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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—SOLON SHINGLE.

LUCY RUSHTON'S NEW YORK THEATRE, Nos. 728 and 730 Broadway.—THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING—THE PRISONER OF WAR.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.—THE BALLOON WEDDING—THE WIDOW'S VICTIM. Matinee at 1½ o'Clock.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—THE OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, MUSICAL GEMS, &c., at the Fifth Avenue Opera House, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth st.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—ETHIOPIAN SINGING, DANCING, &c.—L'AFRICAINE BY THE GERMAN OPERA TROUPE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—SINGING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE FEMALE CLERKS IN WASHINGTON. Matinee at 2½ o'Clock.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—DAN BRYANT'S NEW STUMP SPEECH—NEGRO COMICALITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.—THAT'S MY SISTER.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY—BALLADS, BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor Place.—WM. B. WALSH ON "THE HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND IRELAND."

New York, Wednesday, January 24, 1866.

THE NEWS.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday there were presented the protests of the California Legislature against the proposed survey and sale of government mineral lands, and of citizens of St. Lawrence county, N. Y., against the renewal of the Reciprocity treaty. A bill was introduced allowing naval and Marine corps officers compensation for personal effects lost in action with the enemy and providing for deducting from the prize money of naval seamen the amount of any bounty they may have received. Mr. Sumner gave notice that he intends to introduce a negro suffrage amendment to the Colorado admission bill. Notice was also given of a proposition to authorize the Postmaster General, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to change the style of letter stamps. Mr. Henderson, republican, of Missouri, offered a constitutional amendment to prohibit any State withholding the elective franchise from its citizens on account of color. The remainder of the session was consumed in debate over the bill to enlarge the power of the Freedmen's Bureau, Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, addressing the Senate strongly in opposition to it, principally on account of the heavy expenditure which it would entail, though he believed that the passage of this and other republican measures of like character would result in the restoration to power of the democracy. He was replied to at length by Mr. Fessenden, and other Senators took part in the discussion; but no vote was reached.

Nearly the entire day was spent by the House of Representatives in a discussion of the proposed constitutional amendment of the Reconstruction Committee. A resolution was adopted instructing that committee to report on the expediency of taking the national census during the present year. Mr. Henderson, republican, of Oregon, offered a series of resolutions, which were sent to the same committee, declaring that by secession the rebellious States lost their constitutional rights and privileges; that consequently their territory reverted to the national government, and that therefore, the welfare of both the white and black races requiring that they should live apart, Texas should be appropriated as a place of residence exclusively for the negroes. The House then took up the constitutional amendment introduced by the Committee on Reconstruction, in their report made on the previous day, providing that Congressional representation shall be based on the entire population, excepting such persons as by State law are deprived of the elective franchise on account of race or color. Mr. Stevens for some time insisted on pressing the question to an immediate vote, but was finally induced to permit discussion of the merits of the measure, and a long debate, participated in by a number of members, followed, lasting up to the adjournment, without any disposition being made of the matter.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday a petition for the removal of the railroad track in Thompson street, in this city, was presented. Among the bills noticed was one for a ship canal between Lakes Ontario and Cayuga. Bills were introduced to facilitate the construction of the Midland Railroad, between this city and Oswego; to facilitate collection of claims against insurance companies, and declaring it to be a misdemeanor to threaten or attempt to bribe delegates to political meetings. The bill amending the General Manufacturing law was ordered to its third reading. The Metropolitan Health bill was made the special order for to-day.

In the Assembly the reports for the year 1865 of the Quarantine Commissioners, the Health Officer of this port and the State Paymaster General were presented. The former two were accompanied by a message from Governor Fenton urging immediate legislation to meet the recommendations of the reports regarding measures to prevent the spread of the cholera on its anticipated visit next summer. An appropriation of fifty thousand dollars is recommended to meet the necessary contemplated Quarantine expenditures and to cover liabilities incurred by late proceedings to guard against the disease. Among a number of bills ordered to a third reading was that for a survey of the upper part of Hudson river and of the Champlain Canal from Troy to Whitehall, with a view of the enlargement of the canal. Notice was given of a bill for a bridge across the East river. Bills were introduced fixing the salaries of Metropolitan police captains at two thousand dollars per year, and providing for two additional Surrogates in this city. A resolution calling for immediate action to fix the fare on the Eighth Avenue Railroad at eight cents was offered, but, after some discussion, laid on the table.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A War Department order has been issued for mustering out of service about thirty additional regiments of troops, about half of which are colored organizations.

