THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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THE FENIANS.

The National Congress in Important Secret Session.

The Assembly Hall Crowded with Delegates.

Armed Sentinels in Green Uniform Guarding the Entrance.

THE BUSINESS BEFORE THE CONGRESS

The Irish Republic Bonds to be Issued and the American Fenians Constituted a Military Organization.

Proceedings of the Two Days Open Session.

THE ADDRESS OF HEAD CENTRE O'MAHONEY.

&c. &c. &c.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 17, 1865.

The National Congress of the Fenian Brotherhood went into secret session at four o'clock this afternoon. The sitting was protracted until eight P. M.

Most important and exciting business was transacted, the development of which will at once place in operation measures for the liberation of Ireland.

It is said that the bonds of the intended Irish republic are to be issued without delay, and that the American branch of the Brotherhood will be modified into a military organization ready for co-operation with their friends across the water.

OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following officers of the Congress, who were elected:—

President—John O'Mahony.

Vice Presidents—Colonel W. R. Roberts, of New York; James Gibbons, of Pennsylvania; P. Bannon, of Kentucky; Michael Scanlan, of Illinois.

Secretaries—F. A. Sennet, of Boston; P. A. Collins, of Boston; T. K. Barrett, of Indiana; J. C. O'Brien, of Rochester, N. Y.

ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS.

Delegations are still arriving. Missouri has sent on her quota. It includes General Thomas Curley, one of Sherman's and Grant's graduates in campaigning. Major General Thomas A. Sweeney, of the Western armies, is on his way. A heavy delegation is present from Ohio, headed by James W. Fitzgerald, State Centre of Ohio, and member of the General Council of the United States.

The Indiana delegation were luckily detained beyond Lancaster, thus avoiding the accident which occurred near that place to the train they intended to take. Their State Centre, Captain B. B. Daily, a prominent Indiana lawyer, was on the shattered train, and only saved himself by plunging from the car. His fellow passengers were frightfully mutilated. Every train which arrives brings more delegates, and the increasing proportions bespeak an imposing body. The Kentucky delegation are here in force with their State Centre, P. Bannon, of the Council. Tennessee is also represented. New England sends a powerful body of men. Her men appear stamped with intelligence and steadiness, and many of them will no doubt be heard from in the important debates. A striking feature of this Irish gathering is the large proportion of business men, journalists, lawyers and members of respectable professions and avocations. Their men of mind who have attended the Chicago and Cincinnati conventions declare that this Philadelphia body commands more mind, wisdom and decision than any of the previous ones. The members are generally progressive looking men, about thirty years average, apparently.

THE PROPOSITION TO ORGANIZE THE AMERICAN FENIANS INTO A MILITARY FORCE.

As the military organization is as yet confined to Britain ruled countries it may be that this Congress will take up the pending proposition of the Cincinnati Congress, which appears in the published pamphlet, to introduce military rule into the organization in this country. In that case brotherhood court martials, &c., would be in order with the American members. It has not been heard, however, that such a proposition is to be brought before this body.

THE IRISH REPUBLIC BONDS.

The most decided steps are to be taken. The bonds of the provisional national government are ready and will positively be promulgated by this Congress. The address on the subject by the Irish provisional authorities is also to be published, and I may be able to telegraph it to you Wednesday or Thursday. It will of course come to a friendly American people with a comparatively open bosom, more particularly as the fighting movement appears able to brave the demonstration of Britain. The question of the bonds business was mentioned in the Head Centre's frank preliminary address to the public meeting yesterday.

WORK COMMENCED.

This day was spent in awaiting the report of the Committee on Credentials, whose session lasted most of the day. Their business must have been extensive and engrossing, but there is a close seal on. At four o'clock those who passed the credentials ordeal were called on by States to enter the hall, each State and department being, I supposed, seated in a body, as in their previous conventions. It took some two hours to admit all, extraordinary caution being used by the ushers and door-keepers. Armed sentinels in green uniform were on duty. Thus opened the first regular session. The Convention is still sitting, and may continue till a late hour, as members wish to get home by Saturday.

The public meeting last night was a great success. The live sentiments of the speakers meet the marked approval of citizens.

MASS MEETING.

Another mass meeting of Fenians was held this evening. Large numbers could not obtain admittance. Eloquent speeches were made by B. D. Daly, State Centre of Indiana; Mr. Delany, of Connecticut, and John F. Finnity, of Chicago.

Mr. Daly said a part of the purpose of the Fenian organization had already been accomplished; they had cemented in one tie of brotherhood and sympathy Irishmen abroad and at home. On their banner was written the word "Onward," and they would never stop till they had accomplished their end—the freedom of Ireland. They had buried all the personal animosities and local feuds which had heretofore prevented the liberation of Ireland, and all Irishmen of all sects and classes were being gathered together for their mutual good. We have men at home who are willing to drive the invaders from their shores if we will only furnish the means. (Cries of "We will," "We will.") He showed that in doing this they were not renouncing their allegiance either to their adopted country or any system of religion. If those eminent priests, Father Roache, of Vinegar Hill, and Father Murphy, of Enscorty, did not break any laws of the Church in assisting in repelling the invaders in '98, why should we not battle against them to-day? He believed the cause had the sympathy of the American people, and that when the struggle came America would preserve at least a strict neutrality.

