WASHINGTON

Spicy Debate in the Senate on the Tenure of Office Bill.

Thad Stevens' Reconstruction Bill in the House.

The New York Post Office Bill Passed in Both Houses.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1867.

The President's Levee.

The President's first evening levee commenced this evening at eight o'clock, and, notwithstanding the night was intensely cold, with a bleak piercing wind blowing, the splendid parlors and halls of the White House were densely thronged during the whole evening, and the levee was generally pronounced to be as brilliant and select as any that have been held for some years past. All the smaller rooms were adorned with vases and bouquets of rare and fragrant flowers, and the brilliant lights displayed to the highest advantage the new and elegant decorations of the Presidential parlors. When to these beauties were added the variety of brilliant colors to be found in the ladies' dresses, and the glittering insignia of army and navy officers in full uniform, a tableau of splendor was formed that exercises an irresistible fascination to the eye, and which lingers long in the memory. At eight o'clock the President and his daughters, Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Stover, entered the Blue Parlor, where the ceremony of reception was to take place, and assumed their respective positions, the President near the entrance to the room and the ladies a little more retired, Mrs. Stover standing on the right of Mrs. Patterson. The United States Marshal of the District waited by the side of the President to introduce the guests, and Commissioner B. B. French made the presentations to the ladies. Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Stover were more richly attired than on any former occasion of the kind, each wearing light corded silk dresses, tastefully embroidered and cut low at the neck. Among the distinguished guests were observed Secretaries Welles, Browning, McCulloch, Attorney General Stanbery, Postmaster General Randall, General Canby, Sir Frederick W. A. Bruce, British Minister; Adjutant General Thomas, Horace Greeley, General Emory, General Dent, General Sickles, Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute; Colonel A. K. Long and Colonel Robert Morrow, of the President's staff; William Faxon, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Edgar Welles, Chief Clerk of the Navy Department; Colonel Parker and Major Webster, of General Grant's staff; Senator Johnson, of Maryland; Senator Harris, of New York; Representatives Johnson, Hale, Finck, Banks, Hogan, Cooper, Leftwich, Farnsworth, Schofield and Rogers; Senor Romero, Mexican Minister; Judge Black, and a large number of others, officers of the army and Navy, Senators, Representatives, foreign Ministers, Secretaries of legation, Judges of the United States courts.

Speaker Colfax's Reception.

Speaker Colfax held his first reception this evening at his residence on Four-and-a-half street. Notwithstanding the Icelandic state of the weather the attendance was large and fashionable. Mr. Colfax received his guests in his usual affable and hospitable manner, and Mrs. and Miss Matthews, his mother and sister, contributed their full share towards entertaining the numerous callers. The parlors were filled with the *elite* of the city and numbers of persons of high rank, among whom we noticed Consul General Hitz, of Switzerland; Judge Advocate General Holt, St. John B. L. Skinner, Assistant Postmaster General; S. B. Colby, Register of the Treasury; E. A. Rizley, Assistant Solicitor of the Treasury; Senators Howard, Lane and Yates, General Banks, General Gaines, and a large number of Representatives. After the rooms had been somewhat cleared the dancing was commenced and kept up until a late hour. The proportion of the fair sex was not so great as usual, which was no doubt due, in a great measure, to the state of the thermometer.

The Impeachment Scheme.

The HERALD editorial this morning relative to the impeachment of the President has created a profound sensation. Owing to the delay of the trains the papers were not received until about the hour the Presidential and other levees and receptions were beginning, but in public places the article was freely commented upon. The general opinion, however, was that no impeachment would be attempted during the continuance of the present Congress, a private radical caucus, under General Butler's advice, having concluded not to press the matter.

Meeting of the Union National Committee.

At a meeting of the Union National Committee, at Willard's Hotel to-night, there were present Governor Ward, of New Jersey, President; John B. Clark, of New Hampshire; A. B. Gardner, of Vermont; William Claflin, of Massachusetts; J. S. Fowler, of Tennessee; B. C. Cook, of Illinois; Senator Kirkwood, of Iowa; H. W. Hoffman, of Maryland; N. B. Smithers, of Delaware; W. J. Cowing, of Virginia; W. Windom, of Minnesota; D. R. Goodloe, of North Carolina; Thomas G. Turner, of Rhode Island, and John D. Defrees, of Indiana, the last named being Secretary. On calling the meeting to order Governor Ward said:—

