WASHINGTON.

The Political Gossip at the National Capital.

Preparations and Movements Looking Towards the Reorganization of Parties.

Combinations for the Formation of a Grand Conservative Party.

An Effort to Form a Cabinet for Old Abe in This Interest.

THE SIDE ISSUES IN THE CONTEST.

Gossip and Rumors in Reference to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Powell's Great Painting of Perry's Victory on Lake Erie,

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1865.

A RAM SOLD BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO THE REBELS.

Official information has been received from Mr. Dudley, our Consul at London, to the effect that a telegram from Nantes, France, states that the Bordean ram has been sold by the Danish government to the rebels, at the Island of Houat, and that she will sail immediately. He also states that some fifty sailors were shipped from there some days previous, and went to France, no doubt for this vessel. He says he is disposed to believe the report true, as everything in England tends to confirm it.

HEAVY INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

The receipts for internal revenue for the last three days amount to nearly four millions of dollars.

ARMY POSTAL MONEY ORDER OFFICE.

A money order office has just been established by the Post office department at City Point for the benefit of the army.

APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

Brigadier General Grierson, the great raider, who is now in Washington, was yesterday promoted by the President, at the request of Lieutenant General Grant, to be major general by brevet, and to-day the Senate confirmed this nomination.

The following were also confirmed:—

Jonathan Russell Bullock, to be justice of the district court of Rhode Island.

Commander Bissell, to be captain, and Captain Pelfridge a commodore in the navy.

Benjamin Moran, of Pennsylvania, to be secretary, and Dennis E. Alvord, of New York, to be assistant secretary of the Legation at London.

Jeremiah Curtin, of Wisconsin, secretary of the Legation at St. Petersburg.

J. Sewell Stewart, assessor of internal revenue for the Seventeenth district of Pennsylvania.

SOLICITORS' FEES PAID BY THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The amount paid by the Navy Department for attorneys' fees from July 1, 1863, to January 1, 1865, was four thousand eight hundred dollars. As this department has no solicitor this cannot be regarded as extravagant.

THE OLD CAPITOL CLEAR OF REBEL PRISONERS.

The Old Capitol prison has been entirely cleared out of rebel officers and men, including a large number of guerillas, several hundred of whom have been sent to Northern prisons within the past few days. Nineteen rebel surgeons were ordered to be sent from Fort Delaware to Fortress Monroe yesterday for exchange. It has been directed that in future no officer or enlisted man in our service shall be committed to the Old Capitol prison except upon the order of the Secretary of War.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1865.

The question of reorganization of parties has agitated political circles here for some time past. The occasional spasmodic harangues of the radicals, and their innuendo threats against Mr. Lincoln, have generally arisen from fear that they were soon to be considered outside of the administration party. They have seen the growing confidence of the conservative or moderate men of both parties in the President, with an apparent desire to cut off from them. That there is a strong movement for reorganization of parties is plainly evident, and will soon form one of the principal features of the political gossip at the national capital.

Long before the constitutional amendment passed the House of Representatives there were rumors afloat that the moment that question was disposed of there would be important developments in reference to the formation of a new party, composed of the conservative elements of both of the old parties, leaving the extreme men of each out by themselves to seek an alliance or quarrel, just as they might deem best. A large number of prominent democrats were here while the constitutional amendment was pending, urging its passage on the ground that it would remove the question of slavery from politics, and effectually destroy the republican party as it is now organized, and open a way for a remodeling of parties and separation of the antagonistical elements now found in each. This movement, although it was almost exclusively a secret one, had more to do with the passage of the amendment to the constitution than is generally supposed. It was one of the strong powers that secured its passage. When it was announced in the HERALD correspondence from here that the vote of the House on the amendment would kill the republican party, that it would be its death knell, it was no wild or visionary assertion. In fact, this point was so apparent that prominent abolitionists from Boston were here opposing its passage in an indirect way. An editor of a certain abolition paper in the Hub of the Universe, who was at the national capital, manifested a great deal of uneasiness when he saw the prospects were that it would pass, and remarked to a friend that several of their party representatives were exceedingly anxious to be absent when the vote was taken, but were afraid to. Their hope was that there would not be enough democrats who would vote for it to secure its passage. No doubt this editor sent letters home to his commonwealth rejoicing over its passage, for the simple reason that he, like other representatives of his party, dare not speak his true sentiments, and declare that all he desired of the slavery question was the political capital which could be made by agitating it.

