WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1866.

Assembling of Congress.

At precisely twelve o'clock to-day the two houses of Congress assembled in their respective halls, inaugurating the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress. A very full attendance of members was noticed. The occasion called together an immense crowd of spectators, who thronged the galleries, even encroaching to an inconvenient extent upon the reserved benches of the reporters' galleries and blocking up the corridors, halls and passages to an uncomfortable degree. The Senate was opened in due form, and with no unusual ceremony, by acting Vice President Foster, after which prayer was offered by the regular chaplain. The credentials of Hons. Mr. Edmonds, of Vermont; Messrs. Cattell and T. P. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, and Mr. Fogg, of New Hampshire, were presented and read, when those gentlemen appeared at the President's desk, subscribed to the oath of office and were admitted to seats.

The House was called to order at the same time and with as little ceremony as the Senate. Two members of the Tennessee delegation, not present at the last session, appeared, subscribed to the oath of office and were admitted to seats. The proceedings in both houses are given in full below.

The President's Message—Opinions in Regard to It.

The more intimate friends of the President assert today that his message as sent to Congress, in all that relates to our domestic troubles, is an entirely different document from that first prepared. The Johnson party now say that on the appearance of Thad Stevens here last week in his great efforts to forestal the action of Congress by committing individual members to extreme measures of hostility to the administration, the President saw but little likelihood of any favorable reception of such conciliatory propositions as he had designed making, and inasmuch as but kicks and cuffs were to be his portion, he could receive such treatment with better advantage on his own grounds. Hence he revised the message and reasserted his former line of policy. It is rumored to-night that the French Minister is disposed to take exception to the statement in the message, that the French government gave no "intimation" to the Department of State of their change of plan in removing the entire French army from Mexico this winter instead of prolonging its departure until November, 1867. The Marquis de Montholon, it is stated, gave repeated "intimations" to the Secretary of State within the last month of the new programme of the Emperor, which seemed to afford entire satisfaction to Mr. Seward. The President, it is thought, was offended that the French Minister of Foreign Affairs did not write a formal despatch on this subject; but the French government evidently supposed that a representation by their Minister here of the change of plan, with its motives, was all that was necessary. It seems clear that nothing was farther from the intention of the French government than to give offence to ours.

Proposed Bill Defining the Powers of the President and his Cabinet.

Senator Sherman is preparing an important bill defining certain powers of not only the President but the Secretaries. It is alleged that moneys have been paid out without any authority or warrant of law to persons who have been rejected and afterwards appointed by the President.

General Grant Invited to Visit New Hampshire.

Adjutant General Head, of New Hampshire, to-day called upon General Grant and invited him to attend a meeting of the Veterans of the late war of New Hampshire on the 1st of January next. General Grant said he knew of nothing now to prevent him from participating in the affair.

Debut of Ristori.

A brilliant audience, in which figured members of the government, of the diplomatic corps, and of the army and navy, assembled to-night to honor the début in Washington of Ristori. Her acting was imposing, and at times so startling that the house broke out in rapturous applause. Every place has been sold for the rest of the engagement.

TEIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1866.

The Senate was called to order at twelve o'clock precisely by Mr. FOSTER, President *pro tem.*

Prayer by the chaplain, Rev. Dr. GRAY, of the Baptist church.

CREDENTIALS OF NEW SENATORS.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate the credentials of Mr. Poland, elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Collamer, till March 4, 1867. Also the credentials of Mr. Edmunds for the unexpired term of Mr. Foot, till March 4, 1869.

Mr. FESSENDEN presented the credentials of Messrs. Cattell and Frelinghuysen, the former Senator elect, the latter Senator appointed, from New Jersey.

Messrs. Edmunds, Poland, Cattell and Frelinghuysen came forward and took the required oath of office.

SENATORS PRESENT.

The following Senators were present:—Messrs. Anthony, Cattell, Chandler, Conness, Cragin, Creswell, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Edmunds, Fessenden, Foster, Fowler, Frelinghuysen, Grimes, Harris, Howard, Howe, Johnson, Kirkwood, Lane, Morgan, Morrill, Nesmith, Norton, Poland, Pomeroy, Ramsey, Ross, Saulsbury, Sherman, Sumner, Trumbull, Van Winkle, Wade, Wiley, Williams, Wilson and Yates.

ABSENT.

Messrs. Brown, Buckalew, Clark, Cowan, Guthrie, Henderson, Hendricks, McDougall, Nye, Riddle, Sprague and Stewart.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., presented the credentials of George G. Fogg, appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Clark, whose term expires on the 4th of March, 1867.