We have met under circumstances which require, in their fullest development, the qualities which have made the republican party what it is—patriotism, fidelity to its convictions, and correctness in their support. These, under God, whose power is infinite, but who works through human agencies and principles, have made this nation free, and have given its interests, its welfare and its honor into our keeping and control, to maintain that power for wise and ennobling purposes, to strengthen the loyalty of the nation, to protect the weak and break down the spirit of caste, to make treason odious, and to build up the prosperity and life of the nation on intelligence, virtue and patriotism, are the objects of the great organization to which we belong. Entrusted with the interests of that organization by the National Convention of 1864 we are met for counsel and action in reference to the present condition of affairs. The faithlessness of the President to the principles and policy of the party which elected him, has rendered more difficult the work of restoring the Union on the basis of loyalty and freedom; but those who have conquered armed treason will prove equal to any remaining danger. Since we last assembled the people of the loyal States have attested anew their adherence to the republican creed and their unwavering determination to build the future of this nation on the enduring basis of Justice, Humanity and Freedom. The fears of the timid and the doubts of the hesitating have given way before that uprising of the people, which has characterized the recent elections. The discussions which these political contests worked, proved the wisdom of Congress in relying upon the intelligence and patriotism of the loyal people of the country. The plan of reconstruction, so wisely and generously adopted by Congress, secured discipline in our own ranks, unity in our own counsels, and vigor in our exertions. Could the pending constitutional amendment be ratified, it would, in my judgment, best satisfy the nation, and best secure the fruits of that great national victory which culminated in the destruction of the rebellion; and yet bear in mind the conviction, that the right of suffrage should not depend upon the accidents of color or race, in the final settlement of these questions. I am content to rely upon the action of the present and the succeeding Congress, in which are contained so much of the wisdom and experience of the nation. It remains for us to disseminate truth, to preserve the unity of our great party, and on the basis of our principles to organize victory. We hold the vantage ground which right confers, and neither the power of the President nor the dictate of courts can stay the progress of those eternal truths which are written in Revelation, inscribed on the hearts of the good and true, and ever illuminating the onward progress of our race.

The address was received with much favor by the committee. There was a general and free conversation in relation to the condition of the country, and the measures which would best secure the fruits of victory and peace.

South Carolina Affairs.

Governor Orr is here on business connected with South Carolina, among other things immigration into that State and the relief of postmasters who had either made returns to federal authorities, which had miscarried, or to confederate authorities, which are ignored, and who are now harassed by government claims. Governor Orr is not in favor of the adoption of the constitutional amendment by South Carolina nor by any other Southern State, but favors general submission to anything the country demands. He peculiarly thinks territorialization would be welcomed as an economical measure.

The Merchants' National Bank and the Government Funds.

The Treasurer of the United States has ordered that Colonel R. S. Olmstead, the Disbursing Clerk of the Post Office, who had funds belonging to the government deposited in the Merchants' National Bank at the time of its failure, shall not be held responsible for the money. The justice of this order will be seen at once when it is stated that the funds subject to his control were delivered to him in the Treasury of Treasury warrants payable on his order at that bank, and the amount which was lost by the failure of the bank, some two or three thousand dollars, was the unchecked balance of his account.

Another Colored Man Admitted to Practice in the Supreme Court.

This morning, on motion of Representative Garfield, John M. Langston, of Oberlin, Ohio, a colored man, was admitted to practice at the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. This is the second case of the kind, a colored man having been admitted about two years ago.

Receipts from Customs.

The receipts for customs for the week ending January 12, are as follows:—From New York, $3,304,465; Boston, $226,327; Philadelphia, $105,488; Baltimore, $[illegible],967. This shows a considerable increase over the receipts for some time past, owing, probably, to the new tariff, the disposition being to pay all duties before changes are made, particularly in cases where the duties are to be increased by the provisions of the new bill.

Emigrants for Liberia.

The American Colonization Society has nearly seven hundred applications enrolled for the spring expedition to Liberia.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1867.

PETITIONS.

Mr. WADE, (rep.) of Ohio, presented the petition of the employés of the Washington Navy Yard for increased pay, which was referred to the Finance Committee.

Several petitions for an increased tariff were presented and referred.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented the petition of Texas Unionists asking for the reorganization of the government of that State. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, presented the petition of the officers of the Society for the Relief of the Poor of Cincinnati, complaining that great distress exists among widows and orphans of soldiers in consequence of the delay experienced in collecting bounty and back pay. Referred to the Committee on Pensions.

NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

Mr. RAMSAY, (rep.) of Minn., from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported the House joint resolutions authorizing the procuring of a site for a Post office and United States Court in New York city, with an amendment providing that the title to the property to be purchased shall be examined and approved by the Attorney General of the United States. This amendment was agreed to, and the bill goes back to the House for concurrence.

COMPENSATION OF POST OFFICE ROUTE AGENTS.

