expelled for his words or opinions, but for his acts. His resolution for the expulsion of Bright was based upon the fact that Bright had written a letter to Jefferson Davis, as President of the Southern confederacy, recommending to him a person who had an improved weapon, to be used against the lawful government of the United States, and also because Bright had uniformly voted against all measures to carry on the war. As to the Confiscation bill introduced by him, which was referred to by Mr. Morrill, it was a substitute for a bill entirely prospective in its character. His bill proposed an adjudication in the courts of the country, and intended to forfeit the estates of traitors only during the lifetime of the offender. Mr. Davis said that in his remarks on the bill he had unintentionally done his colleague (Mr. Powell) injustice. He was satisfied they were only at variance as to the proper mode of meeting the movements of the rebels. He held that the people had an indisputable right to organize their own governments; but if they refuse to do so it became a matter of necessity and principle, as decided by Chief Justice Marshall, for the United States to establish a civil government for them.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. FOOT, (rep.) of Vt., introduced joint resolutions of the Vermont Legislature in favor of the construction of a ship canal from the Mississippi river to the Eastern seaboard.

Also joint resolutions of the same to secure equal pay to all soldiers now in the United States service.

Also joint resolutions of the same to secure transmission of soldiers' packages through the mails on the same terms as other matter.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM DELAWARE.

Mr. SAULSBURY, (opp.) of Del., presented the credentials of Mr. George Read Riddle, Senator elect from Delaware, in place of Mr. Bayard, resigned.

THE PURSUIT OF INDIANS INTO THE HUDSON BAY TERRITORY.

A message was received from the President transmitting the report of the Secretary of State, in answer to the resolution of the Senate, respecting the correspondence with the authorities of Great Britain with reference to the pursuit of hostile bands of Sioux Indians into the Hudson Bay Territory.

EXAMINATION OF QUARTERMASTERS, COMMISSARIES AND PAYMASTERS.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill to provide for the examination of quartermasters and their assistants, commissaries and their assistants, and paymasters and assistant paymasters. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE DEFENCES OF BALTIMORE.

Mr. JOHNSON, (opp.) of Md., presented a report in defence of the committee from Baltimore, praying for reimbursement of expenses for intrenchments around said city. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

INVESTIGATIONS AS TO DEPARTMENT AFFAIRS.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, (rep.) of Wis., called up his resolution, presented a few days ago, requesting the departments—the conduct of whose affairs was a subject of investigation—to detail a person from the department to appear before the committee of the Senate to confront witnesses and to cross examine them. Mr. Doolittle said this would not only be a matter of convenience to the committee, but an act of justice to the head of a department. We were bound to presume that the head of a department is as much interested in ferreting out abuses as a committee of the Senate.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., thought this a very singular resolution. Heretofore the departments had always been ready to communicate any information or send their officers before the Senate. There was no difficulty now in obtaining either persons or papers.

Mr. DOOLITTLE was moved to the action mainly from the fact that he had been appointed to act upon one of the committees of investigation. He was associated in a committee with the Senator from New Hampshire, who had declared that the liberties of the country were in as great danger from the army of plunderers which beset the treasury as from the rebels. He thought it only just to the head of the Treasury Department that some person should be present at the investigation to explain the matters inquired into.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, approved of Mr. Doolittle's resolution. It was necessary to get at the facts and discover whether or not some method can be devised to secure honesty in the naval contract system. The Navy Department was peculiarly constructed. It took a man at least a year to understand its organization. The proposition was simply that the department should detail one of its officers to meet the Committee of Investigation in reference to the matters to come before it. It was eminently proper that this should be done, because it was not to be supposed that the members composing the committee were as conversant with the details of the Naval Bureau as those who had been long connected with the department. Witnesses before the committee might, in a truthful statement, convey an erroneous impression unless questioned by experts. Mr. Grimes proceeded at length to defend the present Naval Bureau, and read a letter from Donald McKay in reference to the comparative merits of the vessels of our navy and those of foreign navies. Mr. McKay, in his letter, styles Dickerson an enthusiast, a monomaniac, without any established reputation as an engineer or naval constructor. Mr. Grimes attributed our failure to capture the Alabama and other piratical vessels more to the interference of neutral Powers than to any lack of speed in our cruisers, and cited several instances on this head. If it was the purpose of the committee to ascertain facts, and not to overhaul everybody, then, let some one representing the department in question be present before the committee to interrogate the witnesses. The Senate did not sit here so much to discover rogues as for the purpose of legislation against rogues. Their discovery was merely incidental.