The moment that the amendment was passed there was a pressure upon the President for a change in the Cabinet on the 4th of March. The object in view was to so reorganize the Cabinet that it should leave out entirely the radical element of the republican party, and at the same time to secure enough of the conservative democratic element in the Cabinet to insure the confidence of the majority of that party, and thus make Mr. Lincoln the representative of this new party. In other words, the primary object of the movement was to obtain control of Mr. Lincoln's administration through the formation of a Cabinet which would not only secure the confidence, but draw to its support the conservative men of all parties, leaving the Ben Wade republicans and the Ben Wood democrats to unite their fortunes in one magnanimous party of the extreme. Nothing could be more amusing than to see Ben Wade and Ben Wood grand chiefs of one and the same party, with Vallandigham and Henry Winter Davis as their aids-de-camp. Such a combination would, no doubt, be very congenial. Of those four persons named it is safe to say that Ben Wood and Vallandigham are the strongest friends of Mr. Lincoln. They contributed five hundred times more to the success of Mr. Lincoln than did Wade and Davis. This reorganization movement has obtained a strong hold here, and on several different occasions there were indications that it would carry everything before it; but some trivial matter has at each time prevented it, and, for the time being, seemed to have defeated the whole thing. Just before the passage of the constitutional amendment there was a desperate effort to secure the appointment of Robt. J. Walker as Secretary of the Treasury, as a representative of the democratic element. The friends of John W. Forney also endeavored to secure his recognition as an important man in this movement, and of sufficient consequence to have a position in the Cabinet. But both of these programmes fell through. Soon after came the howl of the straight-laced republicans that there was an effort being made by certain republican leaders to sell out the party to Dean Richmond and the Albany Regency on the passage of the constitutional amendment; that through some legerdemain Richmond and the Regency were to be engrafted upon the republican party, to the exclusion of the New York radical element. There was really a great commotion over this idea, and some of those who feared such a result actually went to work trying to get certain New York democratic members to vote against the amendment. This tempest in the teapot finally died out, when other schemes were resorted to.

It is now said that the late peace negotiations were part and parcel of the movements for a party reorganization, and that Secretary Seward seized upon the movement to secure whatever *éclat* there might be connected with it, in hopes that if peace was the result he would be able to ride upon the wave of joy of a grateful people, and thus become the standard bearer of the great conservative party in 1868. The sudden appearance of Mr. Lincoln in Hampton Roads must have driven such thoughts from his mind; for after that, if there was any *éclat* to be gained through the negotiation, Mr. Lincoln would be the man to whose credit it would accrue.

As the matter now stands here it is somewhat uncertain what turn this question will take. There is no mistaking the fact that the President is now inclined and desirous of pursuing a conservative course. Judging from circumstances transpiring here, he, with many of those who are in his confidence, believe that the day for extreme measures is past. The amendment of the constitution having passed, abolishing slavery, the power of the rebellion is so much on the wane that the true course is to temper justice with mercy. A universal belief exists here that the present party lines and divisions which have existed heretofore, will soon become extinct; that new issues, new combinations, will soon shape and mould the decisions and actions of the general government. The frequent wrangles in the Senate chamber between the Wade republicans and the more conservative of that party strengthen this belief. As a strong coincidence in the course of events, on two or three occasions Ben Wade and Senator Powell, the two extremes of the Senate, have stood side by side defending each other. The same thing has been witnessed in the House. In fact, there are rumors as numerous as the frogs of Egypt of reorganization of new parties. The drift of events is in that direction. Just at what point the division will be made is at present difficult to say. It is likely to spring up at any time and become a formidable barrier between men who are now acting together within the lines of the same party. The entire pressure of the whole movement of late has been directed toward the formation of a Cabinet which will secure the necessary strength and confidence to draw the elements together, or at least to form a nucleus of a new party. Nor has the idea been abandoned. The movements in reference to the reorganization of the Cabinet are all affected by this influence. All gossip in regard to who is to go in and who is to go out of the Cabinet is merely guesswork. The fight that is now going on between the leaders in the State of New York, the late Weed-Opdyke libel suit, and the quarrel between Andrews and Weed, are simply part and parcel of the contest that is waging between the factions to secure the control in the new deal of parties which everybody acknowledges is at hand. The opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Wakeman as surveyor I venture to predict has nothing whatever to do with Mr. Wakeman personally, nor as to him simply as Mr. Wakeman; but it will be found, when the facts come out, that it all arises from the fact that if Mr. Wakeman holds that position he will be enabled to wield certain power, and in a measure influence and in fact shape events which will assist in giving tone and directing this new party movement. In that light the action of the Senate on this becomes an important question. It is one of the numerous small things that point out the drift of the current and enables the observer of events to judge as to future results. It will also give us some idea as to which faction in New York is to hold the upper hand and be on the winning side for the great contest in 1868. Look at it as you will that is the point which prompts all this contest.