Mr. Delany was very severe in his strictures on those Irishmen who, although professing to sympathize with them, did not aid them. Those who say that Ireland is too weak do not know the extent of the Fenian organization. No speeches, but the sword alone, can carve Ireland's way to liberty, and if it is not done in this generation it never will be, as by the present ratio of emigration in twenty-five years only a million and a half will remain at home, and the opportunity may pass from us forever.

Mr. Finnity said the Congress assembled was composed of the united wisdom of the Brotherhood in this country, and prudence and wisdom would guide their deliberations. If concentration of action cannot make Ireland free it will not be their fault. If all the Irish in this country were united there could be no doubt of success; but the prospect looked very bright.

The meeting was very enthusiastic.

Proceedings on Monday.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 16, 1865.

The Fenian Convention was inaugurated in this city today, and notwithstanding the counter attractions of the great firemen's parade a large portion of the public interest seemed centred in the neighborhood of Tenth and Chestnut streets, the *locale* of the building occupied by the Fenian Brotherhood. There were delegates from all parts of the continent—scattered among them officers of the United States Army in abundance—and every one present seemed impressed with the importance of the crisis that suggested the gathering, and the obligation devolving on each of acting with prudence and determination. The hall of meeting is decorated with flags and banners in which the "Irish green" and the symbolic devices of the old land are tastefully blended with our own glorious Stripes and Stars, and around the room are shields with each a scroll bearing the name of an Irish county. Indeed, the whole affair is marked by a distinctive Irishism. I cannot, of course, in the matter of a secret convention, be very copious in details of proceedings. Much of the forenoon was spent in the formal matter of organization. Before, however, the Committees on Credentials and General Purposes were appointed the meeting was called to order to hear

THE OPENING ADDRESS

by Colonel John O'Mahony, who said:—

GENTLEMEN AND BROTHERS.—The third paragraph of the fifth section of the bylaws of the Fenian Brotherhood, as amended at Cincinnati in January, 1865, consists of the following proviso:—

"The Central Council shall have power to call a convention of State Centres or a general congress whenever they may deem it necessary for the transaction of extraordinary business; such convention of State Centres or such general congress shall have the power of impeaching and removing any officer in the organization."

In accordance with this clause the following resolution was proposed at a session of the Central Council, held in the city of New York on the 3d day of the present month, on motion of Mr. Bannon, and seconded by Mr. Doody:—"That this Council call a convention, to meet at Philadelphia on Monday, October 16, 1865, at nine o'clock A. M., delegates to be sent as laid down in the constitution, and expenses of State Centres to be paid by the general organization; all credentials to be endorsed and approved by the respective State Centres at Philadelphia." Whereupon was based the call which I shall proceed to read to you and which has been issued by the President of your Central Council, with my approval as your Head Centre. It is true that I saw several objections to its issue at the present moment. I thought it calculated to interrupt the more important business of the organization, and cause a state of inactivity and suspense throughout our circles at a time when all their energies should be directed to other objects. The notice also I considered too short for the attainment of a full representation of the Brotherhood; besides this I held it to be bad strategy to show any appearance of a desire to change our front in face of the recent aggressive movement of our enemy. (Cheers.) I assented to it for two reasons—for the sake of harmony in the first place, choosing the lesser of two evils; in the next, because I am resolved never to shrink from meeting my constituents, however summoned together, and rendering to them an account of my stewardship of their affairs. An event that has occurred since the promulgation of the call has reconciled me to it—namely, the arrival of an accredited envoy from the Irish republic, with an important and cheering communication—(loud cheers)—to myself and to you. (Continued cheers.) This I shall read when you are in regularly organized session. The call reads thus:—[Here follows the call of the Central Council as already published in the HERALD.] The objects of the Congress I can understand to be, in the first place, the creation of financial and military bureaus adequate to the increased development of the Fenian Brotherhood and the political crisis wherein it is now placed—(cheers)—and, in the second place, the granting of more unrestricted powers to your Central Council than what are vested in that body at present. (Cheers.) The good which, in my opinion, may result from this Congress, consists in the increased *eclat* it will give to the issue of our bonds, specimens of which will be presented to you for your inspection before you adjourn. (Cheers.) The address from the Irish republic, which has for some time lain in my keeping awaiting completion, may also be more authoritatively endorsed and approved at a general congress than it could be at a session of the General Council. The General Congress reigns supreme over all branches and departments of the Fenian Brotherhood in America. (Cheers.) The chiefest and best result that can accrue from your meeting is the authoritative and unmistakable promulgation of the assurance that the most complete concord exists between your Head Centre and the C. E. I. R. You will learn from the envoy of the I. R. that through your Head Centre alone can any authentic communication reach you from our allies in Ireland—(cheers)—that no action taken by any party in the United States without his sanction will be recognized by the authorities of the Irish republic—(cheers)—and that he alone is entitled to speak as its representative here. You will learn that all parties who pretend to be in direct communication with the central executive, through channels independent of your Head Centre, are impostors and sowers of discord in your ranks. The spirit of the following paragraph of the sixteenth section of your bylaws is strictly adhered to by our friends on the other side of the Atlantic:—