Mr. RAMSAY, from the same committee, reported the bill of the House fixing the compensation of post office route agents at not less than $900 nor more than $1,200 per annum.

Mr. BUCKALEW, (dem.) of Pa., inquired what was the salary of these officers at present?

Mr. RAMSAY said the maximum was $1,000.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Ind., suggested that the minimum be stricken out.

The bill was passed, as reported, and goes to the President.

NIAGARA SHIP CANAL.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., called up the bill of last session to establish a ship canal around Niagara Falls. The motion was agreed to—yeas 20, nays 15—and the bill was taken up.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., moved to strike out the section providing that the act should not take effect unless the Legislature of New York shall give its assent to it within two years.

Pending the consideration of this motion Mr. SHERMAN moved to postpone further consideration of the bill.

Mr. CHANDLER said he would consent to this provided the bill was made the special order for to-morrow, at one o'clock.

Mr. SHERMAN said it had better not be made the special order for that time, as it would come in conflict with the Tariff bill, which would be called up on Monday.

Mr. CHANDLER asked how long it would take to dispose of the Tariff bill.

Mr. SHERMAN said he had not the least idea.

Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., hoped no bill that was not of national importance would be made a special order until the Finance and Tax bills and other measures necessary to the peace and welfare of the whole country were disposed of.

After some further discussion the bill was postponed and made the special order for to-morrow at one o'clock.

EXTENSION OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., called up the bill to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the extension, construction and use by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company of a railroad from between Knoxville and the Monocacy Junction into and within the District of Columbia." The bill provides that instead of the right granted to said railroad company to extend their side road into and within the District of Columbia to such point or terminus as may be agreed upon between said company and the corporations of Washington and Georgetown, the said company are authorized to extend their said road into said District on such line and to such place as may be authorized by Congress, and not otherwise.

The bill was passed by the Senate without amendment and goes to the House.

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL VOTING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported the bill to prevent illegal voting in the District of Columbia and for other purposes, with amendments. The amendments provide for the appointment by the Supreme Court of the District of five judges of election for the city of Washington and three for the city of Georgetown, whose duty it shall be biennially and prior to each election, to prepare a list of the persons qualified to vote in the said cities; the said judges to be in open session in their respective cities to receive evidence of the qualification of persons claiming to be voters and for correcting said lists on two days biennially, not exceeding five days prior to each election for city officers, giving public notice of the time and place of said session; and that the said judges shall, at least ten days prior to the said election, post up in their respective cities a list of voters thus prepared.

PENSION AGENTS.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Ind., called up the bill to regulate the appointment of pension agents.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., said he objected to the kind of legislation contained in the amendment vacating all offices filled since the 1st of October.

Pending the consideration of this bill the morning hour expired and the regular order was taken up, which was

THE BILL TO REGULATE THE TENURE OF OFFICE.

Mr. McDOUGALL, (dem.) of Cal., spoke against the bill.

Mr. WILLEY, (rep.) of W. V., replied to a speech made by Mr. Cowan yesterday, in which the latter gentleman said the President had removed none from office but those who had used abusive language towards him and his policy. The President, Mr. Willey said, had not adhered to that course in West Virginia, for there he had appointed those who had abused him worst. One man, named Long, had been appointed Postmaster at Wheeling. He was the editor of the Wheeling *Register*. Mr. Willey had extracts from the paper issued of the dates of March 13, 14 and 15, 1865, in which the President is denounced as a drunkard, an idiot, &c.

Mr. JOHNSON, (dem.) of Md., asked when that appointment was made, and if it had been confirmed?

Mr. WILLEY said the appointment was made in August, and had not been confirmed.

Mr. COWAN, (rep.) of Pa., said it was impossible, where so many appointments were to be made, to avoid an occasional mistake.

Mr. HENDRICKS replied to a speech from Mr. Sumner a few days since, in which the latter gentleman said, "the misconduct of the Executive threw new duties upon Congress." He (Mr. Hendricks) had never sympathized with a general removal from office; but the doctrine of Mr. Sumner was that a man once in office should continue in office, The President had removed but one man in six in the civil offices of the country, leaving five against him. In 1861 there was a proscription for political opinion more sweeping than was ever before known in the country. Scarcely a man was left in office to represent the large minority throughout the country. He (Mr. Hendricks) never charged Mr. Lincoln with doing wrong in removing democrats from office. So great had been the proscription of the past five years that it had entered the court room and influenced the selection of juries, so that cases in law might be decided from a party standpoint. The first day of the session three distinguished Senators had been removed from the heads of committees because they endorsed the President. The officeholders of this city were nearly all opposed to the President. The Postmasters and Collectors of the city were leaders of the republican party. In nine cases out of ten where the President had removed anybody he had appointed in his place a man who had voted the Lincoln and Johnson ticket in 1864.