Senor de Tejada, President Juarez's Secretary of State, issued at El Paso, on the 19th of December, the day after the last arrival of the President and his Cabinet at that town from Chihuahua, a circular to the State Governors, officially announcing the re-establishment at the former place of the Mexican national government. Notwithstanding this and the numerous other vicissitudes which have befallen the government, Senor Tejada assures the Mexican people that the determination of their patriotic and persevering chief and his faithful assistants to resist the imperial establishment is unabated, and that their hopes of early triumph are greatly strengthened by passing events. Our El Paso correspondent, writing on the 23d of December, furnishes an account of the arrival and enthusiastic reception there of Juarez. A procession of military and citizens met him some distance from the town, and on his entry he was greeted by the ringing of bells, the roar of artillery, the cheers of the populace, and all manner of exuberant demonstrations. The Mexican republicans were much rejoiced on learning of the appointment by President Johnson of General Logan as United States Minister to their country. They have no doubt ere this been somewhat saddened by the intelligence that he has declined the position.

We received by telegraph from Washington last night a synopsis of the correspondence in relation to the Mexican emigration schemes of Gwin and Maury, submitted to the Senate by President Johnson on the 10th instant. The principal points of this correspondence appeared in the HERALD of the following day; but the substance of one or two additional letters is now given. In August last Druyn de Lhuys, in a despatch to our Minister in Paris, asserted the intention of France to remain neutral in all questions affecting the United States, from whom she expected the same course of conduct. He said that his government had nothing to offer as a pledge, but that he considered the word of France a sufficient guarantee.

The anti-slavery amendment to the national constitution was yesterday adopted by the Senate of the New Jersey Legislature, after an earnest debate, by thirteen yeas to eight nays. It was ratified by the House on Wednesday last, and that body yesterday adopted a resolution directing one hundred guns to be fired to-day in honor of New Jersey's endorsement of the measure.

A recent article in the *Monitor* of Prussia declares that President Johnson's Message is eminently conservative of the friendly relations of foreign governments with the Union. It says, further, that our institutions, which are not suited to Europe, have shown a vigor that has often been called into question. Despite our trouble and the interruption to commerce and our enormous expenses, our government, it says, has equipped two and a half millions of soldiers, and yet felt itself sufficiently powerful to be able to disband that army in four months, or at least to reduce it to a fifth. The same article says, finally, that unjust and thoughtless opinions of the Message are not wanting in some of the sheets favorable to the government, but which are wrongly regarded as its organs.

Yesterday morning United States Marshal Murray, acting upon a monition from United States District Attorney Dickinson, proceeded on board the propeller Meteor, a steamer of fourteen hundred tons burden, and seized the vessel, it being charged by an affidavit of Mr. Podestat, an attache of the Spanish legation, that the vessel was fitted out as a Chilean privateer, destined to destroy Spanish commerce on the high seas. The Meteor, which was to have sailed for Panama yesterday morning, is still in charge of a deputy marshal.

A rumor prevailed in the city yesterday that a Fenian privateer had left this port to prey on British commerce. It was occasioned by supposed mysterious movements of the steamship Cuba, which cleared at our Custom House on Saturday last for Baltimore, but did not sail till yesterday.

The suspension of business by the Columbian Marine Insurance Company, announced in yesterday's HERALD, creates immense excitement in commercial circles. The company's buildings were thronged yesterday by the stockholders, many of whom, on ascertaining the causes of the alleged failure, proposed to stand an assessment of fifty per cent in order that business might be resumed by the directors. A meeting of the latter will take place to-day, at which it is expected some satisfactory arrangement may be entered into. We publish to-day the financial statements of the company for the past three years, and the history of its organization in 1857. The exact amount of the liabilities is not yet ascertained, but they will reach a very high figure.

The skating on all the ponds in and around the city was of a first class character yesterday, and they were of course all thronged. A grand and successful carnival took place on the Fifth avenue pond, which was attended by large numbers. Snow commenced falling between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, and continued up till about ten at night; but as the fall was of a very light character it did not seriously interrupt the enjoyment of skaters, and as it was succeeded by the dissipation of the clouds and a starlit sky, the prospects are good for a continuation of their sport to-day.

A serious affray occurred on board the steamship Manhattan, at pier No. 3 North river, yesterday afternoon, between the firemen and coalpassers and the second mate, Henry Curwin. The latter, being hard pressed, drew a revolver and discharged it at the crowd, the shot taking effect in the head of Michael Haley, a fireman, producing a probably fatal wound. Curwin was arrested, and the wounded man was taken to the City Hospital, where the surgeon gave it as his opinion that Haley could not live through the night.

Evidence was taken yesterday before United States Commissioner Stilwell on behalf of Captain Peabody, of the ship Neptune, who is charged with cruel treatment of seamen on board that vessel. The testimony went to show that many of the crew were inefficient and incapable of working the vessel, and but for the efforts of the captain the sailors and passengers would never have been brought into port with safety. The case is closed on both sides, and now awaits the Commissioner's decision.