"No correspondence whatever can be held with Ireland or Europe on the business of the organization, except through the Head Centre. No communications on that business can be received in the United States from abroad, except through the Head Centre. Any member or officer derogating from this law shall be condemned a traitor."

This, gentlemen, will, I trust, be effectually disposed of at the present Congress, so that no man will henceforth have the opportunity to assert that he represents "the men in Ireland," without subjecting himself to the well-merited charge of being a false pretender. That delusion, if any have been led astray by it, must be disregarded henceforth and forever. It has already been the mother of numerous evils to this organization at home and abroad. Though this is a special Congress, and though but little time was given to the officials at headquarters to prepare documents, still I am in a position to inform you that full and minute reports will be laid before you of all that concerns the progress, numerical increase or diminution, the financial receipts and expenditures in America, since your last Congress, together with our remittances to our allies in another place. (Cheers.) No item will be found unexplained, notwithstanding the short and sudden notification given us. I call your special attention to the accurate and creditable reports which have been furnished by the Central secretaries for your information and satisfaction. The most prejudiced mind must pronounce them unexceptionable, all circumstances considered. For myself I return them my heartfelt thanks, both officially and personally, for the honest, able and complete manner in which they have discharged their intricate and laborious duties. The Central Treasurer also will be found to have deserved the marked gratitude of the Congress and the Brotherhood at large for his zealous, honest and diligent attention to the duties of his position. Your Central Council has held four sessions since January last. As this body will present you with its own reports, and as the minutes of all its proceedings will be subjected to your examination, I shall confine myself here to returning its members my thanks for the diligence and prompt-itude wherewith they have at all times responded to the summons of the Head Centre; and for the scrutinizing exactitude wherewith they have scanned and canvassed every act of your executive corps. Under the supervision of such watchful guardians it was all but impossible that your financial affairs could be mismanaged or your money misused. You will find by our reports that the Fenian circles in the United States have been multiplied more than once and a half during the past eight months; that the number of individual members in good standing has increased fourfold, and the weekly receipts at headquarters more than fiftyfold. The call for increased donations recently made upon our circles has been pretty generally and liberally responded to thus far; in fine, the organization is in a flourishing and growing condition; its influence and workings are at present making themselves felt over half the globe: our enemies are beginning to acknowledge its power by their persecution of all who are suspected of wishing it success, whenever they can lay hands upon them. (Cheers.) The effect of the late hostile movement of the British government against Fenianism, or so-called Fenianism, in the dominions of Queen Victoria, has had excellent results in these States. It has convinced the doubters and the despondent that there is still some hope for Irishmen in Ireland—(cheers)—and that ours is no sham, but a real, *bona fide*, working and live organization. (Cheers.) Already it has gained us many adherents among those classes in Ireland also. (Cheers.) The present persecution has so far tended to intensify the zeal and perseverance of our allies and friends. The mission from the Central Executive which I have received by the envoy here present will convince you of this fact. It may be true that a few of our more advanced skirmishers have fallen into the enemy's hands, among other "suspects;" but it is also true that our line of battle still remains unbroken—(cheers)—and that its onward march is unchecked. (Cheers.) With respect to the arrests of our friends made by the myrmidons of English tyranny, I must say that a great portion of the blame thereof rests upon the shoulders of some of our American Fenians. In their zeal to gain adherents to our cause many of our propagandists disclose facts that are calculated to put the British bloodhounds upon the trail of our patriot brothers at home. This is paying too dearly for an increase in our numbers at this side of the water. This thing must be put an end to henceforth and for ever. Any man found disclosing special facts or particulars respecting the home organization should be at once and ignominiously expelled from our body. The man who is not convinced by this time that a great and an extensive organization exists within the British dominions is not worth taking further trouble with. (Cheers.) There is one consoling fact, however, connected with the disclosures made by certain parties in their blatant and bombastic harangues. There is so much which is unreal and unfounded—so much of the nonsensical claptrap mixed so closely with a few grains of truth in their discourses, that it will tax all the ingenuity of British lawyers to sift the corn from the chaff. (Cheers.) Now, with respect to the exaggerated and inflated assertions to which I allude I must here state, for the hundredth time, that I have never countenanced one of them. (Cheers.) Neither in public nor in private have I ever, to my knowledge, given sanction to one single false statement connected with our organization. (Cheers.) Whatever my other shortcomings may be, no one can truthfully charge me with having wilfully deceived him, by word or deed. From the remarks just made you will understand that our progress has been immense and unprecedented during the time that has passed since we last met in congress. As happened during the period immediately preceding our session of January last, when we lost General Corcoran and so many other tried and trusted pillars of the Brotherhood, so within the interval between January and now we have lost Henry O'C. McCarthy, the President of our Central Council, one of the ablest and most energetic of our civilian brothers. Our military corps has been deprived of General Thomas A. Smith, our greatest loss since the fall of the gallant Corcoran and the brave Colonel Matthew Murphy—a man scarcely inferior to either in soundness of judgment and military ability. Both of these long tried and steadfast Fenian chiefs fell nobly before Richmond, in defence of the integrity of their adopted country. (Cheers.) What a power these three men—Corcoran, Smith and Murphy—would be to us now! How sadly we miss them from our ranks! How proud would they not be to witness our high position to-day, after the long and toilsome struggle during which they helped us to bring the Brotherhood through its early difficulties! All miss them; but I deplore their fall with more than a brother's grief. Gentlemen and Brothers, before proceeding to the business of appointing committees on permanent officers for this Congress, and for examining the credentials of the delegates that are to compose it, allow me to impress upon you the awful responsibility you are about to incur. This will be a far more important Fenian assemblage than any you have hitherto attended. In your hands will rest the salvation or destruction of the Fenian Brotherhood, and with it the cause of Ireland's regeneration, for outside the Fenian Brotherhood and its allies there is no hope for Ireland's future. (Cheers.) Be courteous and urbane in your relations to each other. However warmly you may feel upon points in dispute between you, learn to deny yourselves and curb the warmth of your passions, and to bear with even contumely for your country's sake. (Cheers.) Resolve, one and all, to initiate the fight for Irish liberty when you shall have made sufficient preparations for beginning the contest under good auspices. (Cheers.) Beware of "finality" assertions. Name no hour nor place for a rising of your countrymen; but lose not a day in doing all in your power to put them in readiness for it. Remember always our Fenian maxim, as adopted at Chicago in 1863, at our first Congress—

