THE SOUTH.

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"THE SO-CALLED CONFEDERATE DOLLAR."

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The Rebel Congress Called Upon to "Abolish the Sham Paper Army and Sham Paper Money."

Particulars of the Explosion of the Rebel Flag of Truce Boat.

200 UNION PRISONERS INJURED, &c., &c., &c.

The Blowing Up of the Flag of Truce Boat Schultz by a Rebel Torpedo.

[From the Richmond Whig, Feb. 18.]

We gather the following facts of the destruction of the Confederate State flag of truce steamer Schultz, Capt. Hill commanding, by a torpedo in the James river, between Cox's Landing and Chaffin's Bluff, at about half-past four o'clock yesterday evening:—

The Schultz had gone down in the morning to Cox's Landing, in company with the steamer William Allison, for the purpose of bringing up a number of our expected returned prisoners of war, who were to have been received at that point. By a Providential interposition—in view of the subsequent catastrophe that befell the Schultz—our expected braves did not arrive at the Landing in time to embark upon the two steamers that were waiting them. The fog, it is said, delayed the arrival of the Yankee truce boats at Varina, the point at which our men were to have disembarked. Information having arrived that our men would not reach Varina until morning, the Schultz and the Allison proceeded to return to Richmond—the Allison having a quantity of Yankee supplies aboard as freight.

When between two and three miles from Cox's the crew of the Schultz struck a floating torpedo, causing the steamer to swing around and sink bow foremost, the stern protruding several feet above the surface of the water, and affording safety to the majority of those aboard of her, consisting of some twelve or fifteen persons, among whom were several members of the Ambulance Committee of this city, together with a number of pigeons, hospital nurses, &c., who clung to that portion of the vessel until rescued by the Allison, which was but fifteen minutes behind the Schultz; many, also, being saved by means of the Schultz's life-boat, which is fortunately not included in the wreck.

From a gentleman who was aboard of the Schultz at the time we learn that when the explosion occurred he was sitting in the stern of the boat, and heard the report of the explosion, but scarcely felt any shock in consequence. The result of the contact with the torpedo was as has been described above.

The following named gentlemen, members of the Ambulance Committee, were on board, and were all, we are happy to say, saved:—Messrs. W. J. Bevill, James L. Pierson, Edward Wilson, Andrew Johnston and Edward D. Eacho.

Two of the guard—namely, privates Conditt, of Bedford county, and Cribbs, belonging to a Georgia regiment—were drowned, as were also two negro firemen of the boat.

William Hudson, Twentieth South Carolina, and James Spears, of the same regiment, are also among the drowned.

The names of those given above as among the drowned are believed to complete the list of the lost by this sad catastrophe.

Captain Hill, we understand, was acting as pilot of the Schultz at the time. We are informed that while passing the fleet on the downward trip in the morning he had called one of the gunboats, and asked that a pilot be sent aboard to see to the navigation of the boat, but received an answer that there were no pilots to be had, as they had gone to Richmond. The affair, we presume, will undergo an investigation.

The Schultz had lately undergone extensive repairs at the hands of the government, and this ill-omened trip was, we believe, her second since her resumption of duties.

The officers of the Exchange Bureau were upon the Allison at the time of the catastrophe.

The Negro Question Decided.

VIRGINIA FAVORS ARMING THE SLAVES, AND CONSEQUENTLY ALL THE "FIRST FAMILIES" THINK THE MATTER SETTLED.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 18.]

The question of negro soldiers we consider as settled. Public opinion has decidedly declared in *favor of arming negroes.* The resolution introduced in the Virginia Legislature, giving the consent of the State to the measure, will pass, and may be followed, and should be, by instructions to Senators to vote for the measure, and thus put the matter at rest. As to giving the slaves their freedom, this should be the reward for faithful services, the end of the war, if desired by the slaves. To some it may be a boon, a reward—others may not even desire freedom. Negroes are divided in opinion as to whether they would prefer freedom to slavery; but, by all means, give the choice with them. Let them decide the matter. We do not expect this reward to make soldiers of them. Discipline only will do that. It must be a discipline different very much from that which now holds together the loosened bands, the armies of the Confederate States. It must be a discipline sharp, severe, exacting, which first teaches them their duty and then compels them to perform it. There *never has been discipline in armies of this confederacy,* but instead thereof a kind of universal suffrage, which fights when it chooses and begins when it feels like it. All this must be changed with the negro troops; they have not the motives that impel the white man to this fight; they must be kept up to the mark by *fear of punishment more than by hope of reward.*

An army is and should be a despotism—not necessarily a tyranny; but authority must be absolute. Obedience is the first duty of a soldier, and straggling a great crime; not so great, perhaps, as desertion, but differing only in degree, not in kind. The armies of Frederick the Great were well disciplined; straggling was unknown in them; it was punished like desertion, and of desertion there was very little. The same discipline will make good soldiers of negroes; it will not promote desertion, for strict discipline is the best preventive known for desertion. It is a well known fact that desertion, straggling and absence without leave are most known in well disciplined regiments, and we believe that the fact will hold good in the armies of the Confederate States, and that those crimes will be found of great or occurrence in the worst, and of least occurrence in the best disciplined regiments. An officer who cannot keep his command together is not fit to command men, and those regiments from which desertion are most frequent indicate most unmistakably the officers of which the solidation should relieve the army.