The question as to whether the conservative or moderate democrats will be drawn into the new party arrangement depends a great deal upon what encouragement they get from the administration, and upon what basis the party is formed. These are both questions which it will take some little time to decide. That they are ready is evident, and that new party lines will have to be drawn is certain. The only question is, what shall be the new issues and who shall be the guiding minds? These are the very questions that the present events are solving as rapidly as possible. This subject bids fair to be a fruitful theme between this and the 4th of March. The developments will be carefully chronicled for the amusement of the public generally.

But little has been published lately in reference to the organization of the Cabinet. Only one point is positively known by any person, and that is that Mr. Fessenden is to go out of the Treasury, and leave that portfolio to some other and, we hope, a better man. It is to be hoped, for the good of the country, that the President will not again commit the folly of appointing a lawyer to that important position. Of all the failures since the war commenced Mr. Fessenden as a financier has been the worst and greatest. At the very time when there should be some person in the Treasury who could organize a system and have the present Congress adopt it, in order that it might be put into execution during the recess, Mr. Fessenden remains there quietly letting matters drift, without any apparent concern as to the future, except that the 4th of March should come as soon as possible and put him out of the department into the Senate.

There are numerous persons named as his successor. Among the number are Hugh McCullough, from Indiana, the present Comptroller of the Currency; Senator Morgan, ex-Governor Boutwell, and Representative Hooper, from Massachusetts; Hon. Mr. Howe, a banker at Pittsburg, Pa.; Robt. J. Walker, and numerous other lesser lights whose names do not occur to me at the present moment. The two first named are probably the best qualified for the position. Some of the others certainly are not fit for the position at the present crisis in our monetary affairs. The personal friends of Morgan all advise him not to go into the Treasury, and in fact it is certain that he will not, unless the President insists upon it as a necessity. The burdens of that position are so great, its duties so laborious, that the chances are it will ruin the reputation of any man who takes hold of it, and Senator Morgan will have to be pressed, and, I might say, forced by the President if he accepts it at all. There are those here who consider that it is certain that Morgan will be the successor of Mr. Fessenden. But it is certainly just now as doubtful as the question—when will this war terminate? The agitation at Albany has caused considerable amusement here, especially with Governor Morgan's friends. They look upon it as a dodge to get Fenton out of the way by electing him United States Senator, in order that the Lieutenant Governor can take the Gubernatorial chair. The agitation is kept up in hopes that something of that kind will be the result. All this talk has had the effect of convincing a large number that Morgan really is to be appointed. Some of the capitalists in New York city have written him congratulatory letters.

Within the last few days the tide has evidently turned. The unwillingness of Senator Morgan to take the position has caused those who are anxious that a person of ability and financial experience should be placed in charge of the financies of the nation to look around for some person to centre upon. They have found that person in Hugh McCullough, the present Comptroller of the Currency. Almost the entire West have united in urging his appointment. Governor Brough and other leading men in Ohio are also turning the weight of their influence in that direction. Aside from this, a number of bankers and capitalists in New York and New England are urging his appointment. There is in the East naturally a great deal of suspicion of Western men as financiers; but this rule does not appear to apply to McCullough. It will be remembered that he took hold of the State Bank of Indiana when its stock was at a nominal sum and brought the institution up. During the panic of 1857, when the banks all over the country were suspending specie payment, that bank and its branches were prevented from following in the same channel and were carried through. This, of course, has given him a great deal of strength with moneyed men all over the country. His appointment will be opposed by all who are anxious to increase the currency of the country; for Mr. McCullough is strongly opposed to any further inflation, but, on the other hand, insists that the policy of the government is to forthwith commence gradually and systematically to approach a specie basis. He has been of great service to the country in his present position by showing to those national banks which have asked for an increase of currency how it was against their interest, as well as that of the country, to increase their circulation, and thus prevented a large increase which otherwise would have taken place.

The general impression here for the last few days is that McCullough is to be the man who is to take charge of the financial department. But it is hard to tell what will transpire between this and the 4th of March. All those now spoken of may be forgotten before then, and some one else loom up as the great financier of the age.

There is a rumor quite current here that August Belmont's mission to Europe is in reference to a determination of the Rothschilds to invest largely in the securities or bonds of the United States; that he was requested by the Rothschilds to obtain certain data and visit Europe when the full arrangements would be made to carry out the object. The low price of the gold-bearing bonds of the government in Europe certainly furnishes one of the best opportunities to invest, and will secure far better interest than anything that can be obtained in Europe. This may be a mere rumor; it is, however, asserted with an air of positive assurance, as if it was a reality, and comes from sources which render its truth probable to say the least.

POWELL'S PAINTING.

The painting of the battle of Lake Erie, by Mr. H. Powell, now on exhibition in the Rotunda of the Capitol, attracts universal attention, and receives the praises of everybody, and is in reality an artistic work.