Mr. JOHNSON, (dem.) of Md., presented the credentials of David G. Burnett and O. M. Roberts, Senators elect from Texas, which were ordered to lie upon the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., presented the following resolutions, which were severally adopted:—

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House that a quorum of the Senate is assembled.

Resolved, That the hour for meeting of the Senate be twelve o'clock until otherwise ordered, and that a committee of two be appointed to join a committee of the House and wait upon the President to receive his message.

W. O. Fogg, Senator appointed from New Hampshire, came forward and took the oath.

Messrs. Anthony and Nesmith were appointed the committee on the part of the Senate to wait upon the President.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE IN THE DISTRICT.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., said if there was no business before the Senate he would move to call up the Senate bill number one, An act to regulate the elective franchise in the District of Columbia.

The motion to take up the bill was put and decided by the Chair to be lost.

Mr. SUMNER—One word before that vote is taken. It will be remembered that this bill was introduced on the first day of the last session, and that it was the subject of repeated discussion in this chamber, and that it was more than once referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia, by whose chairman it was reported back to the Senate. At several different stages of the discussion we were told we were about to reach a final vote. The country expected that vote; it was not had. It ought to have been had; and now, sir, I think that the best way is for the Senate, in this very first hour of its coming together, to put that bill on its passage. It has been thoroughly debated; every Senator has made up his mind on the question. There is nothing more to be said on either side. So far as I am concerned, sir, I am perfectly willing a vote should be taken without one further word of discussion; and I think that the Senate ought not to allow the bill to be postponed. We ought to seize this first occasion to put the bill on its passage. The country expects it. The country, sir, will rejoice and be grateful, and you will signalize this first day of your coming together by this beautiful and gracious act.

Mr. McDOUGALL, (dem.) of Cal., inquired if Mr. Sumner wished to press the question to a vote to-day. If he (Mr. Sumner) would name a day when it might be called up for discussion he would agree to have such an understanding; but he knew of some Senators who wished to debate the matter, and who were not here to-day.

After further discussion Mr. JOHNSON raised a question of order whether the bill was properly before the Senate under the rules.

The rule relating to bills of a previous session was read, and it was decided that no bill of the kind could come up until after the sixth day of the session. So the bill to regulate the elective franchise in the District of Columbia went over for the present.

THE SENATE READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS.

At half-past twelve o'clock Mr. McPherson, Clerk of the House, announced that the House was ready to proceed to business, and had appointed Messrs. Merrill, Washburne and Fink to wait on the President.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., introduced a resolution calling upon the President for the following information:—Whether the French Emperor has complied with his agreement to withdraw one-third of the French troops in November; whether any number of said troops have been withdrawn; whether, as it appears no troops have been withdrawn, the French Emperor has offered an explanation of his course; fourth, what action the government has taken to have the understanding with the French Emperor carried out.

Mr. SUMNER objected to the resolution, and it requiring unanimous consent it went over.

NAVAL APPRENTICES.

Mr. MORGAN, (rep.) of N. Y., gave notice that he should, at an early day, introduce a bill to relation to the employment of naval apprentices in the commercial service of the United States.

SUPERINTENDENT OF FREED PEOPLE.

Mr. [illegible], (rep.) of Ohio, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Printing to inquire into the expediency of making the office of Superintendent of Public Printing elective by a concurrent vote of both houses.

The CHAIR said it could not go to the committee, as no committee had yet been formed. So it was ordered to lie on the table for the present.

PAYMENT OF THE SALARY OF SENATOR J. H. LANE DECEASED.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of Kansas, introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Secretary of the Senate to pay to the widow of James H. Lane the amount due the deceased as Senator.

REGULATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, presented a bill to prevent the illegal appointment of officers of the United States, as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. That no money shall be paid from the Treasury of the United States to any person who, having being nominated for any office and been rejected by the Senate, and subsequently appointed to that office by the President, for salary, fees, perquisites or expenses accruing after the close of the session of the Senate during which his nomination was rejected; and if any person shall appoint or sign or prepare such appointment or commission, or if any person so rejected and re-appointed shall hold or exercise the functions of the office for which he was rejected by the Senate, after the close of the session of the Senate at which he was rejected, or if any accounting or disbursing officer shall allow pay to any person so rejected of any salary, fees, perquisites or expenses accruing after the close of the session of the Senate at which he was rejected, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding ten thousand dollars, or, at the discretion of the court, shall be imprisoned not more than five years.