THE DEATH OF MR. NOEL.

Resolutions were received from the House announcing the death of John W. Noel, ex-member of the House from Missouri. Messrs. Brown, Henderson and Sumner delivered appropriate eulogies on the life and character of the deceased.

After the usual resolutions of condolence and sympathy, as a mark of respect the Senate adjourned until tomorrow.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1864.

Mr. Wallace, delegate from Idaho Territory, was sworn, and took his seat.

PRINTING GENERAL M'CLELLAN'S REPORT.

Mr. J. C. ALLEN, (opp.) of Ill., offered a resolution providing for the printing of fifty thousand additional copies of McClellan's report. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

MONEY COMMUTATION FOR SHORT RATIONS.

Mr. ARNOLD, (rep.) of N. H., introduced a joint resolution, which was referred, providing that where soldiers are placed on short rations there shall be given to them for the deficiency a commutation in money.

THE CONFISCATION ACT.

On motion of Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., the Committee on Judiciary were instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of so amending the Confiscation act as to make it the duty of district attorneys to take steps for forfeiting the property of traitors on complaint, under oath, of any citizen who shall state the cause for such proceedings.

INCREASE OF INVALID PENSIONS.

On motion of Mr. ROSS, (opp.) of Ill., it was resolved that the Committee of Invalid Pensions inquire into the expediency of increasing invalid pensions as due, owing to the increased expenses of living.

PAY FOR NON-MUSTERED IN SOLDIERS.

On motion of Mr. MORRISON, (opp.) of Ill., the Committee on Military Affairs was instructed to inquire into the expediency of giving the same pay and allowances to those who have rendered military service, but who were not regularly mustered into the army.

ENROLMENTS BY STATES.

On motion of Mr. ARNOLD, the Committee on Military Affairs was instructed to inquire what legislation is required to enable enrolments to be made under the direction of governors of States, and report by bill or otherwise.

PROTECTION TO OVERLAND EMIGRANTS.

Mr. BOYD, (rep.) of Mo., introduced a bill to aid in the protection of emigrants to the Territories. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE SHELBY REBEL RAID.

On motion of Mr. KNOX, (opp.) of Mo., a call was made on the Secretary of War for the report of General Brown's operations as to the Shelby rebel raid in Missouri in October last.

THE OPERATION OF THE TRADE REGULATIONS.

Mr. BLAIR, (rep.) of Mo., offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a special committee of five members to inquire into and report the operation and results of the regulations for commercial intercourse with the States decreed to be in insurrection against the authorities of the United States; whether the said Treasury regulations are carried out, and to examine particularly and report the manner in which the act of Congress is executed; whether frauds have been practised by officers or agents; and whether any favoritism has been shown; and inquire, further, whether the effect of said Treasury regulations is to prevent supplies reaching the rebels; and to facilitate this object the committee have power to send for persons and papers. The House refused to second the demand for the previous question—60 against 64.

A debate arising, the resolution lies over.

A WESTERN NATIONAL ARMORY.

On motion of Mr. KELLOGG, (rep.) of Mich., a select committee was ordered to be appointed on the subject of a national armory west of the Alleghany mountains.

PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE DRAFT.

Mr. EIDRIDGE, (opp.) of Wis., introduced a preamble setting forth that a conscription or other forced service is contrary to the principle of self-government on which our institutions rest; that thus far drafting has proved inadequate to the military service; that the principle of equality and justice requires that the burdens of the government shall fall equally, as far as possible, on all, so as to reach the rich as well as the poor; therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs examine and inquire as to the propriety and expediency of repealing or suspending any further draft, and of offering sufficient pay and bounties to secure the requisite number of volunteers to put down the rebellion and restore the supremacy of the constitution.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., the resolution was laid on the table—ayes 84, noes 42.

RECRUITMENT OF COLORED SOLDIERS.

Mr. GRINNELL, (rep.) of Iowa, offered the following:—

Whereas, the war policy of the government has brought into the service as soldiers and laborers colored men and persons claiming to be held by the rebels, who have rendered invaluable service to the army; and whereas, the further employment of colored troops would relieve the demands for Northern labor and prevent weakness of that section from being taken from their homes and industrial pursuits; therefore

Resolved, That a more vigorous policy in order to secure a larger number of persons of African descent in the army would meet the approbation of this House.