General Lee has recommended the arming of the negroes, and upon him will devolve the duty of making them soldiers. Congress may put them in the ranks, but discipline only will make them fight. By nature and long habit and education they are obedient and docile, so that it would appear that their discipline ought to be easy and most effective. Under proper officers we believe that they can be brought to the very highest perfection of drill and manœuvre, and fight to stand firmly together and move with unity and celerity. But the present discipline of the armies of the Confederate States will never make soldiers of the negroes; *the wonder is how it ever made soldiers of white men.* The Congress has never understood the army, and its legislation has often proved most injurious to efficiency. Legislation should be for the true soldier, and not for the shirker or soldier. Give the men rations, clothes and regular pay, and then the Congress may let the army alone.

One fruitful source of absence without leave has been the law granting furloughs from hospitals: *these men, in nine cases out of ten, never return when their furloughs are out.* Are the negroes to be furloughed from hospitals? No, *one campaign will be the last of the negro army.*

This arming of the negroes is a most important step in the progress of this war; rightly and properly managed it will give most material strength to our armies, and, without doing the least injury to the institution of slavery, effect much towards the independence of these States. But it will require much patience and much labor to make the negroes efficient soldiers. The selection of the proper officer to undertake their drilling is most important; upon him will depend the success or failure of the experiment. If he is a disciplinarian he will succeed, but if he is not, no matter how brave, how great a strategist, the experiment will be a failure. If, in his effort to drill the negroes and discipline them into soldiers, there should be developed a system by which our present noble armies may be improved and perfected, and their unsurpassed courage become disciplined courage, there will be no more disasters like those in the Valley and at Nashville. It is upon such trying occasions that discipline developes its real effects and brings out its great results. Perhaps *in drilling the negroes our officers may learn how to discipline the whites.*

No Respect or Consideration for Private Property in the South.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 17.]

In devising and discussing measures to be taken for the defence of our country in the present exigency, the consideration of respect to private property, or the claim or suggestion that any kind or form of private property is more sacred than another, *must not be allowed to come in at all.* There is *no room for such considerations;* and it may be *even unsafe to introduce them.* The question whether negro slaves, and how many negro slaves, are to be taken for the army; or that other question, whether government is to be empowered to take and use all the cotton and tobacco in the confederacy to sustain public credit, are to be judged of as measures of public policy, and to be adopted or rejected according to their promise of efficiency or otherwise for the public service. Difference of opinion may be admissible as to the expediency or probable efficiency of either of the measures in question; but no difference whatsoever as to the right. For that sort of difference there is not an inch of ground to stand upon, and any observation upon it is irrelevant.

And that for the following reasons:—When a country's independence—that is, its very life—is in imminent danger, and it organizes all its powers and resources to make its defence *lato sensu* (which is our case now), it always assumes the power to take certain kinds of property, with or without compensation—the with or without being determined not according to the rights of individuals, but according to the expediency and the exigency of the occasion. This confederacy already asserts the right, and exercises it, to take and seize some kinds of private possessions, according to certain proportions, which proportions may be enlarged indefinitely; and there is nothing more sacred in cotton, tobacco or negroes than in hay and oats.

Further: if Congress shall enact a law to take possession of all the cotton and tobacco, and pay for it in Confederate securities, at a certain rate to be determined by law; and if the owners thereof shall say, we do not want your Confederate paper; we can do better than that when the war is over; then they must be understood to mean that they contemplate some ending of the war which will leave Confederate securities worth nothing—that is, contemplate a future under Yankee rule. They think they may possibly live to see the day—after all our Confederate soldiers shall have their throats cut—when they will be merrily trading off their cotton and tobacco for greenbacks or even gold. They thus give rise to the perilous question: are these men with us, then, heart and soul? Is their whole lot and destiny cast with us? Have they staked their all upon this game, like the rest of us? After we are all beggared, and dead or in exile, is there a fat and jolly future for them? It will never do to provoke such questions as these.

Further: if one man's rights of property are protected against encroachments or injuries from his neighbors, it is by the laws of his country they are so protected; it is the existence of an organized community, which he calls his country, that assures him any rights at all, whether of person or of property; and without that organized community and its laws any stronger man might always come and take all he has got. The country, then, has what may be called an eminent domain—a higher, a prior right, both in the citizen himself and in all that he calls his own. When that country itself is in imminent risk of being destroyed and its identity of being swallowed up by another country, and when it requires of each of its citizens both his personal service and his means and wealth, for the defence of all, pledging them its faith and credit and destiny in the future to secure them justice, they are bound to give up all and to accept that security, and then to toil, suffer and fight to make that security good. This is the way, and the only way, to redeem that pledge so often used at public meetings (not, we trust, always as matter of form,) of "our lives, fortunes and sacred honor."