The battle of Lake Erie was fought on the 10th day of September, 1813, between the American fleet, under Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and the British squadron, commanded by Captain Barclay. Perry's flagship, the Lawrence, after having sustained for two hours and a half the concentrated fire of three of the enemy's ships, became disabled and unmanageable, and but eighteen of her crew were fit for duty. This was a critical moment; the Lawrence could not fire a gun, and the enemy felt certain that they had won the day. At this juncture Perry determined to leave his ship, to run the gauntlet of the British fire and take command of the Niagara, which was still unfrigated. In an open boat, accompanied by his little brother, Alexander Perry, six oarsmen and a coxswain, he succeeded in making the half to three quarters mile voyage, amidst the plunging shot of the enemy's ships. This is the moment of the action represented in the picture. Perry is standing upright in the boat, with his face turned to his old ship, his left hand pointing to the Niagara, to which the boat is steering. On his left his young brother is clinging to him, begging him to sit down and not expose himself unnecessarily, while the steersman is gesticulating the same request. A shot has just struck the oar of the negro Hannibal, who evinces in the expression of his face and gesture the terror of his emotion. A wounded man is pushing away a mass of spars and cordage from the boat, and the other sailors are pulling sturdily at their oars. The Niagara is seen through the smoke of the battle on the extreme right of the picture. In the attitude of changing her course towards the Lawrence. The whole thing is life like and expressive. Mr. Powell painted it for the State of Ohio. A resolution is now pending in the House of Congress to direct Mr. Powell to paint a duplicate copy for one of the panels of the Rotunda.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1865.

THE ISRAELITES AND THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST.

Mr. SUMNER presented the memorial of the Executive Committee of the Board of Delegates of the American Israelites, remonstrating against the adoption of any amendment to the constitution of the United States recognizing the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

THANKS TO GENERAL THOMAS.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., from the Military Committee, reported back the joint resolution of thanks to Major General George H. Thomas, and a recommendation that it pass.

MISSOURI TROOPS.

Mr. BROWN, (rep.) of Mo., introduced a bill entitled an act to continue in the service of the United States certain recruits in the service of the State of Missouri, which was referred to the Military Committee.

COMPILATION OF LAWS RESTORING PRIVILEGES OF THE SENATE AND CONGRESS.

Mr. FOOT, (rep.) of Vt., offered a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Printing, providing for the publication of a compilation of the provisions of the constitution, and the laws passed in pursuance thereof, respecting extra sessions of the Senate and Congress.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., asked leave to call up the report of the Committee of Conference on the Freedmen's bill.

Mr. SAULSBURY, (opp.) of Del., raised the point of order that the Committee of Conference had agreed upon a new bill, and he wished to know if that was in order. It had been decided heretofore that a Committee of Conference could only agree upon what had already been before the Senate.

The question of taking up the Freedmen's bill was decided in the affirmative; yeas 25, nays 11.

Mr. SUMNER then moved to make the bill the special order for Monday at half-past twelve o'clock, and it was so ordered.

DISCHARGE OF SOLDIERS WHOSE REGIMENTS ARE MUSTERED OUT.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Mo., presented the memorial of the Missouri Legislature, praying that soldiers enlisted for unexpired terms be discharged when their regiments are mustered out.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Mr. WADE, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, presented the testimony of General Grant on the subject of the exchange of prisoners, which was read.

VISIT OF GENERAL GRANT.

Lieutenant General Grant appeared on the floor of the Senate at one o'clock, and was introduced to the members generally.

EVENING SESSIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BUSINESS.

Mr. WILSON offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the Senate meet on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday next for the consideration of executive business. Mr. Wilson stated that there were between fourteen and fifteen hundred nominations awaiting the action of the Senate.

NEW SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Mr. CLARK presented the credentials of Hon. Aaron H. Cragin as a Senator from New Hampshire for six years from the 4th of March, which were read.

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

The consideration of the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Appropriation bill was resumed from yesterday. The question recurred on the motion to increase the appropriation for travelling expenses of the United States Judges of California from $1,000 to $3,000.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN it was fixed at $2,000.

In the course of some remarks on increasing salaries, Mr. SAULSBURY said he had seen General Grant for the first time this morning on the floor of the Senate, and it seemed to him (Mr. Saulsbury) that the President had made a great mistake in appointing him to that high position—that a man who did not know how to "cut a swell" better than he, ought not to be Lieutenant General. Why, there was not a lieutenant of the Home Guard in the State of Delaware who could not keep up bigger style than this man whom the President had injudiciously selected for Lieutenant General. There was not a lieutenant or provost marshal that Mr. Stanton sent down to keep the people of Delaware from voting, that could not cut a better swell than General Grant. He (Mr. Saulsbury) thought this a fit subject for the consideration of the Senate. (Laughter.)