SEC. 2—That it shall be the duty of all courts of the United States having jurisdiction of criminal offences to give this act specially in charge to grand juries organized in such courts.

The above was ordered to lie upon the table until the committees are appointed.

TENURE OF OFFICE.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, introduced a bill to regulate the tenure of offices, as follows:—

SECTION 1. That any person, excepting heads of the Departments, holding any office to which he has been appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and any person who shall hereafter be appointed in the same manner to any office, and shall become duly qualified therefor, is and shall be entitled to hold said office, respectively, until a successor in like manner is appointed and duly qualified, unless otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 2. That any officer appointed, as aforesaid, excepting Judges of the United States Courts, shall, during the recess of the Senate, be guilty of misconduct in office, or for any reason shall become unable to perform its duties, in that case, and no other, the President may appoint a person to fill said office by granting to him a commission that shall expire at the end of the next session of the Senate; but the evidence and reasons for the action of the President in such case shall be in writing, and filed in the proper department for inspection; and the President shall also have power in like manner to fill all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate by death, resignation or expiration of term of office, and not otherwise; but no appointment shall be made without the advice and consent of the Senate to any office filled as aforesaid after the session of the Senate at which the temporary commission therefor shall expire; provided that this act shall not apply to or interfere with any rules made by Congress for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

The above was ordered to lie upon the table till committees are appointed.

RECESS.

At a quarter before one o'clock P. M., on motion, the Senate took a recess till quarter past one.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

At twenty minutes past one o'clock P. M., Mr. ANTHONY, on behalf of the Committee to wait upon the President, informed the Senate that the Committee had discharged the duty entrusted to it, and that the President would communicate with the two Houses in writing immediately.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message was received from the House of Representatives announcing the passage of an act to repeal section thirteen of an act to suppress insurrection, &c.

While the Senate was waiting for the President's Message Mr. CHANDLER moved to take up the above bill.

Mr. SAULSBURY, (dem.) of Del., called for the reading of its title.

The title was read.

Mr. JOHNSON objected to the present consideration of the bill, and it went over.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

At twenty minutes to two o'clock the President's private Secretary, Robert Johnson, arrived, and the Message was then read by the Secretary of the Senate, Jno. W. Forney.

At the conclusion of the reading Mr. ANTHONY offered a resolution for the printing of the Message and three thousand extra copies, which was adopted.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was then laid before the Senate by the President *pro tem.*, after which, at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock the Senate, on motion of Mr. Pomeroy, adjourned to meet at noon to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1866.

Before ten o'clock the galleries began to be filled with spectators, and before twelve o'clock every seat and standing place was occupied.

OPENING PRAYER.

The proceedings were opened at noon with prayer by the Chaplain, Boynton. He thanked Divine Providence that members of the House had been nerved up so that they had done duty while absent from the halls of Congress more important in its results than they had been able to do while here; that they had wisdom and strength to enlighten the people on the great questions at issue before the country; and he returned thanks for that uprising of a free people instructed to make a right decision in reference to every great question presented, so that when their decision was uttered it was known that it was not in vain to depend on the intelligence of the American people. He prayed that they might be granted wisdom to enter upon the discharge of their new responsibilities with added strength and courage, with increased faith in the righteous cause, in the power of truth and in the intelligence and right mindedness of the people, so that they might perfect the work which they had so nobly begun. He prayed that they might leave nothing to be done by those who were to come after them, and which they themselves ought to perform; and that, as the result of their deliberations, there should be no spot on this land that was not consecrated to freedom, so that every man should be secure in life, liberty and property, and should be invested with every political right that belongs to proper manhood. He asked not for harmony which would be the result of any compromise or any yielding, but that those who were right be stronger than ever in the right, and that peace might be procured by the yielding of those who were wrong.

ROLL CALL.

The SPEAKER directed the Clerk to call the roll of members, so as to ascertain who were present.

The roll having been called the Speaker announced that one hundred and forty-six members had answered to their names.

NEW MEMBERS.

Three new members from Tennessee—Atwell, Campbell and Hawkins; and those from Kentucky—Hise, Rousseau and Ward—appeared at the Speaker's desk, and took the oath prescribed by law.

COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., the usual committee was appointed to wait on the President, with a like committee on the part of the Senate, and inform him that Congress was assembled and ready to receive such communication as he chose to make.

Messrs. Washburne of Ill., Morrill and Finck were appointed such committee.