The resolution was agreed to by a vote of eighty yeas against forty six nays, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Ames, Arnold, Ashley, Baldwin of Mass., Baxter, Beaman, Blaine, Blair of Mo., Blair of West Va., Blow, Boutwell, Boyd, Brandegee, Broomall, Brown of West Va., Ambrose W. Clark, Freeman Clarke, Cobb, Cole, Creswell, Davis of Md., Davis of N. Y., Dawes, Deming, Driggs, Eliot, Farnsworth, Fenton, Garfield, Grinnell, Higby, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of Conn., Hulburd, Julian, Kelley, Kellogg of Mich., Kellogg of N. J., Longyear, Marvin, McClurg, McIndoe, Miller of N. Y., Moorhead, Morrill, Morris of N. Y., Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, Norton, O'Neill of Pa., Orth, Patterson, Perham, Pomeroy, Price, Rice of Mass., Rice of Me., Rollins of N. H., Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Smith, Spaulding, Stevens, Thayer, Thomas, Upson, Van Valkenburgh, Washburne of Ill., Washburn of Mass., Webster, Whaley, Williams, Wilson, Windom, Woodbridge.

NAYS—Messrs. J. C. Allen, William J. Allen, Ancona, Clay, Craven, Dawson, Dennison, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, Finck, Grider, Hall, Harding, Harrington, Harris of Md., Holman, Kernan, King, Knapp, Law, Lazear, Long, Marcy, McAllister, McKenney, Miller of Pa., Morrison, Noble, O'Neill of Ohio, Pendleton, Perry, Pruyn, Randall of Pa., Robinson, Rogers, Ross, Scott, Steele of N. Y., Stiles, Strouse, Stuart, Sweat, Wadsworth, Chilton, N. White, Yeaman.

THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL—GENERAL GRANT RECOMMENDED FOR PROMOTION.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill reviving the grade of lieutenant general.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, said there was nothing to be done by a lieutenant general which the general in-chief himself could not do. The President had a full range of all the generals, and could select any one of them to act in the latter capacity. So the bill did not give him more power than he now had. Better wait until the war was over, and then see what general towered above all the others, and to him give a brevet as a crown of merit. The scale was now sliding. The general elevated to-day may be down to morrow. They all knew what general would probably be appointed under this bill—a man who towered above others at this time, and justly so. But he would ask the House, in view of our necessities, whether it would be proper to recall him and make him a bureau officer in Washington. Would it not be an act of the greatest danger to call him to this city for service?

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., replied, while it was true that some of the generals elevated to-day may be down to morrow, it was not true of the General for whom this honor was intended. His star had been constantly rising. He became greater day by day, and by his masterly ability he stands a head and shoulders above all the other generals in the army. He had been tried long enough to go down to posterity with the most brilliant military honors, and has done enough to entitle him to the prize. It did not necessarily follow that General Grant shall be selected. He would be brought to Washington to transact his business. He expected that General Grant would still command the army, and would hasten to points where his skill and voice required his presence.

Mr. SPAULDING, (rep.) of Ohio, inquired whether the bill contemplated that the Lieutenant General should actually take command and replace the General-in-Chief? If so, he would vote for it.

Mr. FARNSWORTH replied that the bill provided that the Lieutenant General shall command the armies of the United States.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, announced his intention to vote for the bill. He desired to be understood as not wishing to instruct the President, for on the latter should rest the responsibility of making the selection. If the President eighteen months ago had been authorized to confer this brevet rank of lieutenant general it might have been conferred upon McClellan, or subsequently upon Meade, or upon Rosecrans, and now it may lie upon Grant, so variable are the fortunes of war. He (Mr. Schenck) was unwilling to enter into any discussion concerning the merits of any of the generals. He repeated that he should vote for the bill simply on the ground that it might be considered better for the organization of the army that such a grade should exist.

Mr. STEVENS could not see the necessity for the passage of the bill, as the President now has the power to appoint from among the generals a general-in-chief of the army. If the present General-in-Chief is not satisfactory, the President has full power to appoint another. There was, he repeated, no necessity for the bill, unless it was to censure the President for not making such change. This bill proposed that the selecting of a lieutenant general should not be made from a lower grade than a major general. But if soldiers of a lower grade were better qualified, an opportunity should be allowed to select from them—in other words, the most able and meritorious, with no regard to rank. Reputation depended upon the success of a general. The House should wait awhile before passing a bill of this character.