The patient dint and powder shock
Can blast an empire like a rock. (Great cheering.)

At the conclusion of Colonel O'Mahony's speech the Convention proceeded with the appointment of committees. Some discussion of a most amicable character took place on points of order; and at half-past one, the preliminary details having been completed, an adjournment took place.

THE OCEAN YACHT RACE.

The Henrietta Victorious—Challenge from Captain Loper, of the Palmer, to Repeat the Race Over the Same Ground.

The second great ocean yacht race of the season, this time between the yachts Palmer and Henrietta, was decided yesterday afternoon, the latter vessel being declared victorious.

The yachts sailed from the buoy off Sandy Hook at forty-five minutes past eleven on Monday morning, a strong northwesterly wind blowing at the time. The sea was so rough that it was impossible for the guests on the steam tug to board the Palmer. This latter vessel was slightly ahead at the start, and kept the lead for some time.

Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon a violent gale carried away the Henrietta's staysail, tearing it to atoms. The yachts passed the Barnegat Lighthouse at ten minutes past three. At twenty-two minutes past five the vessels sailed by the Absecom Light, and at twenty-eight minutes past eight the same evening the lightship off Cape May was reached, the Henrietta being six minutes ahead of the Palmer. At ten minutes past eight on the ensuing morning the Barnegat Lighthouse was reached, and the Henrietta passed the buoy off Sandy Hook at five minutes past one o'clock yesterday afternoon, about twenty-one minutes ahead of the competing yacht.

The subjoined challenge has been issued by Captain Loper, of the yacht N. B. Palmer:—

OCTOBER 17, 1865.

To Captain JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Jr., commanding yacht Henrietta:—

I do acknowledge that the Henrietta has won the prize, fairly and honorably, for the match race from Sandy Hook around the lightship at Cape May and back to Sandy Hook, by twenty-one minutes and three seconds.

You did not outsail my vessel, but you have outgeneralled her. The prize is yours. You will greatly oblige me if you sail over the same ground for two pieces of silver—one valued at five hundred dollars, the other at two hundred and fifty dollars. I will pay for the five hundred dollar service of plate, you for the two hundred and fifty dollar service, the winner to take both pieces of silver, or in place thereof anything of equivalent value. R. L. LOPER.

The Slanders Against General Slocum.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

No. 10 WEST THIRTY-NINTH STREET, NEW YORK, October 16, 1865.

Having read in a recent number of the New York *Tribune* an attack on the private character of General Slocum, and having for many years been intimately associated with General Slocum as a near neighbor and personal friend, I have taken the trouble of investigating this charge made against him.