And further still: objections and arguments against taking men's property for public defence would be least of all tolerable in the mouths of those who own cotton, tobacco and negroes, because this terrible war and extreme peril to our country *have been occasioned—we do not say caused—we are by the institution of negro slavery,* which has created the cotton and tobacco, than by any other subject of quarrel. This is not said by way of blame to those who own that species of property. They have a right to own it; a very thorough title to defend it against the aggressions of the Yankee nation; and their country was bound to face war and slaughter and desolation, and to imperil the very existence of her society, rather than see their rights invaded or diminished by any enemy. And their country has done so; she has done and is doing her duty by them; she has imposed upon herself, and upon all her sons (including those who never owned a negro, and never raised a plant of cotton or hill of tobacco, the heaviest sacrifices and most grievous privations. She has taken their crops out of their barns, dragged away their young men from their hearthstones, left many a household childless and desolate, and paid for all—for food, and life and limb, and suffering and peril—in what? Why, in Confederate securities. Now, it will not bear to be told—it will be unsafe to have it whispered abroad—that in the country's sorest need, in the very crisis and agony of the war, when men are saying to one another—not always, we trust, as a matter of form—that we must call forth all the powers and resources of the land for our common defence, or else go down all together in a common ruin; that there are those who say, "Yes, take everything else; take this man's crops and that man's horses, and that other man's children, but beware how you lay a finger on our cotton or tobacco! We shall be selling those at good prices when you and your confederacy are dead and gone."

Therefore it may be laid down as an evident maxim that in the debate upon these measures for impressing all cotton and tobacco, and for putting negro slaves in the ranks of the army, all allusion to these measures, as invasions of private property, are totally irrelevant. They had better be dealt with according to their economic, financial and military merits—that is, according to their efficiency for the great common end of saving the common country. On those merits and that efficiency it is not intended here and now to pronounce. Debate will doubtless enlighten us; but let property keep out of the debate, at its own proper peril.

The Vital and Perplexing Problems Before the Rebel Congress.

SOUTHERN WISDOM VERY MUCH PUZZLED ON THE QUESTIONS OF RECRUITING AND SUPPLYING THE ARMY, AND OF CREATING A REVENUE AND ESTABLISHING A CURRENCY.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 17.]

Although we are arrived at the middle of February, *Congress is all at sea in its action and opinions on the subject of taxation.* Legislation upon the taxes involves the settlement of the currency; and thus two of the great difficulties of the crisis are as yet untouched.

The wisdom and patriotism of Congress and the country find themselves confronted by four vital and perplexing problems; first, the question of men for the army; second, the question of supplies; third, the question of revenue; and fourth, that of the currency. The first of these great problems is in rapid process of solution; we shall soon have armies sufficiently strong to meet the enemy on every field. *The question of supplies is more difficult,* but there is little doubt that supplies will appear from some source or other as they are required. It is very probable that if General Lee will establish some direct communication between himself and the people, and get rid of the swarm of intermediaries who harry the country and really intercept from the armies the supplies which would be willingly forwarded to them, much of the present restriction in the commissariat would disappear. These subjects lie more within the sphere of the military authorities than with Congress.

The great business of this body is with taxation and revenue, and as yet nothing has been done on these important subjects. The demands of the Treasury for the calendar year upon which we have just entered are very heavy. They may as well be candidly stated, for it is always best to look our liabilities plainly in the face. Shutting one's eyes upon them was never known to diminish or to exorcise them.

The Secretary of the Treasury tells us in his report of the 7th of November last (page 11) that he will require for the expenditures of the government for the year 1865.....$600,000,000

To this amount must be added, for the redemption of old issue Treasury notes..... 60,000,000

For the then estimated amount of all the floating debt, $114,000,000, since ascertained to amount to..... 396,000,000

Amount required for 1865.....$1,056,000,000

This is rather *an under than an over statement of liabilities;* for it must be recollected that since the month of November last the currency has materially depreciated; and that an estimate on that day for six hundred millions of dollars is not likely to embrace the actual cost of the war under the subsequent depreciation.

It is difficult to conjecture at this stage of the debate what precise measure Congress will fall upon to meet this thousand millions of annual expenditure. The majority of the Finance Committee of the House have reported the following scheme of taxation and estimate of receipts from other sources:—

Ten per cent tax on three billions of property, supposed now to be held in the Confederate States, within reach of assessors and collectors.....$300,000,000

Tax on incomes, trades, professions, &c., including specific taxes..... 150,000,000

To be paid in currency and certificates of indebtedness.....$450,000,000

Value to the government of the tax in kind credit for which to be repealed..... 140,000,000

Total.....$590,000,000

Deficit..... 466,000,000

To be supplied from the following sources:—

First.—From sale of six per cent untaxable bonds.