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of N. H., moved an amendment to increase the salaries of all assistant secretaries and the Second and Third Assistant Postmasters to $3,500, from and after the next fiscal year.

Mr. COLLAMER, (rep.) of Vt., demanded the yeas and nays. He said if the Senate commenced increasing salaries there was no telling where it would stop. More greenbacks would have to be issued. That was the only way to do it.

The question was decided in the affirmative—yeas 21, nays 16, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Bucklew, Chandler, Cragnes, Cowan, Doolittle, Foster, Hale, Harlan, Hendricks, Howe, Johnson, Lane, of Ind.; Nesmith, Nye, Powell, Ramsey, Riddle, Stewart, Trumbull, Wilkinson and Willey.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Brown, Clark, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Farwell, Grimes, Henderson, Morgan, Morrill, Pomeroy, Saulsbury, Sprague, Sumner, Ten Eyck and Wilson.

Mr. WILSON offered, as an amendment to the bill, the following proposition:—

That from and after the 1st of March, 1865, the commutation price of the ration for officers in the field below the rank of brigadier general shall be fifty cents; that hereafter there shall be no income tax collected from the salaries of officers in the army, and that all volunteer officers who shall continue in the service until the close of the war shall receive three months' pay on being mustered out of the service.

Mr. SHERMAN did not like to see such a provision in this bill, and at his suggestion Mr. Wilson withdrew it, with the understanding that it would be offered as an amendment to the Army Appropriation bill.

Mr. COLLAMER offered an amendment to appropriate $60,000 for improving and enlarging the Congressional library. Which was adopted.

The bill as amended was reported to the Senate, and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate went into executive session.

Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1865.

TAXING SALES OF MERCHANDISE, ETC.

Mr. ODELL, (opp.) of N. Y., presented memorials from the New York Chamber of Commerce to tax sales of merchandise, to construct a ship canal between Lakes Erie and Ontario, and to establish a line of mail steamers to Japan and China from San Francisco. These memorials were all appropriately referred.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. RICE, (rep.) of Mass., rising to a question of privilege, caused to be read an extract from the New York *Evening Post*, reflecting upon his conduct on the paper duty question, and saying he voted money into his own pocket, thus perverting his office as a legislator to his sordid self-interest. This article was coupled with extracts from the Springfield *Republican*, saying that Mr. Rice is a paper manufacturer, and voted against the repeal of the duty on paper in order to put money into his own pocket. Mr. Rice said he had been here five or six years, and never before now thought it necessary to vindicate himself in the presence of his associates with respect to the manner in which he discharged his public or private duties, and he did so now to vindicate his right as a member on this floor, and to vindicate himself from the foul aspersion in that paper. That article proceeded on the assumption that no member, who has an interest in great questions, has a right to express his opinions or vote upon them, unless he is entirely independent of them. If he had no interest in questions which rise here, he could not represent his constituents, and he claimed the right to protect his own as well as their interests, so long as it did not conflict with the interests at large of his countrymen. Were there not gentlemen here who are interested in coal and iron, and wool, in all the shapes which these articles take in the process of manufacture, and were there not members here also interested as editors and publishers in the legislation of Congress? As to so voting as to put money into his own pocket by favoring paper manufacturers or himself, the charge was gratuitous. He had not a single dollar invested in any paper mill or the manufacture of paper, directly or indirectly, and whoever so charges utters that which is utterly and absolutely false. Mr. Rice then caused to be read an article from the Baltimore *American*, which animadverted upon the course of the *Evening Post* in attacking the navy, and stating in this connection that one of the publishers of the *Post*, who had held the office of Navy Agent, and against whom four indictments had been found for criminal practices, was now held to bail for trial. The *American* says, if the editors of the *Post* are permitting themselves to be animated by a feeling of revenge because their associate has been checked in a criminal career, or if they fancy they can influence the court or the government in his case by robbing our naval officers and crews of their just merit, and are, therefore, defaming the services of these brave men, or attempting to transfer it to others, they commit a fatal mistake. Mr. Rice said he could not believe the article came from the pen of the venerated gentleman who is principal editor of the *Post*, and whose writings have adorned the literature of the country. From whatever source the charge came, he hurled it back with defiance and scorn to its unclean source.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., offered a resolution that the New York *Evening Post* shall not hereafter be allowed to have any reporter or reporter's table in this House.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt.—Does the gentleman suppose the reporter had anything to do with that article?

Mr. STEVENS—I don't know, but that paper has no right to a reporter in this House.

Mr. RICE—I do not believe the correspondent of the *Evening Post* is in any way, even in the least, directly or indirectly involved in that article. I very much regret that any reflection has been made upon him.