I inclose herewith a statement made by Colonel Starring, President of the Board having charge of the matter to which the letter refers, and also the affidavit of General Rodgers, who served as Adjutant for General Slocum during the war.

The fact that this whole matter has long since been presented to the government, and that General Slocum was recently sent back to Vicksburg to assume a higher command than that previously held by him, would seem to render any statement unnecessary; but if you think proper I wish you would publish the enclosed:—

HARVEY BALDWIN.

STATEMENT OF COLONEL STARRING.

I was president of the board which investigated the claim for cotton presented by Mr. Noland. The evidence submitted left no doubt on the mind of any member of the board as to the loyalty of Mr. Noland or of the fact that about six hundred bales of cotton had been taken from him and used to protect vessels, and after being so used had been placed in a storehouse at Vicksburg. The board reported in accordance with the above facts, and recommended that when the exact amount taken should be established it should be restored to him. I subsequently saw the endorsement of General McPherson approving the action of the board, and ordering the district commander to carry its recommendation into effect.

F. A. STARRING,
late Colonel Seventy-second Illinois Infantry.

STATEMENT OF ADJUTANT GENERAL RODGERS.

I have served three years as Adjutant General for General Slocum, was acting in that capacity for him while he was stationed at Vicksburg, in 1864, and know all the circumstances connected with the claim for cotton presented by a Mr. Noland. His claim had been presented to General McPherson, commanding department, in 1863, and a board, of which Colonel F. A. Starring was president, had been convened to investigate it. This board reported that Mr. Noland was a loyal man; that about six hundred bales of cotton had been taken from him by the United States government, and used to protect vessels in passing rebel batteries on the Mississippi river; and that the cotton so taken and used was subsequently placed in a government storehouse at Vicksburg. The board recommended that the cotton be restored to the claimant.

General McPherson, commanding department, approved the finding of the board; but as the amount of cotton taken was not definitely stated, he ordered the district commander at Vicksburg to convene another board to take evidence on that point, and directed him to deliver to Mr. Noland, from any cotton then in possession of the government at that place, the amount which should be found due him.

A board which was convened for this purpose reported the amount due Noland to be six hundred bales. This report was presented to me while General Slocum was absent from Vicksburg, and in obedience to the order of the department commander I directed the quartermaster to deliver to the claimant the amount of cotton found due him. General Slocum returned to Vicksburg before the cotton had left that place, but after a portion of it had been placed on vessels. Another person having a similar claim against the government protested against the delivery to Noland of the entire amount, on the ground that it left none on hand with which the government could pay his claim. General Slocum at once countermanded the order issued by me for the delivery of the cotton to Noland, and directed that all the cotton should be shipped to the United States Treasury agent at New Orleans, together with the proceedings of both boards, the orders of the department commander, and all the evidence taken in the case. It was so shipped, and was in the hands of these agents when General Slocum left Mississippi.

During the three years that I have served as adjutant for General Slocum I know that he has never, in a single instance, decided or attempted to decide any question involving a title to private property; that he never, in any instance, surrendered property which had been seized by the government except in obedience to orders from his superiors in command or from the War Department.

HIRAM C. RODGERS.

Personally affirmed before me this 16th day of October, 1865, Hiram C. Rodgers, late brevet brigadier general United States Volunteers, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the above statement subscribed to by him is true of his own knowledge.

JAS. MONCRIEF,
Justice Superior Court, New York.

The North Carolina Convention.

RALEIGH, Oct. 12, 1865.

The Convention to-day laid on the table the question of prohibiting the assumption of the State war debt in aid of the rebellion, thus deciding to do nothing with it this session.

A resolution was introduced to appoint a committee to respectfully solicit the President to remove all colored troops from the State. A motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution was defeated, and the matter lies over.

Candidate for Governor of North Carolina.

RALEIGH, Oct. 17, 1865.

Jonathan Worth, State Treasurer, is announced as a candidate for Governor this morning. He has been looked upon as a Union or peace man, but will be supported by all the Vance and Davis leaders, with the hope of beating Governor Holden. Governor Holden is the Union administration candidate.

WASHINGTON.

The British Capitalists Pay Their Respects to the President.

Restoration of Property to Pardoned Rebels.

Gale, the Conspirator, Transferred to the Civil Courts for Trial.

Frauds and Injustice Connected with the Seizure of Cotton in the Southern States.

The List of British Holders of Rebel Bonds.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17, 1865.

INTERVIEW OF THE ENGLISH CAPITALISTS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Sir Morton Peto and party, accompanied by Hon. Robert J. Walker and others, visited the Executive mansion to-day to pay their respects to President Johnson. The interview was of an interesting character. The President entered warmly into conversation with his visitors, giving them his views of the immense resources of the country and the advantage to be gained by the liberal investment of capital in the United States. The general condition of the United States, with the prospect of the early and thorough restoration of the Union and of the peaceful working of the civil government was a source of much gratification, in which the distinguished visitors heartily participated.