Commissioner Betts yesterday heard a case in which a man named George Brauno was charged with having in his possession forged fifty cent fractional currency representing seven or eight hundred dollars. Some evidence having been taken, the further hearing was adjourned.

A curious stock operation was developed yesterday before Judge McCunn, at the special term of the Superior Court. The parties to it are Mr. John A. Bridgland as plaintiff and Messrs. L. Hallgarten, Joseph Herzfeld and Wm. Rozenheim as defendants. We give a sketch of the case under our legal intelligence.

The Strong litigation, we are informed, is to be revived. Notice of a new trial has been served, and the case will be placed on the calendar for next term.

The Father Mathew Society was before the Court of Common Pleas yesterday in very formidable numbers. A dispute has arisen between two sets of officers as to the right to the possession of the funds, control of the meeting house, and general direction of the society's affairs. The plaintiffs in the action claim that the defendants are expelled members, and that their term of office has expired. The defendants, on the other hand, claim that the title to office is involved in the controversy, and therefore that the Court has no jurisdiction, the proper tribunal for such a matter being the Supreme Court on a writ of quo warranto.

The United States Supreme Court has confirmed the decree of condemnation in the case of the British ship Admiral, captured in December, 1861, off Savannah, by a government vessel, while attempting to run the blockade of that port, and taken to Philadelphia and libelled as a prize.

There were a number of burglars sent to the State Prison yesterday from the Court of General Sessions by Judge Russel. Henry Cunningham, who, on the night of the 30th of December broke into the store 156 Varick street and stole six dollars worth of hams, pleaded guilty to burglary in the third degree. As he was an old offender the Court sentenced him to the State Prison for four years. Thomas Wilson, charged with breaking into the liquor store of Stephen Rowman, in Cherry street, and stealing two pistols and four dollars, pleaded guilty and was sent to the State Prison for two years. Henry Miller, indicted for burglary in the second degree, having broken an inner door of the Continental Hotel on the 4th inst., and stole an overcoat, pleaded guilty to the third grade of that offence, and was remanded for sentence. Charles Borsheo pleaded guilty to an attempt to steal five hundred dollars from Auguste Lott, at 329 Tenth avenue. The accused claimed that the money he took was in rebel notes, which were produced. Sentence was postponed. George F. St. Albyn was tried on a charge of stealing three firkins of butter, the property of W. L. Allen, and afterwards selling it to Charles Hauns, on the 16th of October. An alibi was established by the depositions of a number of witnesses, who testified that the accused was in the town of Holland, Massachusetts, from the 12th of October to the 8th of November. The jury rendered a verdict of not guilty.

The trial of Francisco Gene Salvador for the murder of Jose Garcia Otero was continued yesterday in the King's County Court of Oyer and Terminer. A great deal of testimony was taken; but it was principally a repetition of that elicited on the Gonzales trial. The case was closed for the prosecution, and the defence was opened, and several witnesses were examined in behalf of the prisoner. The trial will be concluded to-day.

The ex-rebel Captain S. S. Smith, recently arrested in Toronto, Canada, on charge of attempting to negotiate stolen United States bonds, has been taken from that place to Windsor, where a full investigation of his case will be made. The four thousand dollars worth of five-twenties offered for sale by him were not due until 1881, and were short of every coupon, amounting altogether to about nine hundred dollars in gold, payable semi-annually, in sums of thirty to one thousand dollars each.

The people of Titusville, in the Pennsylvania oil regions, are in a state of great excitement on account of attempts to destroy that town by fire, and a vigilance committee of thirty of the prominent citizens has been organized, and yesterday commenced the trial of three persons arrested on suspicion of connection with the incendiarism. A gallows was already erected, on which the prisoners were to swing immediately if found guilty. Several distinct fires were kindled, the damage by all of them being estimated at seventy-five thousand dollars.

The members of the colored delegation which their brethren of various States are maintaining in Washington, to look after their interests during the present session of Congress, formed an organization on Monday for concerted action in efforts to induce Congress to insure for the negro equality before the law with the white man. George T. Downing, representing the New England States, was chosen their President. Yesterday, by invitation of General Howard, Commissioner of Freedmen's Affairs, the delegation visited him and had a conference regarding matters affecting the welfare of the people of their race in the Southern States.

The report of the commission appointed by Provisional Governor Holden, of North Carolina, to draw up a code for the regulation of the affairs of the freedmen was presented to the Legislature of that State yesterday. It provides, among other things, for receiving the testimony of negroes in civil and criminal suits to which persons of their race may be parties.