The SPEAKER then proceeded, as the regular business in order, to call the States for bills and resolutions.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FREEDMEN.

On motion of Mr. ELIOT, (rep.) of Mass., a resolution to provide for a standing committee on freedmen was referred to the Committee on Rules.

REPEAL OF THE PARDON AND AMNESTY ACT.

Mr. ELIOT asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal the thirteenth section of the act of July 17, 1862, which section authorizes the President to extend by proclamation to persons who may have participated in the rebellion pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, at such times and on such conditions as he might deem expedient for the public welfare.

Mr. FINCK, (dem.) of Ohio, objected to the introduction of the bill, the rules requiring one day's notice to be given.

Mr. ELIOT moved to suspend the rules.

The rules were suspended by a vote of 115 to 29. The negative votes were as follows:—

Messrs. Ancona, Boyer, Chanler, Dawson, Eldridge, Finck, Glossbrenner, Hale, Harding of Ky., Hawkins, Hise, Kerr, Le Blond, Leftwich of Tenn., Marshall, Niblack, Nicholson, Noell, Phelps, Randall of Pa., Ritter, Rogers, Shanklin, Sligreaves, Stillwell, Taylor of Tenn., Taylor of N. Y., Trimble and Ward of Ky.

The bill was introduced, read three times and passed—111 to 29.

INFORMATION CALLED FOR RELATIVE TO JOHN H. SURRATT.

On motion of Mr. BOUTWELL, (rep.) of Mass., the Secretary of State was directed to lay before the House copies or all correspondence in the State Department relating to the discovery of John H. Surratt.

THE SALE OF GOLD.

Mr. BOUTWELL introduced a bill to provide for the sale of gold and for other purposes.

The first section directs the Secretary of the Treasury to sell at public auction, in the city of New York, to the highest bidder, two millions of gold coin every Monday, between the hours of nine in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, in parcels or lots not exceeding $10,000 each; provided, that no sale of gold shall be made when the amount of gold in the Treasury belonging to the government shall not exceed forty-two millions.

The second section requires notice to be given of the time and place of such sales in one newspaper at least in each of the twelve principal cities of the United States. The person selling the gold is to receive a commission not exceeding one-fifteth of one per cent.

The third section directs the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the proceeds of such sales in the interest-bearing bonds or obligations of the United States.

The fourth section forbids collectors of internal revenue to deposit funds in any banking institution wherever their offices are within two hundred miles of the Treasury or of any Assistant Treasury or designated depository of public money.

The bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

BILL TO FIX THE TIME FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF CONGRESS.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a bill to fix the time for the regular meetings of Congress as follows:—

Be it enacted, That the regular times of meeting of the Fortieth Congress of the United States and of each succeeding Congress thereafter shall be at twelve o'clock meridian on the 4th day of March, the day on which the term begins for which the Congress is elected, and on the first Monday in January next thereafter, and on the second Monday in the November next preceding the end of the term for which the Congress is elected.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That section 17 of the act approved July 28, 1866, entitled "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the year ending June 30, 1867, and for other purposes," be so amended that no Senator or Representative in Congress who may be a member of an immediately preceding Congress shall receive any allowance for mileage for travelling to the place of meeting to attend the first session of such succeeding Congress.

The bill was read twice, made the special order for December 11, and ordered printed.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., introduced a bill to create and organize a department (to be called the Department of Internal Revenue, which was read twice, then referred to the Judiciary Committee.

BILL TO REGULATE REMOVALS FROM OFFICE.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., introduced a bill to regulate removals from office.

The first section provides that in all instances of appointment to office by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the power of removal shall be exercised only in concurrence with the Senate. In case of disability or misconduct of officers occurring during the recess of the Senate, it shall be lawful for the President to suspend the disabled or defaulting officer, and designate some other person to perform the duties of the officer until the Senate shall have an opportunity of acting. The President is to make a report of his action within ten days after the meeting of the Senate; and in case of the refusal of the Senate to concur in such suspension the suspended officer shall thereupon resume the possession of his official functions as though the same had not been interrupted. Every person so nominated to the Senate, and not confirmed shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States for the term of three years after such rejection, unless two-thirds of the Senate relieve him from such disability.

The bill was read twice.

Mr. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested that the subject had been committed last session to the joint Committee on Retrenchment and referred.

Mr. STEVENS said that he introduced the bill, and if the gentleman (Mr. Spalding) did not like the bill he could vote against it.

Mr. SPALDING retorted that he would probably assume to himself that privilege whether Mr. Stevens liked it or not. He objected to the bill being introduced.