Mr. BOYD, (rep.) of Mo., favored the appointment of a lieutenant general, if it would have the effect of superseding General Halleck as General-in-Chief.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., said the bill pending pointed so distinctly to a distinguished General that no one could misunderstand it. He could not see the reason for reviving the grade of lieutenant general. What would have been the position of affairs in the present rebellion had it not been for the services of Gen. Grant—a man who could not be surpassed in history in the brilliancy of his achievements in the field? Two years ago a tide of calumny and detraction swept over this great General, and when he (Mr. Washburne) arose to defend him, he believed he had not the sympathy of a single man here. He would appeal to the past as well as the present history of the country to say whether every prediction he then made as to General Grant had not been fully verified. Mr. Washburne briefly reviewed General Grant's career from Belmont to Lookout Mountain, claiming that he had captured more prisoners than any man in modern times, and more guns from the enemy, and had done that which had entitled him to the gratitude of all hearts in the West by reopening the great channel of the Mississippi river. Grant has led your armies on to victory. He has inspired his soldiers with those great principles and abilities and enthusiasm which belong to him. He would never leave the field, but would ever be where his presence was most needed, and where duty called.

Mr. HUBBARD, (rep.) of Conn., said—As the war was not ended other battles would be fought. Some gentlemen here doubted the expediency of passing the bill at the present time. All the generals should have an opportunity to compete for the great prize.

Mr. WASHBURNE would tell his friend that the war would never be ended until we had a fighting general to lead our armies. "That's what's the matter." (Laughter, and voices of "You're right.")

Mr. BOUTWELL, (rep.) of Mass., was opposed to the bill, not because he was opposed to General Grant being honored, but because the war was not yet ended, and such an appointment might create sectional divisions in the army. He desired the selection to be postponed till the termination of hostilities.

Mr. GARFIELD moved that the bill and amendments be laid on the table.

Disagreed to—19 against 112.

Mr. ROSS, (opp.) of Ill., offered an amendment respectfully recommending Major General Grant for the position of lieutenant general.

This was agreed to—yeas 111, nays 17—as follows:—

NAYS—Messrs. Ashley, Broomall, Bailey, Clay, Davis of Md., Driggs, Garfield, Grider, Hall, Higby, Hotchkiss, Hubbard, Julian, Longyear, Shannon, Upson and Williams.

The bill was then passed—96 against 41.

The bill provides that the grade of lieutenant general be revived in the army of the United States, and authorizes the President, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a commander of the army, to be selected during the war from among those officers in the military service of the United States, not below the grade of major general, most distinguished for courage, skill and ability, and who, being commissioned as lieutenant general, shall be authorized, under the direction of the President, to command the armies of the United States. The lieutenant general appointed in the manner provided shall be entitled to the pay, allowances and staff specified in the fifth section of the act approved May 28, 1798, and also the allowances prescribed in the sixth section of the act approved August 23, 1842, granting additional rations to certain officers; provided that nothing in this bill contained shall be construed in any way to affect the rank, pay or allowances of Winfield Scott, Lieutenant General by brevet, now on the retired list of the army. And Congress respectfully recommend Major General Grant to the position of lieutenant general under this bill.

THE ENROLMENT BILL.

The House went into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Dawes in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the special order, being the Senate bill, as reported from the House Military Committee, with amendments amendatory of the Enrolment act.

But little progress was made.

An amendment confining the term of enlistment to eighteen months was rejected.

The Committee rose, and the House at half past four adjourned.

United States Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1864.

Greene C. Bronson et al. vs. The Lacrosse and Milwaukee Railroad Company.—This case is being argued in the Supreme Court to-day.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Hibernia at Halifax.

TWO DAYS LATER NEWS.

The Old World Apparently on the Brink of War.

Denmark Rejects the Ultimatum of Austria and Prussia Relative to Schleswig-Holstein.

Retirement of the Austrian and Prussian Ministers from Copenhagen.

THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION DIVIDED.

MANIFESTO FROM GARIBALDI TO ITALY.

Extraordinary Success of the French Loan.

Eight Hundred Millions of Dollars Offered on a Call for Sixty Millions.

The "Mexican Government" Paying the French Army Since Jan. 1.