Complaints still come from the interior of Louisiana of the refusal of the freedmen to labor, and it is said that they are influenced to this course by designing persons who contemplate being able to purchase plantations cheap by inducing the present owners to sell on account of their inability to procure laborers. Sixty prominent citizens of De Soto parish have been arrested by the military and imprisoned at Shreveport, charged with killing negroes.

The stock market was unsettled and lower yesterday morning, but improved in the afternoon, and closed steady. Gold closed at 139¼ a 139⅝. Governments were dull.

There was no essential change in commercial affairs yesterday. The dulness mentioned in our last was the chief feature, the fall in gold, slight as it was, exerting a somewhat unfavorable influence. Foreign goods were quiet, but steady; but domestic goods were dull. Cotton was nominally lower. Petroleum was also lower. Groceries were quiet but steady. On 'Change flour was dull and heavy. Grain was weak and nominal. Pork was dull but unchanged. Lard was steady. Whiskey was a trifle lower.

Liberal receipts and consequent continued depression are still the ruling features of the cattle market, and prices for beef cattle this week are again nearly or quite 1c. per pound lower, though the range is nearly the same, or prime 10c. to 18c. Milch cows remain the same, prices varying all the way from $60 to $150. Veals are steady at from 10c. to 15c. Sheep and lambs are again lower, owing to the fact that the supply exceeds the demand. Prices per head are about the same, ranging from $4 50 to $10. Hogs sold at from 10½c. to 11c. The total receipts were 4,087 beeves, 59 cows, 489 veals, and 19,180 sheep and lambs.

The Anti-Radical Majority of the House, and How it was Thrown Away on the District Negro Suffrage Bill.

The bill which passed the House of Representatives the other day, without qualification, granting the right of suffrage to the blacks of the District of Columbia, although carried by a two-thirds majority, was nevertheless passed against a clear majority of the House opposed to the measure. Let us turn to the record.

The bill being before the House, the motion of Mr. Hale, of New York (republican), came up, viz:—To amend the motion to recommit, with instructions to the committee to extend the suffrage in the District, irrespective of color, to all persons coming within either of the following classes:—First, those who can read the constitution of the United States. Second, those who are assessed for and pay taxes on real or personal property within the District; those who have served in and been honorably discharged from the military or naval service of the United States; and to restrict such right of suffrage to the classes named, and to include proper provisions excluding from the right of suffrage those who have borne arms against the United States during the late rebellion, or given aid and comfort to said rebellion.

A bill so framed would have been perfectly consistent with the well known views of President Johnson on this question of negro suffrage. There was a majority in the House in favor of such a bill; but it will now be seen how it was frittered away:—

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested that the following clause be stricken from the proposed restrictions, viz:—"Those who are assessed for and pay taxes on real or personal property within this District."

Mr. HALE declined to accept the modification.

Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, briefly stated his objections to the instructions.

The House struck from the instructions the property qualification clause, and then refused to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with the remainder of the instructions by a vote of 63 against 117, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Banks, Blow, Brandegee, Bromwell, Buckland, Clarke of Ohio, Conkling, Darling, Davis, Dawes, Defrees, Delano, Deming, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eggleston, Ferry, Griswold, Hall, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Hooper, Hulburd, James Humphrey, Jenckes, Kasson, Ketcham, Kuykendall, Laflin, Latham, Lawrence of Pa., Lawrence of Ohio, Longyear, Marvin, Miller, Moorhead, Morris, Myers, O'Neill, Plants, Raymond, Rice of Mass., Schenck, Stillwell, Trowbridge, Van Horn of N. Y., Van Horn of Mo., Warner, Washburn of Mass., and Woodbridge—53.

NAYS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, *Anconi*, Ashley of Nevada, Ashley of Ohio, Baker, Baldwin, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Benjamin, *Bergen*, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Boutwell, *Boyer*, *Brooks*, Broomall, Bundy, *Chanler*, Clark of Kansas, Cobb, Cook, Cullom, *Dawson*, *Denison*, Donnelly, *Eldridge*, Eliot, Farnsworth, Farquhar, *Fink*, Garfield, *Gloesbrenner*, *Goodyear*, *Grider*, Grinnell, *Harding* of Ky., Harding of Ill., *Higby*, Hill, *Hogan*, Holmes, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of W. Va., Hubbard of N. Y., Hubbard of Conn., *Hubbell* of N. Y., *James M. Humphrey*, Ingersoll, *Johnson*, *Jones*, Julian, Kelly, Kelso, *Kerr*, *Le Blond*, Loan, Lynch, *Marshall*, Marston, McClurg, *McCullough*, McKee, Mercur, Morrill, Moulton, *Nitlack*, *Nicholson*, Noell, Orth, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Phelps, Pomeroy, Price, *Radford*, *Randall* of Pa., Randall of Ky., Rice of Me., *Ritter*, *Rogers*, Rollins, *Ross*, Sawyer, Scofield, *Shanklin*, Shellabarger, *Sitgreaves*, Sloan, Smith, Spalding, Starr, Stevens, *Strouse*, *Taber*, *Taylor*, Thayer, Francis Thomas, John L. Thomas, *Thornton*, *Trimble*, Upson, Van Aernam, *Voorhees*, Ward, Washburne of Ill., Welker, Wentworth, Williams, Wilson of Iowa, Wilson of Pa., Windom and *Winfield*—117. Democrats, in Italics—35.