Mr. STEVENS moved to suspend the rules.

The rules were suspended, the bill introduced, read twice, postponed till Friday next, made a special order and ordered printed.

REGULATIONS REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. BROOMALL, (rep.) of Pa., introduced another bill regulating the appointment of certain public officers. Read twice and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

LIGHTHOUSE ON MATTAWAN POINT.

On motion of Mr. LAFLIN, (rep.) of N. Y., the Committee on Printing was directed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the erection of a lighthouse at Mattawan Point, in the Raritan bay, New Jersey, and of paying per diem compensation to crews connected with the life saving stations on the coasts of Long Island and New Jersey.

JOCULARITY OF MR. STEVENS.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., from the committee to wait on the President, reported that the President's Message would be communicated immediately.

Mr. STEVENS, sending up a newspaper sheet to the Clerk's desk, moved that the President's Message be now read.

The SPEAKER replied that the Message had not yet been officially communicated to the House, and he had no knowledge of its being sent by the President.

Mr. STEVENS remarked that he had thought he would just mention the fact of its being already published.

The SPEAKER suggested that the printed Message might not be a genuine copy.

Mr. STEVENS explained that it was printed in the President's official paper, the *Constitutional Union*—(laughter)—and he assumed that it was a correct copy, as it came through Colonel Florence.

INCOME TAX REMITTION.

Mr. ANCONA, (dem.) of Pa., offered a resolution directing the Committee on Ways and Means to report a bill providing for the adjustment of the rates of exemption from income tax, in accordance with the pledges made to the people by Congress at the last session. It was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PROPOSED REPEAL OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ACT.

On motion of Mr. MILLER, (rep.) of Pa., the Committee on Ways and Means was directed to inquire into the expediency of changing the revenue laws so as to dispense with the present mode of appointing inspectors of distilleries.

On motion of Mr. KELLY, the Committee on Ways and Means was directed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the provisions of the Internal Revenue laws whereby a tax af five per cent is imposed on the productions of the mechanical and manufacturing industry of the country.

POSTMASTERS.

On motion of Mr. WARNER (rep.) of Conn., the Post Office Committee was instructed to inquire whether any appointments of postmasters had been made or whether any postmasters now acting as such held their commissions or performed their duties in violation of the 25th section of the Post Office act of July 2, 1836.

MEETING OF THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a bill providing for the meeting of Congress next session on the first Monday of March. Read twice and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE INCREASED PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio, asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal so much of the act of last session as increased the compensation of Senators and members of Congress.

Mr. SPALDING objected.

Mr. LAWRENCE moved to suspend the rules.

The House refused to suspend the rules.

MR. STEVENS IMPATIENT.

Mr. STEVENS, again manifesting impatience, suggested that the House had better adjourn, as it would evidently take too long a time to get the Message.

The SPEAKER remarked that Mr. Washburne had reported that the President intended to communicate the Message immediately.

Mr. STEVENS then moved that the House do now adjourn.

The House would not adjourn.

MODE OF PROCEEDING IN TRIALS OF IMPEACHMENT.

On motion of Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio, the Judiciary Committee was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing a mode of proceeding for trial of all cases of impeachment before the Senate, and to report by bill or otherwise.

EQUALIZATION OF BOUNTIES.

Mr. SCHENCK introduced a bill to equalize the bounties of soldiers, sailors and marines who served in the late war for the Union.

It provides that instead of any grant of land or other bounty there shall be allowed and paid to each and every soldier, sailor or marine who has fully served as such in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States, and who has been or who may hereafter be honorably discharged from such service, the sum of eight and one-third dollars per month, or at the rate of one hundred dollars per year, for all the time during which such soldier, sailor or marine actually served between the 12th day of April, 1861, and the 19th day of April, 1865; and in the case of any such soldier, sailor or marine discharged from the service on account of wounds received in battle or while engaged in the line of his duty, the said allowance of bounty shall be computed and paid up to the end of the term of service for which his enlistment was made; and in case of the death of any such soldier, sailor or marine while in the service, or in case of his death after his discharge and before the end of his term of enlistment, if discharged on account of being wounded as provided, the allowance and payment shall be made to his widow, if she has not been remarried, or if there be no widow, then to the minor child or children of the deceased who may be under sixteen years of age.