Second.—From loans on call certificates and use of deposits, in new offices of deposit to be created by law.

Third.—From sale of cotton on hand, owned by the government, for specie or foreign bills.

Whatever may be the demerits of this scheme of revenue, the principal objection urged against it by its opponents is wholly untenable—to wit: that it imposes too heavy a rate of taxation. Ten dollars in currency upon the ante-war valuation of a hundred dollars in specie is very far from being a severe tax. A hundred dollars in specie is equivalent to five thousand in currency; and a tax of ten dollars on the value of five thousand dollars is only at the rate of two mills in the dollar, or one-fifth of one per cent. If to this tax upon valuation be added the tax in kind upon crops, which is estimated to be one per cent upon the capital employed in production, the total rate of taxation would be only one and one-fifth per cent, or at the rate of a dollar and twenty cents in specie upon the value, under old assessments, of a hundred dollars. To oppose such a tax as too high, in the military emergency which is now upon our country, when all property is at stake, is to sport with the vital interests of society, and to insult the intelligence and patriotism of the people. The people will not only be able to pay so diminutive a tax, but they will be glad to find that so small a contribution will really suffice for a time so serious as the present.

It is not intended in these paragraphs to urge the passage of any particular bill, or to espouse any scheme of finance now before Congress. But really the objection to a measure as too severe because it imposes a rate of taxation amounting only to one and one-fifth per cent, seems too untimely and too unpatriotic to be tolerated with patience.

The So-Called Confederate Dollar.

IT IS WORTH JUST TWO CENTS IN SPECIE.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 17.]

The Tax bill in the House of Representatives has been referred to a select committee of one from each State, and thus taken away from the usual committee—that of Ways and Means. The reason of this was an irreconcilable difference between the House and the committee on the subject of taxation. The bill of the Committee of Ways and Means provided a system of taxation utterly impossible, in our opinion, for any people to have met; not that there is any unwillingness to pay any amount of taxes, but the ability to pay any heavier taxes than are already imposed does not exist. Our people are ready and willing to pay taxes, but there is a limit, beyond which, no matter how willing, they are not able to go.

Why attempt to carry the immense burthen of two or three thousand millions of "so-called" dollars? Why not recognize the fact that this people are self-deceived, and that *their Confederate dollars are mere cent? Why not at once quoting gold at fifty for one, and say instead that two cents is the value of the so-called dollar,* and then legislate to recognize the so-called dollar as two cents? To this we must come before there can be any finances in the confederacy, and the sooner Congress acts upon this matter and provides for the scaling of the bonds, certificates and notes down to the average specie value, and for the interest payable in specie of new bonds into which the old shall be converted, the sooner our finances will begin to improve.

Mr. Lyon, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, quotes the report of the Secretary of the Treasury of 7th of November, 1864, to show that there will be required for the expenditures of the government for 1865.....$600,000,000

To this amount he adds for the redemption of old issue..... 60,000,000

And the ascertained deficit..... 396,000,000

Amount required for 1865.....$1,056,000,000

This is the amount required for 1865. Can this be raised by taxation? No! and Mr. Lyon does not expect to raise one half of it by taxation; but only $466,000,000, leaving $590,000,000 to be raised by kiting.

In specie this one thousand and odd millions is about nineteen millions at prices which gold was sold yesterday on government account. Every man can comprehend nineteen millions as payable by the people of these States; but one thousand millions—who can carry that amount—who can understand it, and what people can pay it in one year? The delusion of big figures is a very grave matter for the future, as well as present, of the people of these States. The debt represents sham dollars, and shams of every kind should be avoided in the earnest work which the people of these States have to do.

Let the Congress come up boldly to the work of reducing the public debt, the bonds, the certificates and the notes down to their average specie value, and the early return on the part of the government, not to specie payments, but to payments in notes fundable in bonds whose interest shall be payable in specie. There can be no very great difficulty in this matter; there may be required some courage, but no very great difficulty is in the way. Let every man be required to bring forward his bonds, certificates and notes and receive in exchange for them new bonds, at the rate of one of the new for five of the old, the interest of the new to be payable in specie. If five for one is not the fair specie average, let that be ascertained from the amounts of quartermaster, commissary and ordnance stores purchased at their average price for the year 1860. Ascertain what the specie value of the public debt is and reduce it down to that value, and when we say Confederate dollars let our words be no lies, and our notes no shams. A new currency can be easily provided; if made fundable in specie paying bonds it will never depreciate as the present has, but always maintain a just and proper relation to gold, for which it can be invested.