Here we have fifty-three conservative republican members for the recommitment with the aforesaid instructions, against one hundred and seventeen members voting in the negative. But the remarkable feature of this vote is in the fusion of the democrats with the republican radicals, Thaddeus Stevens carrying off the whole democratic strength of the House—thirty-five members—from Ancona, Brooks, Chanler and Morgan Jones down to Voorhees and Winfield—the whole batch. Had these thirty-five democrats voted with the fifty-three republican conservatives the bill would have been recommitted for the modifications proposed, for the division of the House would have been:—

Republican conservatives and democrats	88
Republican radicals	82
Conservative majority	6

Why, then, did not the democrats join hands with the fifty-three republican conservatives and block the radical game upon this initial measure? It was because the democrats have been so thoroughly dyed in the wool in all the juggling tricks of party rascality that they cannot cast them off. This vote in the service of Stevens was a juggling trick to push the republican conservatives to the wall. The principle involved was nothing to the democrats, the administration was nothing, consistency was nothing; but the contemptible party object of driving over the republican conservatives to the radical whip of Stevens was everything. This was the result of the democratic coalition with Stevens upon the test question of recommitting the bill. The motion having failed through this disgraceful fusion, the question recurred on the passage of the bill for unqualified negro suffrage, and it was passed; ayes 116, nays 54, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Ames, Allison, Ashley of Ohio, Baker, Baldwin, Banks, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Blow, Boutwell, Brandegee, Broomall, Bromwell, Buckland, Bundy, Clarke of Ohio, Clarke of Kansas, Cobb, Conkling, Cook, Cullom, Darling, Davis, Defrees, Delano, Deming, Dixon, Donnelly, Driggs, Eckley, Eggleston, Eliot, Farnsworth, Ferry, Garfield, Grinnell, Griswold, Hale, Harding, Hart, Hayes, Higby, Holmes, Hooper, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of N. Y., Hubbard of Conn., Hulburd, James Humphrey, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Kelso, Ketcham, Laflin, Lawrence of Pa., Lawrence of Ohio, Loan, Longyear, Lynch, Marston, Marvin, McClurg, Mercur, Miller, Moorhead, Morrill, Morris, Moulton, Myers, O'Neill, Orth, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Pike, Plants, Pomeroy, Price, Raymond, Rice of Mass., Rice of Me., Rollins, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shellabarger, Sloan, Spalding, Starr, Stevens, Thayer, Francis Thomas, Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Horn, Ward, Warner, Washburne of Ill., Washburn of Mass., Welker, Wentworth, Williams, Wilson of Iowa, Wilson of Pa., Windom, Woodbridge—111.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Anderson, Ashley of Nevada, Benjamin, Bergen, Boyer, Brooks, Chanler, Dawson, Denison, Eldridge, Fargar, Fink, Gloesbrenner, Goodyear, Grider, Harding of Ky., Henderson, Hill, Hogan, Hubbard of West Va., Hubbell of N. Y., James M. Humphrey, Johnson, Jones, Kerr, Kuykendall, Latham, Le Blond, Marshall, McCullough, McKee, Nitlack, Nicholson, Noell, Phelps, Radford, Randall of Pa., Randall of Ky., Ritter, Rogers, Rosseau, Shanklin, Sitgreaves, Smith, Stillwell, Strouse, Taber, Taylor, Thornton, Trimble, Van Horn of Mo., Voorhees, Wheeler—54.

Here the tables were turned upon the democrats; for had the whole fifty-three republicans voting alone for the recommitment joined the democrats against its passage the bill would have been defeated. But there were only nineteen of those republicans equal to the test of country against party—the balance, including Mr. Raymond, with all his fine professions in support of the administration, at the crack of the whip, fell into the radical traces. The democrats assist Stevens in making the bill, or pill, as unpalatable as possible to Mr. Raymond & Company, and then, as a party prescription, they are compelled to swallow it. The result is the triumph of party over principle on both sides, and such an exhibition of party diabolism on the one hand and party servility and cowardice on the other as are rarely seen even in Congress.