Mr. STEVENS—I do not desire to cast censure on the reporter, but the paper which contains such articles has no right to a representative here. I see the newspapers, and especially those of New York, become so insolent, libellous and calumnious, if we venture to differ from their dogmas, that scarcely a day passes in which we are not attacked in a foul manner by these scribblers. In deference to the gentleman from Massachusetts, I withdraw the resolution.

VISIT OF GENERAL GRANT.

General Grant came into the hall and was received with marked honors.

REGENT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

On motion of Mr. FRANK, (rep.) of N. Y., the House took up and passed the Senate's joint resolution appointing General Richard Delafield as a regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

CENSURE OF MR. WASHBURNE.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, withdrew the resolution which he offered yesterday to censure Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, for having absented himself from the hall on Thursday night without the consent of the House.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Amendatory Internal Tax bill.

A motion was made by Mr. HOLMAN, (opp.) of Ind., to strike out the proposed increase of fifty cents per barrel on all beer, lager beer, ale, porter and other similar fermented liquors.

Messrs. Johnson, Kasson and Brown supported Mr. Holman's motion, which was agreed to by 65 against 39 votes.

This leaves the tax, as now named, one dollar per barrel.

The Clerk read the following amendment, proposed by the Committee of Ways and Means:—

Miners shall pay for every license $10; every person, firm or company who shall employ others in the business of mining for coal, or for gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, zinc, spelter, or other minerals, not having taken out a license as a manufacturer, shall be regarded as a miner under this act.

During the debate which ensued,

Mr. ALLEY, (rep.) of Mass., said, if the country desired one thing more than another, it was that the taxes should be increased, as the means of preserving the credit of the country.

Mr. STEVENS said the committee had been constantly at work on this bill, and had endeavored to secure the largest amount of duty compatible with the business of the country; but that the House had swept away three million dollars by refusing to put an additional tax of fifty cents on every barrel of beer and other malt liquors.

This amendment was slightly modified. Other parts of the bill were considered.

The committee rose, and the House adjourned.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Case of Senator Fields—His Exclusion from the Committee on Cities—A New Committee Organized—Governor Morgan and the Treasury—The Impending Crisis in Finance—The Greeley Candidate and the Seward Candidate for Senator—The State Agricultural Society—Raising of the City Railroad Fares Abandoned—The Broadway Railroad Forces in the Field, &c., &c.

OUR ALBANY CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANY, Feb. 9, 1865.

THE CASE OF SENATOR FIELDS.

After the reading of the journal in the Senate this morning, the chairman of the Committee on Cities rose in his place and asked to be excused from further service on that committee. Leave was almost unanimously granted, and Senators Laimbeer, Strong, Shafer, White and Dutcher also tendered their resignations in succession, and were so excused. Mr. Fields of New York, the only remaining member of the committee, sat in his place, all the members of the Senate being in their places. Mr. Fields did not resign or make any remark. The occasion was characterized by the solemnity of profound silence, a large attendance being present in the lobbies anticipating some action of the Senate in regard to certain disorders in their proceedings of the previous day. The occasion for this proceeding on the part of the Committee on Cities, was also the cause which forced the Senate to adjourn its session yesterday. The Committee on Cities will of course be substantially reconstructed, practically for the exclusion of the Senator from New York, whose resignation was not tendered. The unhappy occasion of this affair has been a source of painful regret, and has been overlooked here for a long time by the Senate and the press.

The further suppression of publication becomes impracticable in view of the official action taken by the Senate, made more pointed by the announcement today by the President of the Senate of a new committee on "Municipal Affairs," comprising the members of the Committee on Cities, substituting Saxton Smith for Mr. Fields. The latter took part in the current business in an orderly manner, making no remark or apology of a personal character.

THE SENATORIAL QUESTION.

The choice of United States Senator still engages most intense interest. The numbers arriving here from Washington do not by their statements that "there is no vacancy" allay this feeling in the least. The last variation on this is the statement that Senator Morgan will not accept the position of Secretary of the Treasury. It would be a most important fact in politics if this were so. After the tone in which his appointment has been discussed, such an act would be the most pointed condemnation which his party and the administration could receive. It is not denied that all arrangements are at hand for the appointment of Morgan except his consent to serve. His refusal would virtually pronounce the doom of the Treasury Department and consign the finances to immediate panic. If Senator Morgan and Wall street repudiate the national Treasury, as in a hopeless and incurable condition, then the public will conclude that the great crash is at hand. The idea of making Governor Boutwell, of Massachusetts, a sort of wreckmaster, or leave the thing in the accidental hands of McCulloch, one of the subordinates of Fessenden and Chase, has put many people here in a fright as well for the republican party as for the finances of the country at large.