While Mr. Hendricks was speaking he was interrupted by Mr. SUMNER, who asked him if he (Mr. Hendricks) meant to give his approbation to the extraordinary language of the President, in which he announces the policy to which he (Mr. Sumner) referred and made declaration of his intentions to kick men out of office, and which he commenced to carry into execution on his return from St. Louis to Washington? He (Mr. Sumner) would ask the Senator from Indiana if he was now vindicating the conduct of the President in carrying that declaration into effect?

Mr. HENDRICKS—The question is a question of rhetoric. (Laughter.) I cannot say I like the style attributed to the President of the United States. (Laughter.) I say, then, that the President of the United States, by the judgment of the country in former administrations, has been sustained in removing from office men opposed to his policy, and placing in office men who are in sympathy with him. This has always been expressed in the pleasant term of "removal from office;" but to kick a man out is to express the same thing in other language not quite so agreeable. Now, Mr. President, I had doubts whether the President used that language; and so strong were my doubts that after I heard it from the Senator from Massachusetts I went and asked him if he was sure the President had used it. He said he read it in the newspapers. I had not read that speech. I had read some of the speeches, but I did not take upon myself the task of reading all the speeches made by the President on his way to Chicago and back. (Laughter.)

Mr. COWAN reviewed the history of the political differences between the President and Congress. The responsibility for these unfortunate differences was not with Congress as to the offices and removals. It was well known that the President would not have restricted himself to four hundred removals were it not that the Senate stood between the present incumbents of federal offices and the President. The Philadelphia Convention played for all the offices in the country, and they lost all and should be satisfied. In reply to the remarks of Mr. Hendricks, as to the proscription of the Senate in excluding three Senators from the chairmanship of committees, he would say that the judgment of the Senate had been confirmed in the case of one of these Senators, who had recently received the votes of the opposition members of the Legislature of his State for the office of Senator.

Mr. McDOUGALL resumed the floor on the general subject of the tenure of office.

Mr. ROSSER, (rep.) of Wis., favored a tenure of office during good behavior. He had become convinced in favor of this upon investigation of the management of the Indian Affairs. In the British provinces agents and others in that employment were retained during life, and the government was greatly benefited. The power of removal, whether placed in the Senate or the Executive, was liable to abuse. As to the Philadelphia Convention and the gentlemen who participated in it, he claimed for himself and those who acted with him the most patriotic motives. He would not speak at length on this topic now; but at a future time he expected to do so. He expected to prove that the policy of the administration was the policy of Mr. Lincoln, from which the republican party had departed.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., said that inasmuch as his colleague (Mr. Doolittle) had spent a good deal of time in attempting to demonstrate that problem already, and as about two-thirds of the people had failed to see it, he did not think it would pay for him to try to demonstrate it any more.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said he could demonstrate it from his colleague's own speech, on the question of admitting Arkansas to representation.

Mr. HOWE denied that any such thing could be proved from his speech referred to.

Mr. SUMNER replied to the remarks of several Senators against the pending proposition, which was the amendment offered by him. He congratulated the President on having found so able a defender and champion as Mr. Hendricks; and he would say that before this controversy was ended the President would need all the ability, all the experience and all the powers of debate of the Senator from Indiana. Mr. Sumner, in advocating his amendment, said it was the duty of Congress to protect the loyal people of this country. He would say more, it was the duty of Congress to protect the loyal people of the country against the President of the United States. In this particular the precedent of the fathers of the country could not be quoted. There was no such duty against our fathers, for the President had not become an enemy to his country.

Mr. McDOUGALL rose and was about to speak.

Mr. SUMNER—I decline to yield.

Mr. McDOUGALL—I rise to a question of privilege.

Mr. SUMNER—I do not yield the floor.

The CHAIR—The Senator from California rises to a question of privilege. He will state his question.

Mr. McDOUGALL—My point is that no Senator on this floor has a right to make use of such remarks about the Executive of the United States.

The CHAIR (Mr. Anthony) asked Mr. McDougall what were the words he took exception to?

Mr. McDOUGALL asked Mr. Sumner to repeat what he had just said about the President.

Mr. SUMNER—Let him take down the words and present them.

Mr. McDOUGALL—I'll do it.

Mr. McDougall walked over to his desk and wrote down upon a slip of paper the words of Mr. Sumner as he understood them. While this was being done Mr. Sumner rose and said he claimed the right to proceed unless the point of order was made and decided.