EXCURSION OF THE CAPITALISTS.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will to-morrow give a complimentary observation trip to the English railway capitalists, who will visit the battle fields of Monocacy, Harper's Ferry, and other places of interest. They will be accompanied by several distinguished generals of our army.

THE BRITISH HOLDERS OF THE REBEL BONDS.

The publication of the list of the principal owners of the shares of the rebel cotton loan has, it appears, created much excitement in England, and called forth several denials as to its truth. Whatever errors it may contain it is proper to say that the original document, from which a copy was taken and furnished simultaneously to the American press, is in possession of this government, together with many others of an equally interesting character upon that and other questions relating to rebel proceedings, and obtained both at home and abroad.

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY TO PARDONED REBELS.

The formal restoration of property claimed by pardoned citizens of Virginia is occupying a good share of the clerical labor of the Freedmen's Bureau. About twenty-five names are now represented upon the lists of property holders who have been restored to their possessions. Most of the landed estates thus transferred are located in the counties of Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudon, St. Marys and Falls Church, and are worth in the aggregate about half a million of dollars. The plantation of Southron, on the Pawtucket river, in Maryland, is included in the above list, together with the residences of Mrs. Francis Smith and Mrs. Dangerfield, in the city of Alexandria, the former being worth about one hundred thousand and the two latter from twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars apiece.

GALE, THE CONSPIRATOR, TRANSFERRED TO A CIVIL COURT FOR TRIAL.

It will be recollected that during the conspiracy trial two printers, employed in the office of the Selma *Despatch*, testified that George W. Gale was the author of an advertisement which appeared in the *Despatch* soliciting contributions of a million of dollars with which to procure the assassination of President Lincoln and certain members of his Cabinet. Gale was in Washington when the testimony was given, and had engaged counsel to conduct his case in the event of his trial in Washington. But he was removed South, where he has ever since been in confinement. Recently the President ordered that he be transferred to a civil, instead of a military, court for trial, in Alabama.

JEFF. DAVIS.

During the interview on Friday between the President and the South Carolina delegates, he said that if treason has been committed there ought to be some test by the highest tribunal as to the power of the government to punish the crime, in order to assert the vindication of the government and the constitution, even if the Executive clemency should thereafter be exercised. This repetition of his intention certainly does not comport with the assertions of at least one newspaper correspondent (and which have been extensively published), that "the President has no idea of bringing Jefferson Davis to trial." The delay has certainly not been the fault of the administration, nor is there any reason to believe that the desired test has been abandoned. It is known that it is the business of the judiciary and not of the Executive to initiate proceedings in the premises; but there is a difference of views among jurists, and the opinion has been advanced that, in the present unsettled condition of the Southern States which are still under martial law (in one of which the trial would have to take place, no general place having been proclaimed), additional legislation by Congress may become necessary, and further, there would not be time enough between now and the first Monday of December to try the case; for at that period the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States will commence their regular term at the capital. Whatever may the ultimate disposition of Jefferson Davis and others, this appears to be the present condition of the important subject.

THE SEIZURE OF COTTON IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Information continues to be received here of the frauds and injustice connected with the seizure of cotton in Southern States. Much of that article has been confiscated on the ground that it was Confederate property, as distinguished from that of individuals, whether they were or not voluntarily engaged in the rebellion. The only remedy for those aggrieved, provided they were loyal citizens, is before the United States Court of Claims, which will be crowded with cases of this kind. The administration is seeking to prevent further spoliations, and it is not improbable that some plan will soon be officially promulgated as a remedy.

THE STATUS OF KENTUCKY.

The withdrawal of martial law from Kentucky leaves her in exactly the same condition as other designated loyal States. The suspension of the writ of habeas corpus still applies to all of them in cases arising out of the army and the navy, as to deserters, spies and other classes of offenders.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH.

No definitive action has yet been taken in relation to the application for the removal of General Palmer; but it has been determined to withdraw the colored troops from Kentucky. Troops, of whatever character, will also be withdrawn from all the Southern States—with the exception of the few which may be required for fortifications—as soon as the public safety will admit, or immediately after the restoration of civil government.

THE EXCEPTIONAL CLAUSES IN THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.

It has come to the knowledge of the authorities that persons who had taken no voluntary part in the rebellion have had their property seized by officers who supposed that the being worth over twenty thousand dollars was of itself a sufficient ground for the proceeding. It does not seem to be generally understood that the exceptional clauses in the President's proclamation apply only to certain classes of offenders, who are required to make special application for pardon. All, saving the excepted classes, can without difficulty obtain the benefit of the amnesty. Owing to the prevalent ignorance concerning this fact the purchase and sale of mixed property are prevented, in apprehension of litigation. In cases where parties receive pardon they have "restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and except in cases where legal proceedings, under the laws of the United States providing for the confiscation of property of persons engaged in rebellion, have been instituted," according to the terms of the proclamation of the 29th of May last.