The wisest and best thing that the Congress can do is to consolidate both the army and the finance departments. Abolish *the sham paper army and the sham paper money,* bring them both to fact and reality, and provide for keeping them at fact and truth, and not permitting either again to sink back into falsehood and sham. There is no sun in the hard knocks this people have already given and taken, and whatever future has yet in store for them and their enemy; and the means of giving those hard knocks should be real means, not false shams of army and money.

Joe Johnston's Report of the Campaign of Atlanta.

The report of the rebel General Joe Johnston of the operations of the army under his command in the memorable retreat from Dalton to Atlanta has been published, by order of the rebel Congress, in direct opposition, as is plainly stated in the Richmond *Examiner,* to the wishes of Jeff. Davis, who desires to suppress it. We give a brief summary of some of its most important points. On the last day of 1863 the effective force of his army at Dalton amounted to 36,825 infantry and artillery and 5,613 cavalry. A portion of this force was sent in January to oppose Sherman in Mississippi. In February, 1864, Bragg, as commander-in-chief at Richmond, sketched an offensive campaign for Joe Johnston, but it was found impossible to give him the number of men necessary to the movement.

When the campaign was opened (May 1, 1864) by Sherman, Johnston's effective force numbered forty thousand nine hundred infantry and artillery, and four thousand cavalry. He was subsequently reinforced by Loring's and French's divisions, of Polk's corps—making his total force during the campaign, subsequent to the battle of Resseca, only about sixty thousand men. On the morning of May 9, when McPherson's army appeared in front of Resseca, it was held by only two thousand two hundred dismounted cavalry, under Wheeler. It was not until the 10th that the place was reinforced by Hood's corps and Loring's division, of Polk's corps. Johnston states that he crossed the Etowah river at the representations and recommendations of Polk and Hood, and says that it was "a step which he has regretted ever since." The rebel loss in the battle of New Hope church, May 27, was four hundred and fifty. In the assault on Kennesaw Mountain, in which General Harker, of our army, was sacrificed, the rebels lost two hundred and six in killed, wounded and missing. The losses of the campaign footed up ten thousand killed and wounded, and four thousand seven hundred from all other causes, not including the cavalry, loss unknown. The effective force of the army, as transferred to Hood, was forty-one thousand infantry and artillery, and ten thousand cavalry. He states that he planned the battle of Peach Tree creek and the flank attack on the Army of the Tennessee in which McPherson was killed. He also claims that he intended holding Atlanta. There are several hits at Bragg. Among other opinions given is one expressed by Bragg, in which Joe Johnston concurred, that Sherman's army was larger than Grant's. He alludes to the Union army as the "United States army," and maintains a dignified style throughout. The document is intensely interesting to those who participated in the campaign, and of general interest to the country at large.

Firing Below Richmond.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 18.]

Several heavy guns were heard in the direction of Dutch Gap yesterday evening. The cause of the firing has not been explained, but probably it was some wet guns which were being fired off.

On Wednesday and Thursday some movement was going on in Grant's camp opposite Petersburg. Deserters state that Grant has sent eight thousand men to City Point since Saturday, and say it is the impression in the Yankee army that this force is to be sent to Newbern or to reinforce Sherman. Sherman does not want reinforcements. Ferry, at Wilmington, may require more.

Colonel Mosby.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Feb. 16.]

Colonel Mosby was in Lynchburg on Wednesday. He expects to return to his command in a few days.

The Burning of Cotton.

The Augusta *Chronicle* advises the people of that city to resist the burning of cotton there. It says:—"War is to protect the property of citizens, not to destroy it." The same "Yankee" paper praises the late speech of Hon. Mr. Echols, and urges him to go abroad. Mr. Echols could not have received a more solemn warning.

Occupation of Suffolk, Va.

[From the Petersburg Express.]

We learn that a Yankee force, numbering about five hundred, have again occupied Suffolk, and their pickets extend about three miles from town, in the direction of Blackwater. A raiding party went out from Suffolk some days ago and visited Chuckatuck and Smithfield, doing considerable damage to the country through which they passed. It is not known for what purpose this advance is made.

All the Prisoners in Richmond to be Sent North Immediately.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 17.]

All the Yankee (privates) prisoners confined in this city will be sent North by flag of truce this morning. At the same time ten or twelve officers will also go off.

City Intelligence.

HANDSOME TESTIMONIAL TO C. S. SPENCER, ESQ.—A few days since Hon. Charles S. Spencer received from an old personal and political friend residing in London a complete set of the Chatham correspondence, purchased at the sale of the library of the late Lord Lyndhurst, together with a silver medal, commemorative of the Hon. William Pitt (Lord Chatham), it being one of a hundred only which were stricken off. This medal is thought to be the only one of the kind in America.

FIRE IN EAST HOUSTON STREET.—About three o'clock yesterday morning a fire occurred in the dwelling house No. 40 East Houston street, owned and occupied by Jane Winslow. The fire, it seems, originated in the bedroom of Bella Morris, one of the boarders, on the third floor, but from what cause at present is not known. The damage to the building is about $500; insured for $7,000, in the Globe Insurance Company. Damage done to the furniture is about $300; insured for $5,000 in the same company.