The CHAIR called for the reading of the words objected to. They were read as written down by Mr. McDougall, as follows:—"Never before had we a President who was the enemy of his country."

Mr. ANTHONY (in the chair)—In the opinion of the Chair this does not go beyond the general bounds of debate.

Mr. SUMNER rose to proceed with his speech, when

Mr. McDOUGALL appealed from the decision of the Chair, saying he wished the vote of the Senate on the question he had raised.

Mr. SUMNER—Then I insist that the actual words as reported by the short hand writer shall be read.

Mr. EDMUNDS said he agreed that the words used exceeded the proper limits of debate, but he would like to have the discussion of the bill proceeded with, and he moved that further debate on the point of order be postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. SUMNER said that could not be done. The point must be decided now.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., moved to lay the appeal of Mr. McDougall on the table.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, said it was due to the Senator from Massachusetts that his words as uttered should be read. The words as taken down by the Senator from California were that "we never before had a President who was an enemy to his country." The Senator from Massachusetts, according to the short hand report of his speech, had not used this language.

Mr. McDOUGALL—I ask the Senator from Massachusetts if he is quoted correctly or if he denies the affirmation.

Mr. SUMNER—The Senator has not quoted me correctly.

After some further remarks Mr. McDOUGALL said it seemed he had not quoted Mr. Sumner correctly. He (Mr. McDougall) had a very bad pair of ears and a bad memory, and he would withdraw the appeal from the Chair.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said he had no objection to the withdrawal of the appeal if the Senator from Massachusetts would repeat the words he had used and to which exceptions had been taken, that the Senator might again hear them and determine, if necessary, if they were such as ought not to be allowed in debate.

The appeal from the decision of the Chair was withdrawn, and Mr. Sumner proceeded with his remarks. He said that when he was interrupted in the extraordinary manner just witnessed he was saying what he would now repeat as written out since by the reporter. "There, sir, is the duty of the hour. There was no such duty on our fathers. There was no such duty on our predecessors in this chamber, because there was no President of the United States who had become the enemy of his country."

Mr. DOOLITTLE rose as Mr. Sumner uttered the last words of the above sentence, and said he rose to a question of order, that such language towards the Executive was not permissible in the Senate.

Mr. ANTHONY (in the chair) decided that in the judgment of the Chair the words did not exceed the limit of debate usual in the Senate.

Mr. DOOLITTLE appealed from the Chair, and moved that, in order that Senators might have an opportunity to consider the question, the Senate adjourn.

The motion to adjourn was disagreed to.

Mr. LANE moved to lay the appeal of Mr Doolittle upon the table.

Several points of order were here raised, all on Parliamentary questions, after which the Senate laid the appeal of Mr. Doolittle upon the table, by a vote of yeas 29, nays 10, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Brown, Cattell, Chandler, Conness, Cragin, Edmunds, Fessenden, Foster, Fowler, Frelinghuysen, Grimes, Harris, Henderson, Howard, Howe, Kirkwood, Lane, Morgan, Morrill, Ramsey, Sherman, Sprague, Stewart, Van Winkle, Wade, Willey, Williams, Wilson and Yates—29.

NAYS—Messrs. Buckalew, Cowan, Dixon, Doolittle, Hendricks, Johnson, McDougall, Norton, Patterson and Saulsbury—10.

The Senate then, at fifteen minutes to five o'clock, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1867.

IS THERE A HARBOR IN THE VICINITY OF POINT SAL, CALIFORNIA?

On motion of Mr. MCRUER, (rep.) of Cal., the Committee on Commerce was instructed to inquire into the existence of a harbor in the vicinity of Point Sal, Santa Barbara county, California, and the practicability of rendering such harbor valuable to commerce.

THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL—SURPRISE OF MR. STEVENS.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., called attention to the fact that it appeared by the morning papers that the amendment offered last evening to the Legislative Appropriation Bill, making the appropriation for increased compensation valid to clerks and employés of the House last session had been agreed to and the bill reported to the House. He had insisted on a revision of that amendment and had then left the House knowing that there was not a quorum present. He was quite surprised to learn that the amendment had been declared agreed to and the bill reported to the House. If the journal showed that to be so, or showed anything about it, he would move to amend the Journal.

The SPEAKER stated that no journal is kept in Committee of the Whole, and that the Legislative appropriation bill had been reported to the House with various amendments, including the one referred to.

Mr. STEVENS said he was very unwilling to have that amendment left on the record, as it was wholly untrue that it was agreed to.

The SPEAKER remarked that it was not within his power to rule on the subject, but the gentleman could move to recommit the bill.

Mr. STEVENS made that motion, saying that at all events he had an amendment to offer to the bill.