The second section provides that in computing and ascertaining the bounty to be paid to any soldier, sailor or marine, or his proper representatives under the provisions of this act, there shall be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid or payable under existing laws by the United States, or by any State, county, city, town, or other municipal organization, or by any voluntary association. So that in no case shall the aggregate amount of bounty allowed and paid from all sources exceed eight and one-third dollars for each month of actual faithful service, or at the rate of one hundred dollars per year. And in the case of any sailor or marine to whom prize money has been paid or is payable, the amount of such prize money shall also be deducted, and only such amount of bounty paid as shall, together with such prize money and any other bounty paid or payable by the United States, or by any State, county, city, town or other municipal organization, or by any voluntary association amount in the aggregate to the sum allowed by this act.

The third section provides that no bounty under the provisions of this act shall be paid to or on account of any soldier, sailor or marine, who served as a substitute in either the army or navy, or who was a captured prisoner of war at the time of his enlistment, nor to any one who was discharged on his own application or request, prior to the 9th day of April, 1865, unless such discharge was obtained with a view to re-enlistment, or to accept promotion in the military or naval service of the United States, or to be transferred from one branch of the military service to another, and unless such person actually did so re-enlist or accept promotion or was so transferred. And no bounty shall be paid to any soldier, sailor or marine discharged on the application or at the request of parents, guardians or other persons, or on the ground of minority.

The eighth section makes any transfer of interest in bounty unlawful.

The tenth section repeals the bounty provisions in the Civil Appropriation bill of last session, and provides that if any money shall have been paid to any person under the provisions of such bill, the amount thereof shall be deducted in each case, by the proper accounting officer, from any sum to be allowed under this act. And any application made for allowance of bounty under the said act of July 28, 1866, with all the evidence and papers submitted therewith, shall be taken and considered as filed, under the requirements of this act, and shall be used thereunder for the benefit of the applicant, as far as the same may be applicable.

The bill was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered printed.

THE PRESIDENT DESIRED TO FURNISH INFORMATION.

On motion of Mr. SCHENCK, the President was requested to communicate the information asked for in the House resolution of the 23d of June last, and which he has failed to supply, as to whether any application has been made to him for the pardon of the rebel Major General Pickett, with his action thereon; also, copies of all papers in reference to such application; also, whether, since the adjournment, at Raleigh, N. C., on the 30th of March, of the last Board or Court of Inquiry, convened to investigate the facts attending the hanging of a number of United States soldiers for alleged desertion from the rebel army, any further measures have been taken for bringing to justice General Pickett and the other perpetrators of the crime.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

Mr. McKEE, (rep.) of Ky., offered a resolution, requesting the President to communicate information relative to the present position of affairs in Mexico, and, especially any letters from the Mexican Minister at Washington, or the French Minister, relating thereto.

Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass., suggested the reference of the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. McKEE preferred to have it adopted.

Mr. BANKS objected that, under the rule calling for Executive information, it must lie over for one day.

Mr. McKEE moved to suspend the rule.

The House refused to suspend the rule, and accordingly the resolution went over for one day.

AMENDMENT OF THE PRE-EMPTION LAWS.

Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a bill amendatory of the pre-emption laws, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Mr. STEVENS, at twenty minutes to two o'clock, moved that the House adjourn he had no idea of the House waiting for the Message after it was sent all over the country.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa., inquired whether it was not usual on the first day of the session to wait for the President's Message.

The SPEAKER declined to answer the question.

The yeas and nays were called on the motion to adjourn. Pending the roll call the President's private secretary appeared at the bar and announced a Message from the President of the United States.

The motion to adjourn was withdrawn, and the SPEAKER laid the Message before the House.

Mr. STEVENS said he understood it would take over an hour to read the Message; he therefore moved to postpone its reading till to-morrow.

The motion was rejected.

Mr. EGGLESTON, (rep.) of Ohio, moved to take a recess till three o'clock.

The motion was rejected, and Mr. PEARSON, Clerk of the House, thereupon proceeded, in a clear and distinct manner, to read the President's Message; the members having themselves been furnished in the meantime with printed copies. When about two-thirds of the Message had been read and only the drier details of it remained to be read,

Mr. STEVENS interrupted the Clerk, and said that their friends were now outside on the eastern portico expecting them; that it would take considerable time longer to finish the Message, and, therefore, he moved that its further reading be postponed till to-morrow.

On a division of the House there appeared to be sixty members in favor of postponement against fifty opposed.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the motion.

Appeals were made to Mr. Stevens to withdraw his motion, but he sternly refused to do so.