In these recorded votes upon the District Negro Suffrage bill the fact is established that there is a majority in the House in favor of the conservative policy of the administration; but this other fact is also established—that the elements of this majority are controlled by conflicting party tricks for party purposes. How is this evil to be remedied? It can never be remedied so long as the democrats hug the delusion of the restoration of the old democratic party. That concern is defunct, dead and buried, with the old whig and old federal parties. Let the democrats accept this fixed fact, and accept the ark of the administration as their only hope, and they will soon discover the way to a new organization, upon a solid platform, together with all the conservative elements of Congress and the country. So overwhelming is the weight of public disgrace, contempt and disgust resting upon the democratic party from its affiliations with the late rebellion, that it cannot be resuscitated. Its surviving elements must take some new shape, and, in looking to the administration, they must not expect the mountain to come to Mahomet. They must go to the mountain. Or, to change the figure, they must abandon their old water-logged hulk and go over to the new Union ship of the administration and conservative republicans. In such a movement they can reach at once the control of Congress and shape its policy, and put in motion the ruling party of the future.

The Pacific Railroad.

The act of Congress passed to aid the great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by a continuous line of communication by railroad requires one line to be constructed from Omaha, on the Missouri river, opposite Council Bluffs, to San Francisco. This main line was, by the act, to be constructed by two companies, viz.:—

First—The Union Pacific Railroad Company, which is to construct the line from Omaha to the eastern boundary of the State of California. General John A. Dix is President, and John J. Cisco Treasurer of this company.

Second—The Central Pacific Railroad of California was, by the act of Congress, to construct the whole line from the eastern boundary of California to San Francisco. But it has assigned so much of the line as lies between Sacramento and San Jose (one hundred and twenty miles) to the Western Pacific Railroad of California. The road from San Jose to San Francisco has already been completed (forty-nine miles) by a local company.

The Union Pacific Railroad has fifty miles of road completed from Omaha westward. The Central California is at work from Sacramento eastward, and the Western California from San Jose to Sacramento. Both are making good progress.

There is also the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division. (Its charter says railway, not railroad.) This company had at one time General Fremont for its President and Samuel Hallett for its financial manager. John D. Perry is now President and Wm. J. Palmer Treasurer and Secretary. It is sometimes called the Kansas branch and was formerly known as the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad Company of Kansas. This company is authorized to construct a road from the mouth of the Kansas, westward, to connect with the main line at the one-hundredth meridian of longitude west of Greenwich. It has finished sixty miles of road to Topeka, which is a little east of the meridian of Omaha. Omaha is on the ninety-sixth meridian and Topeka ninety-five degrees forty-five minutes. The main line is, therefore, about sixty miles in advance. But as the line from Topeka to the one-hundredth meridian is longer than the line from Omaha to that meridian at the point of junction, the main line from Omaha is, in fact, some eighty miles in advance.

The one-hundredth meridian is two hundred and forty-six miles west of Omaha, and it is expected that the main line will reach that point by the 1st of July, 1867. Thence to Laporte on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is three hundred and five miles. The mining interests of the mountains may, therefore, look at an early day for essential relief in the matter of travel and transportation.

The permanent location of the main line has been made for the first two hundred miles west from Omaha; and the route to Salt Lake, including the passes through the mountains, has been carefully surveyed and mapped, though surveys are still going on with a view to ascertain whether better grades can be found. All the results obtained are exceedingly favorable and show no difficulties which may not be easily overcome.

This great work is so essential to our safety, as well as our commercial prosperity, that no effort should be spared to expedite its completion. New York will become, by opening communication with San Francisco, a central point of distribution for the products of Asia and Europe, and has, therefore, an interest far transcending that of any other city in the work itself, and in its speedy consummation.

THE THREE BLACK CROWS.—One of the papers stated yesterday that a Fenian privateer, with the green flag flying, had just left this port to commence a raid on British commerce, and that the paper had sent a correspondent with the crew. In a few days this story will be magnified into a fleet of three or four privateers, with a correspondent on board each of them—and nobody else.

WHO IS THE PRESIDENT?—There is a general desire to know who is the President of the United States. Is it Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, or Thad. Stevens, of Pennsylvania? To whose Cabinet does Secretary Stanton belong? To that of President Johnson or to that of President Stevens? Does Congress consider Johnson or Stevens the President? That is the question.

Thad. Stevens Showing the White Feather.