The bill was recommitted, and the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Cobb in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the Legislative appropriation bill.

Mr. STEVENS offered an amendment as an additional section, extending to the Court of Claims the provisions of section 3, of the act of July 2, 1864, which declares that in the courts of the United States there shall be no exclusion of any witness on account of color; nor in civil actions because he is a party to, or interested in the issue tried. He said that the Court of Claims had recently held that it was not a court of the United States, and that therefore the law did not apply to it.

The amendment was, after a short discussion and explanation, agreed to.

The amendment agreed to yesterday requiring new appointments on the Metropolitan Police force to be made from men who had served in the army was modified so as to extend to sailors and marines.

The committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

Mr. STEVENS asked leave to offer an amendment fixing the salary of the Supreme Court reporter at $2,500, if the Supreme Court directed the publication of more than one volume of reports.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., objected, and the SPEAKER ruled that the amendment was not in order in the House.

Mr. STEVENS then brought up the matter of making the appropriation to pay to the clerks and employés of the House the increased compensation voted last session. He reminded the House that subsequent to the resolutions granting the increased compensation both Houses had agreed upon a general increase of twenty per cent for the clerks and employés of both Houses, and that increase was intended to cover all such propositions. He was informed that the adoption of this amendment would create a great inequality in the compensation of clerks, an inequality of fifty to sixty and in some cases eighty per cent. He hoped that when the House came to vote upon the amendment it would be rejected.

Mr. BLAINE, (rep.) of Me., argued that the appropriation was necessary in order to carry out the resolution of the House.

Messrs. WOODBRIDGE, (rep.) of Vt., and SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, spoke in favor of the appropriation.

Mr. RAYMOND, (rep.) of N. Y., asked for a separate vote on the amendment which struck out the clause appropriating $40,000 for facilitating telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific States. He argued that there had been no violation of the terms of the contract, as asserted in debate yesterday, and offered to agree to a proviso that the amount paid to the telegraph company under the appropriation should not exceed the amount actually due to it by the government for messages sent.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., opposed the appropriation, declaring that the contract was one of the most extravagant and outrageous that has been ever entered into by the government, and that the company had violated the contract by over charging and delaying messages, &c.

Mr. RAYMOND mentioned that the only ground for asserting that there had been a violation of the contract was that there had been two cases of over charging for private messages from Denver East, which over charges had been made by employés of the company, and had been remedied when the matter was brought before the company.

Separate votes were also demanded on the amendments giving notice of the termination of the contract with the *Congressional Globe* and on the clause appropriating $10,000 for collecting mineralogical reports, and for watchmen of the public garden.

The first vote was taken on the amendment adding the following proviso:—*Provided* that no further appropriation shall be made for supplying complete sets of the *Congressional Globe* and appendix to members of any succeeding Congress. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 61 yeas to 57 nays.

The next vote was taken on the following proviso:—*Provided* that notice is hereby given that at the close of the Fortieth Congress, the United States will terminate the purchase of one complete set of the *Congressional Globe* and appendix for each Senator, Representative and delegate, provided for by the act of July 4, 1864. The vote was taken by yeas and nays and resulted yeas 84, nays 56.

The next vote was on striking out the paragraph appropriating $40,000 for facilitating telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States.

Mr. RAYMOND offered to agree to a proviso that the company would consent to the abrogation of the existing contract, on application of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, objected.

The amendment was agreed to and the paragraph was struck out.

The next vote was on striking out the paragraph appropriating $10,000 for collecting statistical information in regard to the mineral resources of the North western States. The paragraph was struck out by a vote of 64 to 34.

The next vote was on striking out the clause for five watchmen at the public garden. The clause was not struck out.

The next vote was on the amendment making an appropriation for increased compensation to clerks. The amendment was agreed to—ayes, 81; noes not counted.

The bill was then passed.

PRINTING THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

On the motion of Mr. HALL, (rep.) of Ind., the Committee on Printing was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for reporting the debates of the proceedings of Congress by reporters chosen by each House thereof, and for the publication of such debates and proceedings at the government printing office.

THE DEBT DUE TO TEXAS.

On the motion of Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ind., the Secretary of the Treasury was instructed to report what amount due by the United States to Texas previous to the rebellion remains unpaid, and whether the State of Texas has accounted for the money and stores taken by it from the confederacy.

ABUSES AT THE WEST POINT ACADEMY.

Mr. JOHNSON, (dem.) of Pa., offered a resolution directing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into abuses in the quality and charges of board for the cadets at West Point, with power to send for persons and papers, and to proceed to West Point if necessary.