FIRE IN FORTY-NINTH STREET.—About ten o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the hay loft of stable 155 West Forty-ninth street, owned by Samuel Stewart. In trying to put the fire out Mr. Stewart burned his hands severely. The whole upper part of the stables, and the stock and feed, were destroyed; loss about $1,000. Building No. 157 was also owned and occupied as a dwelling by Mr. Stewart. The furniture was removed. The building is damaged to the extent of about $400. The building and stock, harness, &c., are insured in the Hamilton and Tradesmen's Insurance Companies. Dwelling house No. 153, occupied by officer Charles Platt, and owned by Mrs. Mary Poreit, is damaged to the extent of $400; no insurance. The furniture was taken out of the building before it was wet, although there will be considerable damage caused by removing it; insured for $400. The cause of the fire is unknown at present.

FATALLY KICKED BY A HORSE.—Coroner Gover yesterday held an inquest at Bellevue Hospital on the body of Thomas McGrath, recently employed as coachman for Mr. E. Graham, 1,239 Broadway, who died from the effects of a kick received from one of his employer's horses, which he was cleaning, on the 15th inst. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the foregoing facts. Deceased was thirty-six years of age and a native of Ireland.

Parricide at Concord, Mass.

BOSTON, Feb. 20, 1865.

In Concord, MASS., on Saturday evening, Warren Rice murdered his father, Mr. William Rice, by breaking his skull with a piece of iron while the family were at supper. Warren had been an inmate of the insane asylum, and was recently discharged, supposed cured.

CITY AFFAIRS.

THE SENATORIAL INVESTIGATION.

Comptroller Brennan's Examination Continued.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES AND WHO GETS IT.

Ferry Leases, Market Rents, City Advertising, &c.

THE BLUNT TESTIMONIAL AGAIN.

PICKINGS OF THE CITY CHAMBERLAIN.

THE PARK STOCKS, &c., &c., &c.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment at half-past ten o'clock yesterday, and at that hour Mr. McKeon proposed to continue the investigation into the Comptroller's department. Mr. Brennan and his counsel, Mr. Lawrence, were also in attendance, prepared to meet any charges that might be presented.

The first witness examined was Commodore Vanderbilt, who testified that he took $500,000 worth of the volunteer soldiers' bonds in 1863; he did not authorize the Warehouse Company to take any of the stock for him; he told Mr. Whitlock, who was in some way connected with the company, that he would take the whole of the loan at five per cent; he took it and paid the money for it; he paid the money in checks, but could not tell at what times the checks were given; he had nothing to do with the Warehouse Company; the stock was taken at par.

Mr. Andrew Mills was next examined. He testified that he was President of the Dry Dock Savings Bank; in 1863 he applied to the Comptroller for some of the six per cent Central Park stock; Mr. Dykeman, one of the Deputy Comptrollers, promised to let him have $150,000 of the stock; that he called next day, and Mr. Brennan told him that 107 had been offered for the stock, and he would take no less than 111; this was the stock that was afterwards sold to other parties at 101.

On the cross-examination of the witness he testified that this conversation took place after the regular bids had been opened, but before they had all been accepted and the bonds issued.

COMPTROLLER BRENNAN'S TESTIMONY CONTINUED.

Mr. Brennan resumed his position on the witness stand, and was subjected to a most critical examination by Mr. McKeon. He said there were eight bureaus in his department; Mr. Charles B. Lowe is head of the bureau of city revenue; he qualifies in two sureties of $15,000 each, or gives bonds in the amount of $20,000 for the faithful performance of his duties; cannot say as to the exact amount of revenue collected by him in each year; he deposits every day; he may collect as much as $500,000 a year; could not say that I have seen his returns once a week; have seen them once a month.

Mr. McKeon—What are the particular duties of the Comptroller? A. To look after the interests of the city and county of New York; to draw warrants for the payment of audited bills against the city when the same are properly vouched for and duly audited by the auditor; counsel could examine and look into all the minutiæ of the department if he so desired; Mr. Lowe gets a percentage on the money collected by him; he got three-quarter percent last year, as fixed by resolution of the Common Council; the percentage has been increased to one and a quarter per cent; the whole amount of this percentage would not probably exceed $800 a month; it would not reach $1,000; Withers and others are the owners of the lease of the Houston street ferry; think there is no period when that ferry did not bring some compensation or revenue to the city; had no authority to take private bids for the lease of this or any other ferry; $1,800 had been offered for the ferry, and one man offered $20,000, but I only sent to the Common Council the estimates that were in writing; cannot say, but I think it was the same man that bought it at the sale; it brought only $14,000 at public sale. There is a bureau of markets, of which Mr. Chas. A. Brown is superintendent, at a salary of three thousand dollars a year. There is a clerk of the markets also; he keeps the markets in order; Mr. Lowe collects the rents and fees of the markets; he rents the stands under the markets; Brown goes round through the markets and takes the complaints made by the butchers and others. There are two collectors in Washington Market—George Pickford and Chas. A. Brown; Mr. Brown regulates the affairs of the collectors and settles disputes without troubling the Comptroller's department; cannot tell what amount he paid to them. Richard Barry collects the rents of the cellars under the markets.