The amendment to the constitution reported to Congress on Monday by the Committee on Reconstruction, engineered by Thad. Stevens, is in our view entirely superfluous. The proposed amendment provides, in effect, that after its adoption no race or color excluded from the polls by any of the States shall be counted in apportioning the representatives to the States which thus deny the right of suffrage to any portion of their population. Of course we are in favor of this amendment. We really do not see how any sensible man can oppose it. If Thad. Stevens should succeed in placing it before the Legislatures of the States, we presume that a majority of them would adopt it. But, at the same time, we regard it as altogether unnecessary and as an indication that the radicals are showing the white feather at last. Under the former amendment abolishing slavery the States gave to Congress the power to confer the privilege of voting upon the negroes; for it authorizes all necessary legislation in regard to the freedmen. By the amendment which they now propose the radicals dodge the real issue and evade the responsibility by handing the whole subject back again to the States. If any State, North or South, desires to prohibit negroes from voting it can do so, under the new amendment, by sacrificing a representative or two; and in some States this will doubtless be done for the present if the amendment be ratified. But if the radicals had faced the issue boldly they might have conferred the right of suffrage upon all the freedmen without offering the Southern States this bargain or threat. That they did not do this is proof that they now feel their own weakness in contrast with the unanimous sentiment of the country in favor of the President's policy.

Now, then, is the time for the cowardly conservatives in Congress to make a grand rally and push the radicals to the wall. They have the strength, if they can only find a leader with talent enough to teach them how to use it. There is no reason whatever why such loyal representatives as Maynard, of Tennessee, and Marvin, of Florida, should not be at once admitted to Congress. They have been Union men all through the rebellion—better Union men, in fact, than many of the Congressmen from the North who now occupy seats in the House. They can take any oath of loyalty that may be prescribed, and can take it with an easier conscience than some of the radicals and copperheads. It is outrageous that such representatives as these should be classed with rebels and traitors and have the door of the Capitol shut and barred in their faces by Thad. Stevens and his Jacobin committee. If the South does not send loyal men to Congress, those who come may be sent back and sent back until such representatives as Maynard and Marvin and John Minor Botts (who ought to be one of the Congressmen from Virginia) are chosen. But to make no discrimination, no distinctions, is unfair, unjust and indefensible. It interferes with the President's plan for reconstruction, and yet provides no substitute. It puts Southern Union men on a par with the worst rebels, and is thus a practical encouragement to the disloyal. That an assemblage of grown men should sanction such a proceeding, simply because Thad. Stevens orders it, is perfectly disgraceful. We really do not know how to account for such folly. If it be attributable to the tyranny of party discipline, then the sooner these Congressmen follow the example of the President and prefer patriotism to partisanship, the sooner the country will be reunited. The Southern States have complied with all the requirements of the President. They have abolished slavery, repudiated the rebel debt, given up their theory of the right of secession, and authorized Congress to aid the freedmen by appropriate legislation. In addition to this, Congress has the right to demand that they shall send Union men to represent them in the national Legislature, and whenever they do so, as in the case of Tennessee and Florida, their representatives should be admitted. What is to keep them out? Is it this radical flummery about no negro votes no negro representation? Certainly not; for that is a radical trick of which some of the Southern States will be only too happy to take advantage, and it is a decided backing down on the part of the Pennsylvania Mephistopheles. Now let the conservative members insist upon the admission of the Union delegates from the South. The radical mountain has been in labor, and has brought forth a ridiculous mouse. The conservatives should take advantage of this *fiasco* and manage the reconstruction question for themselves.

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.—It is all very well for Congress to support the Secretary of the Treasury in his financial propositions, for there is but little doubt the Secretary has more knowledge of finance than all Congress put together. But it is not the Secretary alone who is managing the business of a resumption of specie payments. He is aided by the gold brokers and stock jobbers of Wall street, who are endeavoring to manipulate the measure so as to make it useful to them in their money speculations. Some want resumption in one day or two days. Others say one week or two weeks. Others, again, one month or two months. All these propositions as to time are equally absurd. It took us four years to accumulate the burdensome debt under which our people labor. It will require double that time to get rid of it. It is easier to get into debt than out of it. And some years must elapse before we can restore our currency and financial position generally to the condition they were in before the war.

RAYMOND IN A MUDDLE.—We lately had some hopes of Raymond, but his recent unconditional nigger suffrage vote spoils all. He had taken a bold and good position, and to relinquish it and crawl into the radical traces to the sound of the cracking of Stevens' whip proves his case hopeless. There are three partners in the management of the *Times* newspaper—Thurlow Weed, Leonard W. Jerome and Raymond. Weed manages the editorial department, Jerome attends to the money, and Raymond does the voting in Washington; but Weed is the only one that understands his business. He keeps straight and goes ahead with forcible consistency, while the money articles are stupid and Raymond's votes stultify him lamentably.