Mr. SCHENCK suggested to add the following:—"In which case the committee shall extend its investigations, so far as it may seem to be requisite, into any matters connected with the administration and discipline there." The resolution so modified was adopted.

REPORT OF THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

On motion of Mr. HIGBY, (rep.) of Cal., the Committee on Printing was instructed to inquire into the expediency of having the report of J. Ross Browne on the mineral resources of the United States printed in the French and German languages, for distribution at the Paris Exposition.

THE TARIFF ON IMPORTED SILK GOODS.

On motion of Mr. BIDWELL, (rep.) of Cal., the Committee on Ways and Means was instructed to inquire into the expediency of making the tariff on silk goods imported specific, according to weight, instead of ad valorem.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Senate bill, which was up yesterday at the close of the morning hour, to incorporate the Washington County Horse Railroad Company, of the District of Columbia, came up as the business of the morning hour.

Mr. SCHENCK offered an amendment, declaring it unlawful for any railroad company to collect fare from any passenger on its cars or coaches to whom a seat in such conveyance was not furnished. He made some forcible remarks in support of the amendment.

Mr. GRINNELL, (rep.) of Iowa, moved an amendment to the amendment by adding the words "except with their consent."

Mr. COX, (rep.) of Wis., suggested that this railroad company was part of a scheme for the sale of the Cochrane farm to the government for a park.

Mr. INGERSOLL, (rep.) of Ill., said he had heard nothing of the kind.

Both the amendments were rejected, and then the bill was passed.

On motion of Mr. INGERSOLL, the District Committee was instructed to inquire into the expediency of paving Pennsylvania avenue.

Mr. INGERSOLL, from the District Committee, reported a substitute for the Senate bill to incorporate the First Congregational Society of Washington, District of Columbia. After the bill was read Mr. Ingersoll suggested that if his friend from Ohio (Mr. Schenck) wished to offer his amendment to this bill, that no person should have to pay anything without having new accommodations, he would let him do so. (Laughter.)

Mr. SCHENCK declined to offer such an amendment, saying he would be sorry to deprive his excellent friend from Illinois of any of the means of grace, for he knew nobody having so much need of it. (Laughter.)

Mr. INGERSOLL replied that no one knew better than his friend from Ohio whether he was a good subject for grace. The substitute was agreed to and the bill passed.

Mr. WELKER, (rep.) of Ohio, from the same committee, reported a bill to regulate the proceedings before Justices of the Peace in the District of Columbia.

Mr. WELKER, from the same committee, reported a bill providing for the punishment of grand and petit larceny. Passed.

Mr. WELKER, from the same committee, reported a bill to incorporate the Washington Transportation and Canal Company.

The morning hour expiring before the reading of the bill was concluded, at forty minutes past two, the bill went over till to-morrow.

BILL TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOVER LOST PROPERTY.

Mr. COOK, (rep.) of Ill., on leave introduced a bill to enable the United States to recover the value of the property of which it has been deprived, so as to recover property formerly belonging to the Confederate States that has been removed and smuggled away. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

NUMBERING THE HOUSES IN WASHINGTON.

On motion of Mr. INGERSOLL the Committee for the District of Columbia was instructed to inquire into the propriety of having the houses in Washington numbered in accordance with the system adopted in Philadelphia.

PETITION.

Mr. MARVIN presented the petition of citizens of Saratoga and Fulton counties, New York, praying for a pension to Samuel Downing, the only surviving soldier of the Revolution, aged one hundred and five years.

MR. STEVENS' RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of Mr. Stevens' Reconstruction bill.

Mr. BAKER, (rep.) of Ill., addressed the House, giving his reasons why the bill should not be agreed to in its present form, and why it should be referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. He objected to the phraseology of the preamble, inasmuch as it applies the term "governments" to the Confederate States of America.

Mr. STEVENS said that, rather than have that cause trouble to any of the brethren, he would modify it.