Mr. McKeon—How do you know that these collectors turn in all the money they receive? A. Cannot tell the amounts turned in only through the reports of the Collector of City Revenue; the money at the Washington Market is turned in weekly or monthly—think it is turned in monthly; never inquired; the stands in the market pay weekly, and the outside stands pay daily; stands inside are let at from one shilling to fifty cents; for the outside stands we get about two dollars a week; the wagons pay daily from twelve to fifteen cents each for the privilege of standing there; have no check upon the men who collect the money; it is left to their own honesty; Mr. Brown gives bonds in the amount of ten thousand dollars; cannot tell whether he has an account in the bank or not; Mr. Pickford and Charles A. Brown attend to the collection of these fees, and may have assistants if necessary; Brown settles all difficulties between the clerk and the occupants of the various stands; West Washington Market has perhaps one or two hundred little stalls or shops; cannot tell how much is derived from that source.

Mr. McKeon—Do you not know that there was a dispute between the city and private parties, Mr. Taylor, and your brother, Owen W. Brennan? A. That was before I came into office.

Mr. McKeon—Do you know of an application made by J. B. Fordam for an extension of his lease of cellar 21 Fulton Market? A. I do; I think it was so extended; the cellar was leased for $1,200.

Mr. McKeon—Where did you get the power from the Sinking Fund to extend this lease? A. At a meeting of the Sinking Fund Commissioners a resolution was passed giving me authority to lease for one year.

Here Mr. McKeon read from the city charter, showing that the Comptroller had no authority to lease any of the city franchises unless to the highest bidder at public auction.

Mr. Lawrence said that it was done under an ordinance of the Common Council, from which the Comptroller derived his authority.

Mr. McKeon—How many men are there who receive pay from the city whose names only appear on the pay rolls? A. There are numbers of men receiving pay from the city whose names never appear only on the pay rolls. (Witness referred to men employed in the City Inspector's Department.) Those who appoint them and have the appointing power are responsible for those whom they appoint; there are a number of street inspectors appointed by the City Inspector, whose duties might be performed by the police without any extra charge to the city, or it might be done by the City Inspector, without employing these street inspectors; there is an inspector of wharves, piers and slips; his business is to inspect the various wharves and slips of the city and see that they are in proper repair; Russel M. Roole, brother of the City Inspector, held that office last year; Robert M. Earle is the present incumbent of that office; don't know whether he has any deputies or not; he has laborers under him whom he employs when necessary; cannot tell how many; if he wished to put on names of men who performed no work I think he might do so; I discovered that some of these men did not come for their money, and the money was returned to the treasury; cannot tell whether these men were entitled to their money or not; some of them refused to swear that they performed their duty, and Mr. Rockwell, cashier of the bank, refused to pay them by my instructions; the bureau of street improvement is for regulating gutters and looking after the general condition of the streets, crosswalks, &c.; Mr. Platt is superintendent of the bureau; from three to four millions of dollars of city money is deposited in the Broadway Bank, by Daniel Devlin, City Chamberlain; he deposits in that bank; cannot tell whether he has an interest in the bank or not, think he has; think he has the right to select the bank in which to deposit the city funds; never advertised for banks to bid for the privilege of receiving the city deposits; have had no power to do so; in 1863 Mr. Devlin got from twenty-one to twenty-two thousand dollars percentage for money in his hands; his salary is $2,000 a year; he has served one full term, being appointed in 1859, and he has been reappointed by Mayor Gunther; don't know that Mr. Devlin paid any consideration for being reappointed to that office; I might have a suspicion, but would not express it; it would be wrong for me to do so; the Mayor's salary amounts to $11,000; Recorder Hoffman receives $1,000 as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Revision and Correction; as Recorder he receives $7,000; as Commissioner of the Sinking Fund, $1,000; as Commissioner of Assessment, $1,000; total, $10,000. The witness stated that some county bonds were sold last week as low as 96, and he would like to purchase them at that price.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lawrence.—Q. You were asked a question on Saturday in relation to the Commissioners of Revision and Correction, how are they appointed? A. They are elected by the people; I received the same salary as the rest; the sum was fixed by the Common Council; the duty of the Commissioners is to revise the assessment lists; the Assessors make out an assessment list, which is presented to the Board, and if confirmed it becomes a valid lien on the property assessed; I am elected by the people; the Counsel to the Corporation is also elected by the people; the Common Council, under the provision of the charter, assign the different bureaus their duties; the Street Commissioner appoints the head of the bureau on lands and places; I have no control over his appointments; the salary of this officer is $2,500, which is fixed by resolution of the Common Council; I have not the appointment of the Collectors of Assessments; I have nothing to do with any of these appointments; the Commissioners of taxes appoint the Collectors. The disbursement of all moneys raised on bonds for the Central Park is expended under the direction of the Park Commissioners, who are appointed by the State, and over whom I have no authority. The Tax Commissioners appointed Mr. Daniel D. Conover, and I have nothing to do with his appointment. I did not appoint Mr. Corson stenographer to the court of Common Pleas, nor have I anything to do with fixing his salary; his salary has been paid in the same way as the other officers of the court; he is appointed by the judges, who are responsible for his acts. In relation to the Fort Gansevoort property, I refused to carry out the ordinance of the Common Council until a mandamus was issued by the Supreme Court. The Common Council, in 1862, ordered Mr. Haws, who was then Comptroller, to buy the property; and in January, 1863, I refused, on the ground that Mr. Draper was one of the purchasers, he being an officer of the city government. The mandamus was issued by Judge Barnard; I heard it was argued at General Term, and I appealed from that decision to the Court of Appeals, and instructed the Corporation Counsel to employ counsel; he asked me to allow him to employ Wm. M. Evarts, and I told him to employ whom he pleased.