Maximilian to be Received with Royal Honors in Paris.

The Steamship Louisiana, for New York, Disabled at Cork.

Seven Passengers and Ten of Her Crew Swept Overboard, &c., &c., &c.

HALIFAX, Feb. 1, 1864.

The steamship Hibernia, from Galway 19th ult., has arrived here, *en route* to New York.

Her news is two days later, and important.

The Hibernia makes the following report:—Had westerly gales and constant head winds; was four days in the ice off Newfoundland. "Could not stop to make a call."

The Hibernia has three hundred and four passengers, and will take in coal and proceed to New York at six o'clock this evening.

The steamship Louisiana, from Liverpool bound to New York, put back to Queenstown on the 18th ult., disabled. Her decks were swept, and seven of her passengers and ten of the crew were washed overboard.

The Duke of Cleveland died at Roby Castle on January 18, between three and four o'clock P. M. His Grace had been seriously ill since Friday.

The failure is announced of the house of F. Nall, silk broker, of Old Broad street, with liabilities of about £80,000, a considerable portion of which, however, is secured. The unsecured creditors will, it is stated, get no dividend.

This stoppage has also caused that of the respectable firm of Wm. Chappell & Sons, of Coventry, whose liabilities reach about £40,000. In this case, however, it is thought the unsecured creditors will obtain a dividend of seven or eight shillings in the pound.

The London *News* says it will probably be proposed early in the session to appoint a government commission to consider the question of railways in the metropolis.

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

Europe on the Brink of War—Denmark Rejects the Austro-Prussian Ultimatum—Military Preparations in Austria and Prussia—Reported Retirement of the Austrian and Prussian Ministers from Copenhagen, &c., &c.

Denmark has rejected the Austro-Prussian ultimatum.

The Austrian and Prussian Ambassadors are reported to have quitted Copenhagen.

On the 18th ult. the Emperor of Austria reviewed twenty thousand troops, to march immediately for Schleswig.

Prussian military preparations were progressing vigorously.

The London *Post* of January 19 says the Austrian and Prussian representatives will doubtless quit Copenhagen, and war may be formally declared; but it is still possible that active hostilities may not instantly follow. Neither Austria nor Prussia can possibly wish for a serious war with Denmark, and we suspect that their present policy, however dangerous, is pursued from a sole desire, in consequence of their defeat in the Diet, to become, so far as regards the other Powers, masters of the present situation.

The allied Powers of Prussia and Austria on one side, and Denmark on the other, would be the belligerent parties, and the German Confederation—that is to say the minor German Powers—would no longer have a right to interfere. In the pending dispute Austria and Prussia would be the sole arbiters of the conditions on which they would be willing to conclude peace.

A Denmark telegram to the London *Herald* says:—

FLENSBURG, Jan. 18—Night.

The Envoys of Prussia and Austria have presented an ultimatum calling on the Danish government to withdraw the November constitution.

The Danish government have rejected the demand.

The Envoys left Copenhagen at two o'clock this afternoon in a private steamer.

The Latest News.

LONDON, Jan. 19, 1864.

The address of the Danish Rigsrad to the King of Denmark, says that they have seen, with sincere satisfaction, his determination to maintain the liberty and independence of Denmark—a task fraught with difficulties and bloody sacrifices, but which will most willingly be borne by the people.

It is believed that the Danish government has rejected the ultimatum of Prussia and Austria.

The Finance Committee of the Austrian Reichsrath have declared that it is the wish of the Austrian government to prevent a European war and localize hostilities.

France.

The French Chambers continued to debate the address to the Emperor Napoleon.

It is stated that the amendment in regard to Mexico will be met by a ministerial statement that since the 1st of January all the expenses of the French troops have been borne by the Mexican government.

The Archduke Maximilian will visit Paris as the guest of the Emperor, and will be received with appropriate honors.

Italy.

Garibaldi has issued a proclamation announcing the formation of a committee to promote the Italian Union, and inviting all Italians to rally around it.

Spain.

A new Spanish ministry has been formed, with Lorenzo Arrozaga as President.

Commercial Intelligence.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

The opening prices at the London Stock Exchange January 19 were:—Consols for money, 90⅝ a 90¾; for account, 90⅝ a 91, and for new threes, 90⅝ a 90¾.

ONE O'CLOCK P. M.