But a better understanding of the delay about Morgan's unwillingness to serve is observable in the inside circles. Morgan will serve, they say, when arrangements are made to suit. But it is not thought here that these arrangements will include the naming of his successor in the Senate. On this, some pointed feeling is entertained. To-day it is disclosed that Greeley's candidate, to which the *Tribune* alluded in his disclaimer, was Judge Noah Davis, of Orleans. This name is frequently mentioned here, and in point of talent and eminence, as well as long service, he takes rank with the first men of the country. He has warm friends in the Senate and House. His prospects are also being canvassed with vigor by Ben Field, of the State Central Committee, and other strong men in the State at large.

It appears that Weed came up here this week, having arrived from Washington. He had the Governor to dine with him, and then returned to New York. A good deal of significance is attached to this interview, especially as no appointments have thus far been sent in by the Governor to the Senate, in regard to which such an interview could have had bearing. There are rumors that it has been sought to get Fenton to withdraw in favor of some other candidate. I feel warranted in stating that he can not do so, and will not, in the event of a vacancy. It is significant, also, that in all the current speculations the name of Seward is not mentioned. He, it is conceded, goes abroad, as heretofore understood. Senator Folger appears to be advanced by the Seward interest for the succession; and, if the constitution did not interpose an objection to his choice, his name would lead all others.

This advancement of Folger's name concedes the conclusion that Raymond cannot be elected at this time. He, it is now alleged, will have to serve out his term in Congress and await the succession after Harris. A Western man, and one of democratic if not of radical antecedents, will then be in office, and Raymond can well put in his claims for the other end of the State and the other wing of the party. The Weed and Seward interest is virtually without a candidate whom they can maintain in the field, unless they adopt Fenton. Besides Folger's name, mentioned by some, that of the old candidate and favorite, Evarts, is talked of, more longingly than in any expectation of his being ultimately put forward. The only difficulty as to a settlement of the whole question lies in the fact that in the event of Fenton's advancement to the Senate, Alvord will occupy the executive chair, which in some quarters is regarded as signifying the exclusion of Weed's followers and interests from the executive chamber. I have reason to know, however, that this may be adjusted, or at least that a more serious and aggravated disaster must be averted by making the best of a lesser evil.

BUSINESS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The business of both houses has been mainly of a routine character this week. At this stage the bulk of all new propositions have been put in, and their progress is not sufficiently developed to give a lively interest in their prospect of a final passage. The Senate Municipal Investigating Committee will be in New York on Wednesday next.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The proceedings of the Agricultural Society are attended by all the active prominent men of the cause in the State, but not so numerously by the friends of this interest from the public at large. The important subject of the substitution of a steam plough excites much interest and points to an improvement of the most vital interest to the welfare and development of agriculture in view of the state of the labor market. The substitution of flax for cotton also engages attention, with a prospect of evolving very conclusive changes in the manufacturing interests of the country.

THE CITY RAILROAD FARE QUESTION AND THE GREAT BROADWAY SCHEME.

The movements of the city railroad men indicate a good deal of combustion in their happy families within a couple of weeks. There is no agreement consummated between the various interests. The Brooklyn roads have sent up a circular relative to the cost of running their roads, the cost of materials, labor, &c., and showing very fairly the necessity for the proposed increase. The New York city roads are understood to back out of the movement. Law and others of the heavy owners are said to have abandoned the idea of raising the fares beyond the present rates. This conclusion is settled by their determination to ask for a completion of the existing gridiron in a new general grant covering Broadway and such remaining routes as are needed to supersede the whole of the remaining stage lines. Such a bill is drawn, having a dozen corporators, and securing the grant to the old original gridiron interest. It will be here next week. No arrangement has been made with the Vanderbilt interest. Stuart has had his caucus at his residence already, and reorganized his old Stonewall Jackson Broadway brigade for the fight. Look out for fun ahead.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Feb. 11, 1865.

NOTICE.

For a railroad in Brooklyn and Queens county.

Conferring legal powers upon the Arbitration Committee of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

To authorize the Jersey Ferry and First Avenue Railroad Company to lay a track in certain streets in New York.

To amend the charter of the Rose Hill Savings Bank.

REPORT.

To change the name of the National Life and Limb Insurance Company.

The State Charity bill.

For the construction of an armory in Rochester.

Adjourned.

Criminal Offences in the Metropolitan Police District.

Mr. Gleason has introduced in the Legislature a bill providing that any person carrying a pistol, dirk or other dangerous instrument without a license, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punished by imprisonment in the Penitentiary for not less than six months nor more than one year.

The second section provides that any parties making a business of carrying on their persons, slung shots, or selling, or [illegible] metal knuckles, &c., shall be guilty of felony, and punished accordingly.