Mr. BAKER said that the term "government" implied a settled, solid institution. In such cases as this the term was usually modified by the phrase "so-called," "self-called," or "*de facto*." He objected to the second section as reorganizing the State governments now existing, *de facto*, and suggested that such organization should be postponed until such time as the scheme giving them constitutional governments should go into effect. He had some doubts as to the constitutionality of the third section. The object of the fourth section was a good one. But why, in shunning Scylla should Congress fall into Charybdis? Why, in seeking to prevent State disfranchisement of colored men, should Congress declare that no person shall be disfranchised by reason of conviction and punishment for any crime other than for insurrection, or treason, or misprision of treason? His substantial objection, however, was to the sixth section, which declares that all who at any time held office, either civil or military, under the Confederate States government, or who swore allegiance thereto, had renounced allegiance to the United States and have to be reinvested with the right of citizenship. He denied that the people of the Southern States were, or could be made by law of Congress, aliens. They were citizens of the United States. They must be either foreigners or citizens. They were not foreigners. They were citizens. They had never ceased to be citizens of the United States. Their government had never been recognized by the United States nor any other country. He was unwilling to give any vote that would recognize the idea that there ever were for one moment of time two sovereignties existing within the jurisdiction of the United States. The rebellion was a gigantic combination, but yet there was not a moment when every one in the revolted district did not, in law, owe allegiance to the government of the United States. He saw a difficulty also in the seventh section of the bill, which insists upon equal civil and political privileges to all, and regarded the concluding portion of it which declares that if the section should ever be altered or amended, the State should lose its right in Congress; and, as a monstrous proposition, he thought the bill should by all means be referred to a Joint Committee on Reconstruction. In his judgment the States in the Union were in the long run better in nursing mother of liberty than this centralized government could be. He wanted to see everything left to the States that could be safely left to them. He warned the House against the evil tendency of degrading, diminishing and dishonoring the States of this Union. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) had denounced his own State as not republican, and had expressed the hope that Congress would interfere and make it so. And the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Banks) had spoken of cashiering the representatives of States that were not republican in form. He warned the House against the encouragement of any such destructive ideas.

Mr. GRINNELL said he would have been better pleased with the remarks of the gentleman who had just sat down, if he had applied himself to the perfection of the bill, and not to its destruction.

Mr. BAKER replied that he thought the Reconstruction Committee infinitely more competent to suggest improvement to the bill than he was.

Mr. GRINNELL said he was not prepared to yield up all his judgment to that committee; the session was wearing out, and he wanted that matter disposed of by Congress. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Bingham) appeared desirous to wait for the constitutional amendment to be adopted. Did he want that amendment to be again scornfully and contemptuously thrown in the face of Congress by the Legislatures of the rebel States? The Legislatures of the loyal States were advising a different policy. They were urging that the constitutional amendment having been rejected, Congress should now go on and pass laws for the proper government of the territory recently in rebellion. Referring to the insinuation in Mr. Dawson's speech yesterday, that New England was interested in keeping up the present condition of things and excluding the Southern States from representation in Congress, he repelled that as untrue. Congress would deserve the reproach of the world if it did not see to it, that the friends of the nation in the rebel States had full protection extended over their lives and political and civil rights. If they were placed there for anything, it was that they might protect their friends and establish justice. He would not advocate the execution or banishment of rebels, but he would place by their side with equal rights and privileges black men. It was not their fault that they were black. It was God's. This question would take care of itself. The democrats would be looking after the colored votes, and, therefore, would begin to treat the black men with respect. Let the black man have justice, for he was the friend of the nation in the day of its trouble. He gave an account of an interview he had with Mr. Lincoln about the colored race. He (Mr. Grinnell) had introduced in the House a proposition for enlisting colored soldiers. Mr. Lincoln said to him that he wanted to have everybody fight the rebels. "Let the Indians fight them," said he; "let the negroes fight them, and, if you have any kicking jackasses in the State of Iowa that will kick the rebels to death, let the jackasses fight them."

THE RAILROAD BRIDGE BILL.

Mr. HOGAN, (dem.) of Mo., introduced a bill to repeal that section of the Railroad Bridge bill of last session which authorizes low bridges.

IMPROVEMENT OF ONTONAGON HARBOR, MICHIGAN.

On motion of Mr. DRIGGS, (rep.) of Mich., the Secretary of War was requested to send to the House any surveys for the improvement of Ontonagon harbor on Lake Superior, and if no such surveys had been made, then to cause them to be made.

COAL LANDS.

Mr. DRIGGS introduced a bill to amend the acts for the disposal of certain coal lands and town property. It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

RELIEF OF THE TWENTY-FIRST REGIMENT NEW YORK CAVALRY.

Mr. HOTCHKISS, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill for the relief of the Twenty-first regiment of New York cavalry. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE BUILDING.

On motion of Mr. RAYMOND the Senate amendment to the House bill in relation to the site for a Post office and United States courts in New York city, requiring the title thereto to be approved by the Attorney General, was taken from the Speaker's table and concurred in. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio, stated that he had been unavoidably absent the first three days of the week. If present he would have voted for the two bills admitting Nebraska and Colorado, and in favor of Mr. Boutwell's amendment thereto.

In reply to the Speaker, Mr. STEVENS intimated that he would try to close the debate on his bill next week.

The House, at a quarter past four o'clock, adjourned.

ADDITIONAL FROM MEXICO.

Ortega Gaining Ground—Circular of Marshal Bazaine