Mr. McKeon—Was not Mr. Evarts counsel for Taylor in another matter at that time? A. I do not know; I heard afterwards that he was; I wanted the case appealed, and I was told I must furnish bonds; went to Mayor Gunther and asked him to help me to get the necessary amount of security; he advised me to sign the bonds, which I did; the Police Justices' clerks are appointed by the Justices, who are elected by the people, and I have nothing to do with the appointment; Mr. Jonathan W. Allen owned land which was taken for the extension of the Central Park, and in payment he took stock for the amount; Mr. Elliott did likewise; the Court made the awards, and authorized me to pay them at seven per cent interest; the bonds did not amount to half what was advertised, and we had to take all the bonds; I did this under the advice of sound financial men, and it was their opinion that I ought to take it, and I think it was to the advantage of the city; I think I would do the same to-morrow under similar circumstances; I refused to give Mr. Mills the stock because he came and said he would take it at five per cent; I told him that the Sinking Fund Committee proposed to take it for the city at four and seven-eighths, and that they would take it all; Mills only wanted a small amount; the opening of Madison avenue was an ordinary street opening, and the commissioners were appointed by the Supreme Court; Mr. Dennis Quinn, Police Justice, is elected by the people, and I have nothing to do with fixing his salary, nor had I anything to do with his election; out of the $15,000,000 city expenses the amount raised for the State tax for 1864 was $237,000; for schools, $1,000,000, which is expended under the direction of the Board of Education; for Commissioners of Charities and Correction, $700,000; Police, $2,622,620 67, over which I have no control further than that the Comptroller of Brooklyn and myself, together with the Police Commissioners, fix the amount. The Counsel to the Corporation has charge of the law business of the city, and can bring all suits in relation to these judgments; some of the claims upon which these judgments were obtained were thoroughly examined and found to be just; the reason I did not pay them was that I had no money, and the only way they could be paid was to let them go by default, as an appropriation had been made to pay judgments.

Mr. Brennan stated, in reply to a question about the West Washington Market matter, that it had been settled by Mr. Haws. Mr. McKeon was one of the counsel for the city in that matter.

THE ALLEGED FELONS.

Q.—Do you know of your own knowledge of any person being in your employ against whom indictments had been found? A. No; the first time I heard it was in the Police Commissioner's office; I was told Mr. McKeon had said so, and I sent a letter to him asking their names, but got no answer; I then made inquiries about it in the office.

Mr. McKeon (excitedly to Mr. Lawrence)—If you pursue this matter further I will open the whole affair and give the names. I had him (the alleged felon) and his brother brought from California in irons, and Judge Woodruff refused instantly to discharge the indictment. Here is his counsel (pointing to a gentleman in the room), and he is here to keep the [illegible] from going abroad.

Mr. Lawrence said that he would not be intimidated by any threat which counsel on the other side might make.

Mr. Brennan—I found on inquiry that this was a matter of twelve years' standing, and from my experience of the man I found him to be a man of integrity, who had discharged his duty faithfully.

THE BLUNT TESTIMONIAL.

During the cross examination of Mr. Brennan in relation to this matter it came out that the only authority under which the $50,000 was paid was that at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors a resolution was passed to provide a suitable testimonial to Mr. Blunt, but no amount was named. At a subsequent meeting of the Bounty Committee, Mr. Blunt and Mr. Stewart being absent, the matter was discussed, and a proposition was made to give $50,000, but no action was taken, and no meeting was ever held afterwards. The members who attended that meeting sent letters to the Comptroller stating that they desired to give Mr. Blunt the money.

Mr. McKeon contended that the Comptroller, in paying the money under