Sheriffs, constables, police officers, &c., shall not be within the provisions of this act. [illegible] may issue permits to carry weapons to persons of good character.

The following described persons within the Metropolitan Police district shall be deemed vagrants, and shall be liable to punishment on conviction:—Drunkards and persons without visible means of support; those who have neglected or abandoned their families; persons idle and not having the wherewithal to support their families, and refuse to work for common or usual wages; persons having infectious diseases, beggars, common prostitutes, reputed burglars, pickpockets, &c.

THE PEACE MISSION.

Direct Proposition from the Rebels to Enforce the Monroe Doctrine.

Effect of the Conference on the Rebel Finances.

"Amazing, Fabulous, Miraculous Blunders" in the Treasury.

An Error of Four or Five Hundred Millions or So in the Rebel Liabilities,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Special Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11, 1865.

It has now transpired that the rebel commissioners made a direct proposition to Mr. Lincoln, as follows:—"To unite the Union and rebel armies; thus combined to march together and enforce the Monroe doctrine against France and England. In that way the passions and bitter feeling now existing between the two sections would subside, and the South could come back into the Union without feeling that they had been humiliated."

This is what Mr. Lincoln refers to when he says that they seemed to desire a postponement first and the adoption of some other course. It is also referred to in Mr. Seward's letter to Mr. Adams, when he says, "The insurgents seemed chiefly to favor a mutual direction of the efforts of the government, as well as those of the insurgents, to some extrinsic policy, or scheme, for a season, during which passions might be expected to subside." The substance of Mr. Lincoln's reply is given in the same paragraph by Mr. Seward. This corroborates my former statement in reference to the Monroe doctrine which transpired in the Blair mission.

The general belief here now is that peace is attainable by negotiation, and that all the rebels want is the adoption of some policy that will enable them, in a circuitous way, to work their people back without feeling that they have been degraded.

Rebel Accounts.

SALUTARY RESULTS OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 9.]

One of the salutary results of that famous conference in Hampton Roads has been to unite more firmly the poor and the rich, the plundered refugee and the successful speculator, the beggared planter, who has lost his stock, his crops, his negroes, his sons, and the thrifty trader, who has invested his gains in Confederate bonds or in real estate, all in one common bond of self-interest and self-preservation, to resist the invasion of our enemies to the uttermost extremity. It cannot be denied that many citizens who have made money during the war, and invested it in land or in public securities, had cherished the vain idea that some kind of peace might be patched up at last, which would not entirely destroy the value of our government bonds and the title to every acre of Southern land. They had a lingering fancy that the "Confiscation act" and the "treason" act were passed rather in *terrorem*, as a war measure, and were not intended actually and in good earnest to strip us all bare, to leave us without a shelter for our heads, or a resting place for our feet; and they did imagine that the Northern people were so anxious for "reconstruction," so ardently desirous to bring us back into the "Union," that they would consent, perhaps, to consolidate the two debts, the Northern and Southern, and make the whole credit and resources of the reunited continent accountable for both. Accordingly, up to last Saturday, those who most loudly declared themselves "tired of the war," were those who had not only suffered nothing by the war, but who had made a good thing of it, and hoped that a compromise and a peace would now give them a good chance of securing and preserving their gains. This was undoubtedly an element of weakness and a source of affected despondency up to Saturday last.

How stands it now? They see at last—what they ought to have known from the first—that the only kind of "peace" which the Yankees will or can give is a peace which would take from them all that they have, whether in land or in government securities. It is not war, but peace which would beggar them—that is, such a peace as is now possible. So long as the war goes on, and is supported with spirit, they have something, and they are something; their investments in land or stocks are theirs, be the value more or less; their civil rights as citizens and freemen subsist, and they can walk their own streets at liberty, holding their heads up. But let us once submit to the conditions proposed by Lincoln and Seward (about which there is at last no possibility of mistake), and not only is the Confederate debt, with all its values and securities, abolished by one wipe of a sponge, but all the possessions of every Southern man are confiscated, and all their persons subjected to criminal prosecution and the doom of felons. Even the gracious intimation of Lincoln, that he would be disposed to make the execution of those laws as merciful as possible, consistently with his duty to loyal citizens, cannot for one moment be mistaken. His duty to loyal citizens would be to make the property of the criminal and conquered South indemnify those loyal citizens for the expenses of the war; and his engagement to his soldiers—Yankee and foreign—require that they should have estates carved out for them in the land they have subjugated. If we had bribed Messrs. Lincoln and Seward to do us a good service at this moment, they could not have served us more effectually than by their curt and distinct avowal that the thing which would instantly ruin us all is not war, but peace.

That is the peace which they contemplate—