ELECTIONEERING PLEDGES.—That there is nothing so weak as an electioneering pledge the course of the so-called conservative republicans in Congress clearly proves. Every one of them has pledged himself before the people to a cordial support of President Johnson's policy; but we find them all opposing him by their votes and cringing at the back of Thad. Stevens' little finger. Their constituents will hold them responsible for this trickery.

THE JACOBINS IN CONGRESS.—Thad. Stevens asked leave to introduce a resolution in Congress on Monday instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the propriety of the United States granting a loan, on proper security, to the republic of Mexico, to enable her to prevent the establishment of a monarchial government on her soil. Some other radical will next propose a loan to the Fenians. These Jacobin propagandists will try to get us into a war with France and England by and by. They are in many respects following in the footsteps of the Jacobins of the French Revolution, who, as soon as their fierce passions obtained control, rushed France into a general war.

A PRACTICAL STEP TOWARD RECONSTRUCTION.—Mr. Maynard, member elect from Tennessee, and Mr. Marvin, from Florida, are Union men, and have been from the commencement. They are refused admission into Congress, though they are able and undoubtedly willing to take the required oath as to loyalty. They should be admitted, and thus a practical basis would be made for the return of members. If men who can take the oath, such as Maynard and Marvin, are admitted, and others who certainly cannot take it are sent home again, the Southern people will have new elections and send other men. Such a good Union man as John Minor Botts would be chosen to represent Virginia, and so throughout all the States. This is a practical step that Congress should not neglect.

THE PROJECTED ESCAPE OF JEFF. DAVIS.—A great fuss has been created and a great deal of unnecessary suffering occasioned by the reported projected attempt to help Jeff. Davis to escape from Fortress Monroe. It would have been much better for the government to have winked at it, if such a thing was ever contemplated. Congress would not then be in its present unfortunate quandary about how Davis shall be tried.

SKATING.

Continued Excitement at the Park—Grand Carnival on the Fifth Avenue Pond—Base Ball on the Ice, &c.

For the lovers of skating the weather for the past few days has been all that could be desired. Yesterday, as on the previous days, there was excellent skating on all the ponds, both in this city and Brooklyn.

THE PARK LAKES.

All the ponds in the Park were yesterday peopled by a vast number of skaters. Each day seems to increase the number who frequent the Park. Those who so delighted in the performance of that fancy device known as the "spread eagle" have now become proficients in the art, and glide along as swiftly as the best of them. The greatest number of skaters may be seen on the large lake, at the foot of the Mall, where the ice is in splendid condition, varying in thickness from nine to twelve inches. The danger signals have been long since removed, so that all persons can move about with impunity on the surface. During the time that portion of the ice was in a frail condition several amusing occurrences took place. The dangerous portion was carefully marked out; but Young America, ever anxious to display its fearlessness, would venture on the delicate surface. The water was about two and a half feet deep, quite sufficient to damp the ardor of the urchins who, amid the cheers of the spectators, broke through the ice.

There were over eighteen thousand persons on this pond yesterday, and all were busily engaged in the pursuit of their favorite pastime. As for strangers in the city, particularly those from Europe, the first place that should be visited by them on their arrival is the Park. On the ice may be seen the glory of our democratic institutions. Probably in no other country would it be possible to permit all classes of persons to commingle as they do here; and yet there is no disturbance, no disorder. The fashionably dressed merchant hustles the mechanic, while nowhere will you see the feeling "I am better than thou." On the lower, or ladies' lake, there were about ten thousand skaters, flushed and excited with the sport, in good humor with themselves and their fellows. The Harlem lake was also visited by large numbers of those living in that neighborhood, to whom the opening of that pond is a great boon.

THE FIFTH AVENUE POND.

Yesterday was a great day on the Fifth avenue pond. The banks swarmed with interested spectators, while a background of carriages extended all around the pond. The occasion was the grand annual carnival which has been looked forward to by the fashionable world with such feelings of pleasure. The gates were opened at eleven o'clock, but long before that time large numbers of ladies, fully prepared for a grand day's sport, waited outside. The building on the edge of the pond was gaily decorated with a large number of flags and an immense stock of bunting. At three o'clock the scene was at its brightest. Nearly two thousand skaters, principally ladies, dashed over the ice in every direction; sweeps, curves, flourishes and curvettings were performed with consummate grace, to the delight of the lookers on, each of whom had a favorite among the hurrying throng. She with the scarlet underskirt and dark *languine*, who skimmed along fearless of consequences, had a host of admirers; while she with the dark dress and blue trimming met with praise everywhere as unapproachable. Two fine bands of music through the day performed