Consols for money 90⅝ a 90¾; for account, 90⅝ a 90¾; for new threes, 90⅝ a 90¾.

LONDON, Jan. 19—Evening.

Consols closed at noon at 90 9-16 a 90 13-16 for money. The railway share market is weak. The rebel loan is quoted at 42 a 44.

[From the London Times (city article), Jan. 19.]

The summary notification sent to Denmark by Austria and Prussia for the withdrawal of the obnoxious constitution, on pain of an immediate occupation of Schleswig, produced further depression in all the markets yesterday, which was aggravated by the increasing intensity of the drain of gold from the Bank of France, and the probability that its action on this side may induce an early return of the rate of discount to eight per cent. The general discount demand was active, but at the Bank it was not especially heavy. In foreign securities there was again extreme heaviness, and Greek bonds experienced a further fall of about 1¾ per cent. About £85,000 was taken from the Bank of England for France, and 48,000 sovereigns for Alexandria. About £20,000 held in private hands was also transmitted to Paris.

THE NEW FRENCH LOAN.

[From the London Daily News (city article), Jan. 19.]

The Paris advices state that the applications for the new French government loan of £12,000,000, the lists of which were opened yesterday, are expected to reach an astounding total. According to the belief of some *an aggregate of £160,000,000 sterling will be attained, being more than thirteen times the amount of stock offered.*

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 19, 1864.

COTTON.—The sales on Monday and Tuesday were only 2,000 bales. The market closes very dull.

BREADSTUFFS open firmer under the warlike aspect. Wheat is 1d. a 2d. higher.

PROVISIONS generally are steady.

LARD is firmer.

Musical.

THE ITALIAN OPERA.

The weather was wretched last night, on the occasion of the inauguration of Mr. Maretzek's grand operatic season, but, nevertheless, a very large and very fashionable audience filled our Academy of Music. Owing to the indisposition of Signor Biachi there was a change in the programme, Il Trovatore being substituted for Ione. That the audience were not annoyed at this was evinced by their hearty applause of Verdi's *chef-d'œuvre*, admirably sung by Maretzek's artists. The Trovatore will ever be a favorite opera—that is, unless the dreary "music of the future" should become appreciated by the public, in which case the melodies that abound throughout the Trovatore would sound as much out of place as jig tunes in church. We shall have passed away ere that period, we fondly hope, as we can conceive of no greater punishment than listening to the music we have above mentioned, Chinese tam-tams being quite cheerful in comparison.

To return to our artists, we will state that one and all were in admirable voice, and that they sang Verdi's beautiful opera in the superior manner we are accustomed to at their hands—no, throats. As they made their appearance they were loudly welcomed by the audience. We noticed that there was more than usual warmth in the applause last evening. The public is doubtless rejoiced at the opportunity of enjoying for a month Opera well sung and well put upon the stage. Il Trovatore is too familiar to the *habitues* of the Academy for us to do more than notice that the performance as a whole was a great success.

On Wednesday evening Mozart's Don Giovanni will be given, and on Thursday evening Gounod's most successful opera, Faust.

It is now well known by the public that Signor Brignoli has been engaged by Mr. Maretzek, and that we shall have the pleasure of hearing him sing in opera as soon as he recovers from the indisposition he is laboring under. There is, of course, no rivalry intended between Brignoli and Mazzoleni. These artists are different in style, and will not appear in the same operas; still both have hosts of friends, and these, in their desire to patronize their favorites, may get up a sensation. In that case the season will be all the more spirited. We shall then have the war of the roses at the Opera House—York and Lancaster in Irving place.

It was doubtlessly gratifying to those who were present at the Academy of Music last evening to witness the array of fine *toilettes*—evidences of the fashionable patronage which awaits this operatic season. We have been cavilled at in no measured terms by some "would be critics and can't be gentlemen" because we have insisted upon the fact that fashion is necessary to opera. We repeat the assertion, and wish that the vandals who think otherwise might ever get their plum puddings without plums, their punch without sugar; in short, that their comforts and enjoyments may be incomplete until they learn to appreciate that music, however fine, is all the more enjoyable when heard under advantageous circumstances. Even the finest masterpiece of painting requires a frame. The richest jewel may be enhanced by its setting.

Amusements.

WALLACK'S.