PARDON BROKERS.

Numerous parties in the South act as agents or pardon brokers, some of them coming hither and each presenting as many as fifteen or twenty applications from both men and women for the Executive clemency, when the oath could as well be administered to them at home.

JOHN MITCHEL.

Strenuous efforts are made by friends of John Mitchel for his release from Fortress Monroe.

MAIL SERVICE IN THE SOUTH.

The Postmaster General to-day ordered important railroad service in Tennessee, Georgia and Florida over the railroads of those States.

PERSONAL.

Secretary McCulloch to-day returned from his home in Indiana, and attended the Cabinet meeting to-day. Secretary Seward is now the only absentee.

General Hooker and wife, General A. H. Terry and Hon. M. F. Odell are at Willard's.

RELATIVES SEEKING FOR THE BODIES OF SLAIN HEROES.

As cold weather comes on many persons from the North are coming with it to Washington for permission to remove the bodies of their relatives from Southern battle fields and burial places. All such applicants are referred to Captain James M. Moore, the Quartermaster, who has such matters in charge. Those who have friends lying in the Soldiers' Home Cemetery, near this city, are generally content to leave them in that beautiful spot. The season is not far enough advanced to permit the removal of bodies from Andersonville and other cemeteries in the far South.

EPISODE IN THE TREASURY.

An interesting, suggestive and lively episode in Treasury life occurred Saturday. Gov. Pierpont, of Virginia, who was sauntering through the Treasury building, called upon Hon. Freeman Clarke, Comptroller of the Currency. In the course of conversation about the currency, national debt, &c., Governor Pierpont asked Mr. Clarke if he thought the people of the South would be required to help pay the national debt. In reply to this idiotic query Mr. Clarke said he thought they would. Governor Pierpont wanted him to understand that the Southern people wouldn't stand such damned nonsense. As the Governor was evidently in earnest, and is generally reliable, Mr. Clarke, who is a mild and extremely affable man, did nothing more than show him the door.

SALE OF RAILROAD STOCK.

At a public sale of rolling stock at Alexandria, Va., today, by Colonel H. L. Robinson, the locomotive General H. Robinson brought $16,500, the General Sickles $16,300, the General Meade $16,500 and the General Couch $16,300. These engines cost the government, about two years ago, $11,000 each. There were also sold twenty-four locomotives, one hundred and twenty-four freight cars and about fifteen hundred tons of railroad iron. The cars averaged about $464 each, and but few of the engines brought less than their cost. The latter were bought by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Northern Central, the Philadelphia and Erie and the Erie and Pittsburg railroad companies.

APPOINTMENTS.

The President has made the following appointments:—John Paleman, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Thirteenth district of Pennsylvania; Elias G. Groff, Assistant Assessor of the Sixteenth division, Ninth district of Pennsylvania; Alexander Mitchell, Assistant Assessor of the Seventh division, Fifth district of Pennsylvania; James A. Gault, Assistant Assessor of the Sixth division, Thirteenth district of New York; Loren Jones, Assistant Assessor of the Fourth division, Thirty-second district, and John W. Hull, Assistant Assessor of the Sixth division, Thirty-second district of New York.

THE UNITED SERVICE SOCIETY.

Colonel W. S. Hillyer, Colonel Chas. D. McGregor, Captain Temple Clark and other gentlemen representing the United Service Society of New York, are here to obtain a recognition of the claims of the military interest in the distribution of the federal patronage in New York. They claim one of the most important of the positions in New York upon the distinct ground that among those who have administered the most difficult duties of war can be found those equally capable of administering mere civil functions.

THE NATIONAL SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' HOSPITAL.

The meeting of the corporators of the National Soldiers and Sailors' Asylum is called for to-morrow at the Smithsonian Institute, in this city. Forty-nine members are necessary to form a quorum. At present but few are in the city. It is hoped the necessary number will arrive to-morrow and the wheels of its machinery be put in motion.

THE TRIAL OF GENERAL BRISCOE.

The evidence in the Briscoe case is all in, and the commission has adjourned till Friday, at which time the arguments will be heard. The Court to-day decided against motions of the prisoner's counsel to introduce more witnesses and War Department records to prove previous good character.

THE EIGHTH REGIMENT.

The Eighth regiment, First corps, recently located on Hart's Island, New York harbor, have arrived in this city, and are assigned to duty within its limits.

RETURNING VETERANS.

In accordance with an order issued yesterday, the One Hundred and Ninety-fourth Ohio regiment will be mustered out of service forthwith. The muster rolls of the One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania regiment have been ordered to be made out without delay, preparatory, it is believed, to its discharge.

Important Circular from the Peruvian Minister.

PERUVIAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON, Oct. 15, 1865.

Having received reliable information relative to certain transactions in the city of New York, in connection with Peru, which may compromise the interests of such individuals as may unwarily allow themselves to be involved thereby, the undersigned deems it well to make the following official declarations:—

First—The only constitutional government of the republic of Peru is that of which his Excellency General Don Juan Antonio Pezet is President, and which alone is recognized as such by the United States of America and all other nations.

Second—All persons will be deceived who may give faith to certain publications now being made in this country, with the manifest object of preparing public opinion, in order to carry out certain speculative schemes, for which Peru can never be held responsible, and which will undoubtedly prove as ruinous to all who may embark in them, as did in past years the affair of the Georgiana and Lizzie Thompson and others unnecessary to mention.

Third—The Peruvian government will never admit any claims, whether presented through diplomatic channels or otherwise, having in view the making valid any rights derived under contracts entered into by agents not duly invested by said government with proper authority to make them.

Fourth—In conformity with the provisions of pre-existing laws, and the decree of which a translation is given below, any engagements entered into or obligations contracted by any other than the functionaries duly authorized, as stated in the preceding declaration, compromiting the credit of the Peruvian republic, or the whole or any part of its revenues, or the value of the guano now existing in its deposits, or the deposits themselves, are now and will at all times be null and void in Peru.

[Translation.]

MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY AND COMMERCE, JUAN ANTONIO PEZET, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

Considering, That to the government alone belongs the right of disposing of the public wealth in conformity with the constitution and the laws;

That the guano deposits are subject to consignment contracts, and to heavy and solemn responsibilities for the benefit of national and foreign creditors;

That the illegitimate exportation of the manure in question would not only diminish and impede the shipments which should be made exclusively by the consignees, in accordance with their respective contracts, but would also create in the various markets a competition which would be prejudicial as well to the interests of the treasury as to those of the consignees; and

That it is one of the most sacred and important duties of the government to adopt opportune and efficacious measures to prevent the above-mentioned contracts and responsibilities being made inoperative.

The Council of Ministers being heard, I decree:—

Whoever shall, without a permit and order from the legitimate and proper authority, export guano from the Chincha Islands, or from any of the other national deposits of that manure, shall be considered as a depredator of the national wealth and violator of the rights of the consignees and of all creditors who have in the guano a positive guarantee for the fulfilment of their contracts and settlement of their respective credits; and he will consequently be prosecuted and rigorously punished, in accordance with the laws of the republic and international right.

The Minister of State, in the Department of Treasury and Commerce, is charged with the execution of this decree, and to cause it to be printed, published and circulated.

Given at the Government House, in Lima, the thirteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

JUAN ANTONIO PEZET.
JOSE JORGE LOAYZA.

J. A. GARCIA Y GARCIA, Peruvian Minister.

MEXICO.

Great Activity of the Liberal Forces in the Provinces.

FRENCH AND AUSTRIANS DEFEATED

The United States Consul Declared "Unknown" at Court.

Ex-American Rebels Refuse Military Commissions.

&c. &c. &c.

Our City of Mexico Correspondence.

MEXICO, Oct. 1, 1865.

Maximilian's Prospects More Gloomy—Bad Weather and Bad News—Victories and Concentration of the Liberals—Imperial Bribery—The United States Consul Declared "Unknown" at Court—Ex-Rebels Refuse Military Commissions—Insult to the Court by the Populace, &c.

Matters grow worse and worse every day. The rainy season, which has been extraordinarily severe, has temporarily suspended the activity of the campaign; but some encounters have occurred, which the imperial journals confess as not favorable to Maximilian's soldiers.

At Huan Chinangs and Zacapoatlan mountains the Austrian forces have been beaten, and nobody gives any more attention to it, as the foreign soldiers have always the worst part in every encounter. Leon Ugalde and Fragoso crossed the Mesquital and threatened Pachuca so seriously that all the garrison of Tulancingo was compelled to come out to reinforce that of Pachuca. Tulancingo remaining exposed to the forces of Zacatlan and Chiguahuapan, the imperial prefect was compelled to run away, and he is actually in this city.

In the State of Vera Cruz the republican General D. Alejandro Garcia is daily increasing his forces. He drills them, and moves several times against the imperial garrison of Placolula, Naulinco, Zongolica, &c., &c., and he concentrates afterwards in his headquarters at Tlacotalpan, where the republican army publish a newspaper—*El Boletin Constitucional.*

All the French and imperial newspapers, such as the *Estafet'e*, the *Era*, the *Sociedad*, the *Pajaro Verde* and others, confess that the insurrection in the State of Oajaca has assumed very serious proportions. Nobody can pass from Teotitlan del Camino to the approaches of Oajaca, because the country is at the mercy of Figueroa, armed with fourteen hundred guns which he took in Tehuacan and some three hundred