The vote resulted, yeas 64, nays 65, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Ashley of Ohio, Baker, Barter, Bidwell, Blow, Broomall, Clarke of Ohio, Clarke of Kansas, Cobb, Culloon, Darling, Dodge, Driggs, Eggleston, Harding of Ill., Henderson, Higby, Hill, Holmes, Hubbard of West Va., Hubbard of Conn., Hubbell of Ohio, Hawkins, Ingersoll, Kelly, Kelsey, Koontz, Lawrence, McIndoe, McKee, Mercur, Miller, Morehead, Morrill, Moulton, Myers, Newell, O'Neil, Orth, Paine, Perham, Pike, Plants, Price, Rollins, Sawyer, Schenck, Schofield, Shellabarger, Starr, Stevens, Stokes, Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Horn of Mo., Washburne of Ill., Walker, Wentworth, Williams, Wilson of Pa., and Windom—54.

NAYS.—Messrs. Ames, Ancona, Banks, Barker, Beaman, Bingham, Blaine, Boutwell, Boyer, Brandegee, Campbell, Dawes, Dawson, Defrees, Dixon, Donnelly, Eckley, Eldridge, Eliot, Ferry, Finck, Glossbrenner, Hale, Harding of Ky., Hayes, Hise, Hooper, Hulburd of N. Y., Jenckes, Kasson, Ketcham, Knykendall, Leftwich, Loan, Lynch, Marshall, Maynard, McRuer, Niblack, Nicholson, Noell, Patterson, Phelps, Randall of Pa., Randall of Ky., Rice of Mass., Rice of Me., Ritter, Rousseau, Shanklin, Sligreaves, Spalding, Taylor of Tenn., Francis Thomas, John L. Thomas, Jr., Trimble, Ward of Ky., Warner, Washburne of Ill., Washburn of Mass., Whaley—65.

The Clerk resumed the reading of the Message, and concluded it at a quarter to three.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURNE of Ill., the Message and accompanying documents were referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. BANKS, the portion of the Message and documents referring to Mexican affairs was ordered to be printed separately, so that they might be on the tables of the members to morrow.

The House then adjourned, and the republican members of it formed in procession and went to the eastern portico to take part in the proceedings of welcome.

THE WELCOME TO CONGRESS.

The Procession—Speeches of Judge Cartter, Speaker Colfax, Senator Yates, Representative Kelley, &c.

The republican members of Congress were to-day enthusiastically received. A procession was formed about noon and marched through Pennsylvania avenue and several of the streets, arriving at the eastern portico of the Capitol between two and three o'clock, where those composing it formed in solid body. The bodies represented were the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union of Washington, the Republican Association of the District of Columbia, the German Radical Lincoln Club, the National Equal Suffrage Association, the Equal Rights League, the Grand Civil Union League, the six District of Columbia Union Leagues, the Colored Soldiers' and Sailors' League, the German Republican Club of Baltimore, a delegation of the Boys in Blue from Baltimore, two companies of colored Zouaves, a delegation of City Councilmen from Baltimore, the Republican Association from Alexandria, a delegation from the Southern Republican Association, formed of Governor Harlan, Hamilton and others. There were about 3,000 persons in the procession, and, perhaps, half that number in addition at the Capitol; making an assemblage of about 5,000 persons. At least one half those in the procession were colored. There was music from both white and colored bands; banners and emblems were profusely displayed, and much enthusiasm was manifested.

At three o'clock the republican members appeared on the portico, and were received with cheers. Judge CARTTER then addressed them as follows:—

JUDGE CARTTER'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

It is made my pleasure and duty by the loyal citizens of the District of Columbia, under their various organizations, to tender a welcome to the Union members of the Thirty-ninth Congress. In their name, I now welcome you, one and all, to their hospitality. This welcome is given as an expression of respect for your wisdom and patriotism as national lawmakers, as well as the municipal legislators of this district. Yielding all honor to the nation's defenders in the field, and without reflecting on the other branches of the government, or the integrity of the distinguished functionaries who occupy the seats of executive and judicial power, and with no disposition to flattery, we may be permitted to say that a nation saved bears testimony that we tender no mistaken regard. A nation saved from the conspiracies of European Powers, saved from the parricidal efforts of domestic foes—saved from bankruptcy, saved from slavery. Much has been done. Much remains to be done. It has been not inaptly said that this is a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." That people have spoken at the ballot box, in our theory of government the source of power. In their electoral judgment they have demanded that the ways of the nation shall be readjusted in such wise as to insure personal liberty to all, without regard to color or condition. In the light of this deliberate and emphatic verdict of the people, made inviolable by the memories of sacrifice and blood, you are admonished to guarantee by law that the great national trust shall be administered by the nation's defenders and in the spirit of universal liberty. It is not our province or purpose to suggest what laws should be made. The significance of our tender of hospitality is an expression of our implicit confidence, that whatever is needed to be enacted into law within the constitution will be accomplished through your legislative deliberations and the nation, born again, will go on in its high career of political and material prosperity.