The entire receipts at this theatre this evening are to be handed over to the Sanitary Fair. The receipts ought to be very large, and the example of Manager Wallack ought to be followed by every other theatrical manager in town. Rosedale, the capital and successful adaptation of Lady Lee's Widowhood, will be the play of the evening. All of the best artists will appear, and Mr. Lester Wallack will sing a comic song.

BROADWAY CIRCUS.

This establishment, on Broadway, near Broome street, is, we are glad to say, very successful. It is much more pleasant to assist at circus performances in a handsome, comfortable, well lighted theatre than in a damp and dreary tent, and the public seem to fully appreciate this improvement.

Last evening a fine troope of twelve gymnasts, calling themselves the Bedouin Arabs, was added to the already numerous attractions of this circus. Besides this, all the riders did their most daring and graceful feats; and Madame Tournaire showed how ladies ought to ride—and don't—in the blessed Park; and the clowns tried their utmost to be witty and so, although the night verified Longfellow's highly original observation that "into each life some rain must fall," the large number of spectators present enjoyed themselves capitally.

We have a word or two of advice to the clowns of this circus, however. Mr. Reynolds, the second clown, is very acceptable; but Mr. Joe Pentland, the first clown, is very often forgetful of the modesty which should always accompany true humor. We are the more surprised and annoyed at this because Mr. Pentland is an old hand in the ring and has quite a considerable reputation. He ought to be old enough to know, therefore, that metropolitan ladies and gentlemen are not willing to submit to any more grossness from a clown in a circus than from an actor on the stage. With this exception, which we hope will be speedily corrected, Mr. Lent's circus is every way worthy of patronage. O, that the grand, the noble, the sublime, the celestial, the unequalled art of hissing were not lost in this city, and then no such exceptions would ever have to be noticed by the critics!

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.

Perham is exhibiting a pictorial history of the war, at No. 585 Broadway. Mr. Perham has also a gift enterprise for the benefit of wounded soldiers.

The Case of John W. Andrews.

THE PRISONER REMANDED TO FORT LAFAYETTE—THE REASON WHY THE EXAMINATION BEFORE COMMISSIONER OSBORN DID NOT COME OFF, ETC.

Considerable interest is manifested in the case of John W. Andrews, the Virginian who figured so prominently in the July riots, and who was to have been examined yesterday before Commissioner Osborn. In consequence of a misunderstanding between the United States District Attorney and Mr. Osborn, the investigation was postponed, and the prisoner was remanded back to Fort Lafayette for future action.

Commissioner Osborn, it is understood, issued his warrant for the accused to appear before him at one o'clock yesterday, to answer a complaint for treason. General Dix having assented to the prisoner's removal, Marshal Murray was notified of the affair, and detailed officer Smith to bring the prisoner to this city. Meanwhile United States District Attorney Smith, having got wind of the proceedings, went to General Dix and protested against the proceedings, on the ground that the proper place to investigate the matter was the Grand Jury room. He regarded the proceedings before a Commissioner as embarrassing to the prosecution, and, in a peculiar case like this, such embarrassments would not be encountered in a Grand Jury room, while at the same time the latter mode of action was equally just to the accused.

General Dix expressed a desire to let the United States District Attorney try the case in his own way, and accordingly ordered Andrews to be remanded back to Fort Lafayette.

Commissioner Osborn, not wishing to come in conflict with the military authorities—especially as he had not the co-operation of the District Attorney—offered no objection to the proceedings, and so the matter ends for the present.

The Husted Habeas Corpus Case Again.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Judge Barnard.

FEB. 1.—The Husted habeas corpus case, which was to have come up again this morning, was postponed, in consequence of the absence of one of the counsel for Mrs. Husted.

In opposing any further adjournment, the counsel for Mr. Husted referred to certain statements which had found their way into the newspapers, and were calculated to injure his client. There was nothing in the testimony going to show that Mr. Husted was a man of bad character, as was represented by the counsel for Mrs. Husted, and they were anxious that the matter should be brought to a speedy trial, and were willing to submit it upon the evidence already on file in the court.

Judge Barnard decided to put the case off for a day, and said the matter must be disposed of on Tuesday, to which time the hearing was adjourned.

GENERAL KELLEY'S DEPARTMENT.

Advance of the Enemy in Western Virginia.

Occupation of Burlington by the Rebels.

Fight and Defeat of the Rebels in New Creek Valley, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. T. C. Wilson's Despatches.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN VIRGINIA, Feb. 1, 1864.