REPLY OF SPEAKER COLFAX.

Speaker Colfax replied to Judge Cartter's address as follows:—

FELLOW CITIZENS—Only four months have passed away since the first session of this Congress closed, and the members whom you now greet with such generous and earnest welcome returned to their homes to render an account of their stewardship to the people, and to discuss before that tribunal from which there is no rightful appeal the gravest issues ever submitted. On the battle field to which treason invited the nation our heroic defenders, amid the storm of shot and shell and flame, on sea as well as on shore, had triumphantly decided that our star-gemmed banner should never become the winding sheet of the world's best hopes; but after their conflicts and their sacrifices, it remained for the people at the ballot box, and the people's Senators and Representatives in these halls of legislation, to guard the republic effectually against another rebellion, drenching the land in blood, and, after this terrible contest, for national existence, to reconstruct it on such enduring corner stones that posterity would realize, to the latest syllable of recorded time, that our fallen heroes had not died in vain. But four months since we left this capital, and yet how crowded are they with events! The bloody massacre at New Orleans the very week after our adjournment, and the extraordinary speech of the President at St. Louis palliating the guilt of the murderers, and charging its grand responsibilities on the Congress of the United States; the two Philadelphia Conventions—one memorable for the frank acknowledgment that those who denounced Congress are really arm in arm with the men trampling on broken oaths and who had sought to destroy the nation's life, and the other honored by the presence of faithful loyalists who, when the storm of treason swept over their States, refused to bow the knee to Baal; the expulsion from office of thousands trusted and commissioned by our martyred President, to whom, more than any other equal number of men, the present administration was indebted for the power it wielded, their crime being inflexible fidelity to the principles professed by the successful candidate for the Vice Presidency in the canvass of 1864; the hundreds of speeches of the Presidential tour throughout the land, and their republication in millions of copies from all our prominent presses, bringing the issues to the heartstone of every voter; the magnificent response of the people from ocean to ocean condemning the policy of which they had heard so much, attesting their unshaken confidence in the Congress which had stood so fearlessly, so faithfully and so immovably in the pathway of duty and of right. How rapidly have we been making history in these past few months! Thank God, in this land the people are the only rulers. Every two years they resume their sovereignty and by the ballot box given to them by deed of the Revolution they make and unmake Congress. They rebuke or condemn administrations. They speak their will. They command, and Congress and Presidents must obey. We return, then, to these halls to carry out and enforce this decision of the rulers of the nation—the people. No man can misunderstand their will. Four points have been settled by them beyond all controversy. First, that the work of reconstruction must be in the hands of those who have been the friends not the enemies of the nation; that it must be based upon the granite of loyalty, and that those whose wicked leadership and guilty repudiation of solemn oaths plunged a peaceful country into the bloody conflict of a civil war shall not be clothed with power to legislate for the widows and orphans—the kith and kin of the men they have slain in their attempt to slay the nation itself. Second, that the promise of Abraham Lincoln, in his immortal proclamation that the freedom of our emancipated millions should be maintained, must be fulfilled both in letter and in spirit, and guaranteed beyond any power of abridgment in our supreme law, forbidding interference by any unfriendly state with the privileges and immunities of the liberty granted by the whole nation to all its people. Third, that no persons shall be disfranchised in this republic on account of their race, and yet have their numbers counted to confer increased political power on those disfranchising them. Fourth, that the national debt, the cost of our national existence, shall be forever sacred, and that all debts or claims growing out of the rebellion, or the breaking of fetters that aided it, shall be forever held illegal and void, and the people also decreed, as their desire and will that Congress should enforce this decision of their by appropriate legislation. Free as their few but vital points were from every consideration of revenge or malice, looking only as they did to public justice and public safety, and even more generous than just, it was certainly to have been expected that if there was, in the region where those who had warred against the country so bitterly for years still bore sway any returning love for the Union, any sorrow for their crimes, these essential requirements would have been assented to promptly, or, if not promptly, at least as soon as the elections had manifested the nation's will. But, on the contrary, they are spurned and scornfully rejected by those who control public opinion and wield political power in the South. The recent election of most conspicuous secessionists in North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas,