WASHINGTON

Debate in the House on the Bill to Provide Military Governments for the Rebel States.

A Vote to be Taken on the Measure To-Day.

The Legislative and Executive Appropriation Bill in the Senate.

Colonel Hillyer Appointed Internal Revenue Agent for New York.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1867.

Military Governments for the Rebel States.

The bill reported from the Committee of the Whole yesterday, by Mr. Stevens, providing military governments for the late rebel States, was taken up in the House to-day at one o'clock. The intense interest felt in this measure was manifested by the crowded state of the galleries. A large number of Southern loyalists were observed among the spectators, and groups of them could be seen standing in the passages surrounding the House of Representatives, gravely and earnestly discussing the vital question with members and politicians from all sections of the country. A disposition was evinced on the democratic side to postpone action on the bill, but Mr. Stevens was firm in his demand that a vote should be had upon it as early as possible. The session, he said, was so far gone that it was absolutely necessary that the measure should receive prompt consideration. Messrs. Wentworth, of Illinois, and Maynard, of Tennessee, appeared to be desirous of having the question fully discussed. The former objected to the suggestion of Mr. Raymond that twenty minutes be the time allowed each member to speak, unless Mr. Stevens and Mr. Hise of Kentucky, could each have an hour, and the latter made an effort to obtain a recess until half-past seven for the purpose of debate. Mr. Stevens then announced that he would move the previous question at one o'clock to-morrow, and made one of his characteristic speeches in favor of the bill. He was followed by Mr. Brandegee, of Connecticut, who also made an able and lengthy speech in favor. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Le Blond and Finck, of Ohio, and Rogers, of New Jersey, in opposition, and by Messrs. Pike, of Maine, and Farnswarth, of Illinois, in support of the bill. The arguments of the opposition were chiefly based upon the alleged absence of all authority under the constitution, or in the precedents of history as regards other governments, for the proposed measure, and those of the friends of the bill were based upon the alleged necessity of the measure to protect the rights of the Union men and negroes in those States, which, they contended, would not be protected by the civil courts. The case of Dr. Watson, of Virginia, was mentioned as an instance of the inability of the parties or their friends to obtain redress from the courts.

Mr. Ashley's Impeachment Resolutions.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, made a personal explanation in the House to-day in relation to his impeachment resolutions. He sent to the Clerk to be read to the House the article which went the rounds of the newspapers relating a conversation alleged to have occurred between Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, Mr. Stevens and himself in reference to the authorship of the impeachment resolution, the reading of which created a good deal of merriment both on the floor and in the galleries. Mr. Ashley said—"Of all stupid falsehoods put forth by malignant maligners this is the silliest." He then declared that he drafted the resolution himself, and showed it to the gentlemen from Illinois and Pennsylvania and several others, and the language said to have been used by his colleague was not heard by him.

The Financial Question.

The Finance Committee of the Senate have taken no final action on the subject of the loan certificates, and the impression gains ground that they will not adopt them.

Bills Approved by the President.

The President has approved the bill punishing with heavy fine and imprisonment the buying, selling, exchanging, transferring, receiving and delivery of any false, forged, counterfeit or altered public securities and currency. The printing thereon of any business or professional card is prohibited under penalty, while punishment is to be visited on any persons having in their possession, without authority from the United States, any imprint, stamp or impression from any material to be used for the above mentioned purpose.

The President has also approved the bill providing that the several courts of the United States, and the judges thereof, shall have power to grant writs of habeas corpus in all cases where any person may be restrained of his or her liberty in violation of the constitution or of any treaty of the United States. The law is not to apply to the case of any person who is or may be held in the custody of the military authorities of the United States charged with any military offence, or with having aided or abetted rebellion against the government of the United States prior to the passage of this act.

The Georgetown Municipal Election.

The republicans of this district are making a very thorough and active campaign in preparation for the coming municipal election in this city and in Georgetown. The Colored League are also holding public meetings at various points in the two cities.

Agent of Internal Revenue for New York City.

Brevet Brigadier General William S. Hillyer, of New York, has received the appointment of Agent of Internal Revenue of New York city.

The Management of the Sub-Treasury at New York—The Investigation by the Retrenchment Committee.

The joint Committee on Retrenchment, who were instructed by a resolution of the House to inquire why, in the present stringent condition of the New York money market, on January 15, the currency balance at the Sub-Treasury in that city is constantly increasing; whether said increase, or any part of it, arises, or has arisen, from the sale of gold, and whether any agent of the department or any officer of the government has, within the last thirty days, lent gold belonging to the government to any person or persons, or to any institution, and if so, to what person or persons or to what institution, upon what consideration, for what purpose, upon what security and to what amount, reported to day through General Schenck as follows:—

This resolution assumed the existence of certain facts as to the accounts of the Assistant Treasurer in New York, and implied a grave charge against his official integrity and fidelity to the important trust committed to his charge, and hence it was deemed proper to summon that officer and examine him as to these allegations. Before doing so, however, the committee requested the attendance before them of the gentleman who had introduced the resolution for the purpose of learning from him the sources of information upon which the resolution was predicated. That gentleman had in the meantime become satisfied that the information on which he had acted was entirely based on those rumors which are being continually invented and set afloat by persons who have real or fancied interests to be subserved by affecting the money market at the great commercial centre to the extent that such rumors seem to have on that sensitive community. He therefore expressed a desire to withdraw the resolution offered by him, or to move that it be rescinded. But as the matters involved in the inquiry were of such grave consequence to the interests of the public, and as they implied serious misconduct on the part of a highly responsible public officer, the committee determined to probe the allegations to the fullest possible extent. For this purpose, after having examined fully and minutely Mr. Van Dyck, the Assistant Treasurer at New York, the committee summoned Mr. John F. Tracy, the person on whose statement the resolution was originally based by the member who presented it. It turned out that he really knew nothing of the matters alleged by him; that being interested in stock operations, he was alarmed for the effect of such transactions as were alleged to have taken place upon his monetary interests, and at once took steps to procure an investigation. The committee commoned every person from whom he alleged that he had heard the rumor as to the doings of the Assistant Treasurer in regard to the improper sales or loans of gold, and on examination of those of them whose presence could be secured, and of others who were supposed to be implicated in the propagation of the rumor referred to, it was found impossible to trace it to any responsible source.

It appears from the testimony of Mr. Van Dyck that "the currency balance in the Sub-Treasury at New York is not constantly increasing, but in that respect he is doing simply what is actually necessary to provide for the current liabilities of the government, and of course there being no such increase to account for it cannot have arisen from the sale of gold." As to the other branch of the resolution, relative to the loaning of gold belonging to the government, the committee beg leave to call attention to the so-called Sub-Treasury act of August 6, 1846, by which it is provided that "all officers, agents and other persons charged by this act or any other act with the safe keeping, transfer and disbursement of the public moneys are hereby required to keep a safe and accurate entry of each sum received and of each payment or transfer, and that if any one of the said officers shall convert to his own use in any way whatever, or shall use by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan with or without interest, or shall deposit in any bank or shall exchange for other funds, except as allowed by this act, any portion of the public moneys entrusted to him for safe keeping, disbursement, transfer or for any other purpose, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of the said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, invested, used, loaned, deposited or exchanged, which is hereby declared to be a felony."

Mr. Van Dyck expressly and emphatically denied that he had violated the law in this respect, and his explanations of the manner in which business is done in his office shows the improbability of any such thing as was alleged having occurred, and his own emphatic and peremptory denial forbid the presumption of such criminal conduct on his part, and especially when the very persons who circulated reports that he had been so guilty are unable to substantiate their charges in any way, or to base them upon anything more than a mere street rumor or gossip. The foundation for the story seems to have been the fact that, about the time referred to in the resolution, certain operators in gold sold much more gold in the market at New York than they could possibly have in possession; that this is no uncommon occurrence, as the committee learned by the examination of persons connected with the stock and gold boards; and not only did Mr. Van Dyck expressly negative and emphatically deny the charge that he had loaned the government gold to any person or institutions, but the person to whom the rumor attributed his alleged loans of government gold, denied that he had ever received gold from the government in any such way, and stated expressly and specifically the sources whence he got the large quantities of gold the sales of which had so affected the equanimity of a certain class of operators. It is but just to Senator Grimes, whose name was mentioned by Hon. B. C. Cook as having stated that he had similar information, to state that it appeared to the Committee that Senator Grimes had and assumed to have no knowledge on the subject, but merely, when applied to, remarked that he had seen such allegations in the money article of the NEW YORK HERALD for two or three successive days, and had read a letter from a person in New York alleging that such a rumor was afloat.

The Committee report, therefore, that there is no foundation whatever for the statements, allegations and charges contained in or implied by the House resolution of January 15, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

The Committee append to their report the statement of Mr. Cook and the testimony of Mr. Van Dyck and Mr. Tracy.

Our Inland Commerce and Its Transportation to the Seaboard.

The Secretary of the Treasury transmitted to the House to-day an elaborate report of Mr. Israel T. Hatch, of New York, in reference to a resolution of that body upon our inland commerce and its transportation lines to the seaboard. Its views are as novel as bold against the prevailing notions of the day that the enlargement of the Canadian canals would benefit Western commerce. It claims to have demonstrated that the Erie Canal is the natural, cheapest channel for Western commerce; that it has carried heretofore, as it will carry hereafter, the bulk of Western commerce; that the geographical and commercial causes which have prevented any serious diversions of business from the Erie Canal by Canadian canals, will operate more powerfully in the future than in the past decade of free exchange of products and free transit of them through each country. It urges the co-operation of the West with the State of New York to secure national aid in favor of its former proposition. The Secretary, in his letter transmitting the report to Congress, says:—

The investigations have evidently been made by Mr. Hatch with fairness and fidelity. The conclusions which naturally arise from the considerations presented by him point to the improvement and enlargement of our means of transportation through our territory for our vast Western commerce in preference to those of the Canada. The arguments in favor of the latter appear to be more specious than sound, and I therefore take pleasure in approving the conclusions arrived at in Mr. Hatch's report.

Levee at the White House.

The levee at the White House to-night was decidedly the most crowded of any that has been given for years. Every particle of space was crowded with human beings, fair ladies largely predominating. At ten o'clock the rooms and halls became so densely jammed with fresh arrivals pushing in, and those who had paid their respects trying to make their way out, that no progress could be made either way, and a scene of struggling and confusion ensued that is seldom witnessed. Mrs. Johnson, the wife of the President, received the guests in company with the President this evening, instead of Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Stover, though these ladies were close beside their mother to assist her, as her ill health does not permit her to endure much fatigue. A very large number of distinguished guests were present—foreign ministers, all of the Cabinet members except Secretary Stanton, Judges of the Courts, Senators, Representatives and army and navy officers, besides an immense multitude of the citizens generally.

The Bonds of the Mexican Republic.

A lobby is on hand for the purpose of obtaining the guarantee of the United States government to some $50,000,000 of the Mexican bonds, to be issued by the Juarez government. This measure has been pressed upon Congress before, on the ground that, although the people were known to be in favor of a republic, they would require help at first to put its machinery in motion. There is reason to believe that the parties most active in endeavoring to effect this legislation, are more concerned about the bonds which may fall into their hands than for the success of any party.

The Indians.

The delegations from fourteen tribes or bands of Indians from Kansas now here have agreed with Commissioner Bogy upon the preliminaries of treaties which will be signed this week. These Indians agree to remove to what is known as lease land in the Indian country, formerly occupied by the Creeks and Seminoles. The lands in Kansas belonging to them, valued at from one to four dollars per acre, are to be sold and the proceeds invested for their benefit. The differences which existed between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Commander in Chief of the Army relative to the appointment of the military part of the commission to proceed to Omaha and investigate the causes and circumstances of the late massacre at Fort Phil Kearny, have been harmoniously adjusted, and General Alfred Sully and Colonel Parker, the latter of General Grant's staff, have been designated as the military officers who will be assigned to that duty. It is believed that the result of this mission will be to counteract the bad feeling which has shown itself among the Indians, and avert other troubles with the different tribes which are threatened.

The Convention of Tobacconists.

The Tobacconist Convention reassembled to-day, when the committee on organization made their report, which was agreed to as follows:—

President, F. A. Prague, of Ohio; Vice Presidents, J. D. Evans, of New York; W. Rinehart, of Pennsylvania; G. W. Gail, of Maryland; R. A. May, of Virginia; Judge Brickner, of Maryland; B. Lowenthal, of Illinois; J. J. Bagley, of Michigan; J. B. Casey, of Kentucky; D. Branson, of Ohio; E. J. Whitlock, of Brooklyn; Secretaries, A. McDonald, of Lynchburg, Va.; W. H. Nasson, of Philadelphia; Treasurer, D. H. Miller, of Baltimore.

The commission merchants, who withdrew yesterday, appeared this morning, in accordance with the action of the convention, and took their seats as members. The following resolutions were adopted:—

First—To exclude tobacco from that provision of the Internal Revenue law which exempts from tax the product of manufactured articles from institutions for the deaf, dumb and blind.

Second—An amendment to the Revenue laws, to allow two per cent for evaporation.

Third—A deduction of the tax where tobacco is damaged by fire, pro rata with the damage.

Fourth—That confiscated tobacco shall be sold subject to the tax, and shall be destroyed if bids in open market do not cover the tax.

Fifth—The appointment of a committee to confer with the proper parties in order to secure legislation which will relieve the manufacturers of tobacco.

Resolved, as the opinion of this Association, the tax on manufactured tobacco, whether manufactured of leaf, or imitation of tobacco, into plugs, cut stems, smoking or snuff, should be uniform, and each of them bearing the same tax.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1867.

THE NEGRO SUFFRAGE QUESTION IN TENNESSEE.

Mr. Fowler, (rep.) of Tenn., sent to the Chair to be read a despatch announcing the passage by the House of Representatives of Tennessee of the bill for negro suffrage in that State. In presenting the despatch, Mr. Fowler said it announced the greatest victory since the war commenced.

INCORPORATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GASLIGHT COMPANY.

Mr. Morrill, (rep.) of Me., introduced a bill to incorporate the Metropolitan Gaslight Company of the District of Columbia, naming John R. Elvans, George Savage, D. P. Holloway, William Bebb, P. H. Aliabeck, T. B. Brown, A. Watson, M. Loomis, T. B. Phillips, William A. Cook, R. A. Pierce and George Burgess as corporators, with a capital of not less than five hundred nor more than a million dollars, and authorizes the construction of gasworks for the lighting of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

APPEALS AND WRITS OF ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT.

Mr. Harris, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill relative to appeals and writs of error to the Supreme Court, which provides that in cases of final judgment or decree of an inferior court of the United States, for any judicial district, in which subsequently to the rendition of such judgment or decree, the regular sessions of the said court shall have been suspended or interrupted by insurrection or rebellion, for the period of five years, during which such cases may by law be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, or that if error or appeal, it shall be reckoned exclusive of the time intervening between the last regular session of said inferior court, held prior to the insurrection, and the first regular session thereof tried after there establishment of the authority of the United States on the same; which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

NO COMPENSATION FOR LOYAL SLAVEOWNERS.

Mr. Trumbull, (rep.) of Ill., from the Judiciary Committee, reported, without amendment, the House bill suspending the operation of the act of 1864 authorizing the appointment of a commission to award the $300 compensation to loyal slaveowners for slaves taken in the volunteer service, and also discharge the commissioners appointed under said act.

PREVENTION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN THE REBEL STATES.

Mr. Trumbull also reported from the same committee the House joint resolution to prevent corporal punishment in the late rebel States, with amendments, making it read "That it shall be the duty of the officers of the army and navy and of the Freedmen's Bureau to prohibit and prevent whipping or maiming of the person as a punishment of any crime, misdemeanor or offence, by any pretended civil authority in any State lately in rebellion until the civil government of such State shall have been restored and recognized by Congress."

ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMERCE AND INTERNAL TRADE.

Mr. Brown, (rep.) of Me., introduced a bill for the encouragement of commerce and internal trade, by facilitating direct importation, which provides that on the discharge of any cargo at the ports of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New Orleans, St. Louis, Detroit or Chicago, when any part of said cargo may be shipped and directed by invoice to either of those ports other than the port of arrival, it shall be the duty of the revenue officers to forward forthwith, under regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, without entry, warehousing or bonding at the port of arrival, all such goods to the Custom House officers to the port of their destination; and that the revenue officer at the port of arrival shall notify the collector of the port of destination and the consignee of the facts within twelve hours, by mail, and the goods so forwarded shall be subject to the same regulations at the port of destination as though it were the original port of arrival; and the Secretary is authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary for the faithful carrying out of this act. And it is also provided that the expense of transportation from one port to another shall be at the expense of the consignee. It was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

OUR MINISTER AT STOCKHOLM.

Mr. Sumner introduced the following resolution, which was agreed to:—

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, a copy of any recent correspondence between the Department of State and the Minister of the United States at Stockholm in relation to the reported transfer of this Minister from Stockholm to Bogota.

PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING.

Mr. Chandler, (rep.) of Mich., reported from the Committee on Commerce in favor of concurring in the House amendments to the act amendatory of the act to prevent smuggling, &c. The amendments were concurred in, and the bill goes to the President.

INCREASED COMPENSATION TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

Mr. Williams, (rep.) of Oregon, called up the resolution giving twenty per cent increase in compensation to the clerks and other civil employes of the government at Washington for one year, ending June 1, 1867, which was discussed till one o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. Fessenden, (rep.) of Me., then called up the bill making appropriations for the Legislative, Executive and Judicial departments. It is a lengthy bill, making the regular annual appropriations for the next fiscal year for the departments named. It was read in full.

Mr. Sumner interrupted the reading of the bill at the paragraph providing an appropriation of $80,000 for the temporary clerks of the Treasury Department, to ask if these clerks were to be classified by the Secretary. He believed this officer had been controlled by political considerations rather than by the merits of individuals in the promotion of clerks of his department.

Mr. Fessenden replied that he did not believe the Secretary of the Treasury was influenced by any such considerations as those named by Mr. Sumner.

Mr. Sumner could not agree with Mr. Fessenden as to the character of the Secretary of the Treasury. He read a letter giving a statement that in the appointment of extra compensation fund of the Treasury Department democrats and Johnson men received more than their fair proportion. He (Mr. Sumner) thought Congress ought to abolish either the Department or the Secretary.

Mr. Fessenden called for the name of the writer of the letter.

Mr. Sumner did not feel authorized to give the name.

Mr. Fessenden deprecated the habit of reading letters and refusing to give the names of the writers. He would never read an anonymous letter in the Senate.

Mr. Sumner said it was not an anonymous letter.

Mr. Fessenden said if the name of the writer was not given, it was no better than anonymous. He asked Mr. Sumner if he believed all the statements he heard about the Secretary of the Treasury?

Mr. Sumner said that he believed the Secretary to be an intense partisan.

Mr. Fessenden replied, defending the Secretary, while expressing his disapproval of many of his appointments.

Mr. Williams said he had consulted the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the distribution of the extra compensation, and the Secretary had told him that he had issued orders to distribute it strictly according to merit.

Mr. Howe, (rep.) of Wis., did not believe that the Secretary of the Treasury was corrupt; but he believed that he gave to the country a bad administration of the affairs of his department.

The pending amendment was discussed by Messrs. Hendricks, Johnson and Trumbull.

Mr. Trumbull spoke of the last statement of the public debt as showing that there were one hundred and forty-two millions of money in the public Treasury, and believed that this was unjust to the people, who were paying interest on the debt, and dangerous to the public liberties.

Messrs. Fessenden and Sherman, (rep.) of Ohio, replied to Mr. Trumbull, showing how and why money had accumulated in the Treasury; that it was required to meet maturing indebtedness, &c.

Mr. Sherman said, in the course of his remarks that the objection of the Senate to the Gold bill was that it required the Secretary to give six days' notice of his intention to sell. Speculators would take advantage of this to put down the price until the gold was sold, and then to put it up again.

Mr. Hendricks, (dem.) of Ind., spoke of the high character of the Secretary of the Treasury, and said he was entitled to the confidence of the business men of the country.

The question was then taken on the amendment appropriating $50,000 for temporary clerks in the Treasury Department and authorizing the Secretary to classify the clerks according to the character of their services. It was adopted.

An amendment was adopted appropriating $15,000 for janitors of the Treasury Department.

RECESS.

The Senate, at thirty-five minutes past four P. M., took a recess until seven P. M.

Evening Session.

The Legislative, Executive and Judiciary Appropriation bill was taken up and its reading was continued. An amendment was adopted to appropriate $40,000 for facilitating telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States.

The following appropriation was stricken out:—For legal and other necessary assistance in the disposal of private land claims in California, $50,000. An amendment was adopted striking out the appropriation for extra compensation to officers of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Fessenden offered an amendment for the appointment of eighty additional clerks for the Pension Office. Adopted.

Mr. Trumbull offered an amendment appropriating $1,500 a year additional for the reporter of the Supreme Court when he shall be obliged to issue two volumes of reports in one year. It was adopted.

Mr. Poland, (rep.) of Vt., offered an amendment increasing the salary of the District Judge of California to $5,000; the districts of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Northern Illinois, Louisiana, Oregon and Nevada to $4,500, and of all other district judges to $4,000 per annum.

Mr. Sherman moved to include the Southern district of Ohio in the $4,500 salaries.

Mr. Poland hoped this would not be done. If the recommendation of the Committee on the Judiciary was once departed from it would be impossible to tell where it would end. Every senator would want his district included.

Mr. Sherman's amendment was disagreed to, and Mr. Poland's amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Poland offered an amendment increasing the salaries of the judges of the Court of Claims from $4,000 to to $5,000. Disagreed to.

Mr. Conness, (rep.) of Cal., offered an amendment directing the Secretary of War to have the territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada surveyed for a new route to the Pacific. Agreed to.

Mr. Conness offered an amendment appropriating $5,000 for the expenses of collecting statistics on the subject of mines and mining. Agreed to.

Mr. Williams offered an amendment increasing the salary of the chief Clerk of the Senate to $4,000, and the Sergeant-at-Arms to $3,500 per annum. Agreed to.

The bill was taken out of Committee of the Whole and reported to the Senate, and the Senate then at ten P. M. adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1867.

THE ANNUAL ASSAY AT THE UNITED STATES MINT.

On motion of Mr. Kasson, (rep.) of Iowa, the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures was instructed to attend the annual assay at the United States Mint next Monday, and to examine the condition, management and economy thereof, and to report to the House what measures, if any, would tend to the greater economy and efficiency in the system of United States mintage, or the improvement of the coinage.

THE CONTINGENT FUND OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. Stevens, (rep.) of Pa., from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill appropriating sums for deficiencies in the expenses of the contingent fund of the House, as follows:—Miscellaneous items, $60,000; folding documents, $27,500; fuel, lights, &c., $7,000—total, $74,500. It was read three times and passed.

BILL TO ORGANIZE THE MILITIA.

Mr. Paine, (rep.) of Wis., from the Committee on Militia, reported a bill for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia. It was recommitted and ordered printed.

PENSION GRANTED TO A SOLDIER'S WIDOW.

Mr. Taylor, (dem.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported a bill giving a pension of $20 per month to Elizabeth Eletcher, widow of Captain L. W. Fletcher, of the Fifteenth Tennessee cavalry. It was read three times and passed.

GOVERNMENT VESSELS FOR QUARANTINE PURPOSES AT NEW YORK.

Mr. Davis, (rep.) of N. Y., presented concurrent resolutions of the New York Legislature in favor of extending for two years longer the use of government vessels for quarantine purposes at the port of New York, and introduced a joint resolution for that purpose, which was read three times and passed.

THE BILL TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENTS FOR THE LATE INSURRECTIONARY STATES.

The House then took up the bill reported yesterday from the Reconstruction Committee, to provide for the more efficient government of the insurrectionary States.

Mr. Finck, (dem.) of Ohio, asked Mr. Stevens what his intention was in regard to taking the vote on the bill.

Mr. Stevens replied that he had not come to any definite conclusion on the subject, except that he desired to have a vote as early as possible.

Mr. Finck, referring to the importance of the bill, proposed that it be postponed until Monday, when the debate could go on for a day or two, and then let the vote be taken.

Mr. Stevens said that considering the period of the session, and the difficulties of passing such a measure through the Senate, where there was no means of concluding the discussion, he should not feel justified in postponing it at all. He trusted that the debate would now proceed to the end. He hoped the gentlemen on his side of the House would not interfere with the debate on the other side of the House.

Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Iowa, concurred in the opinion of Mr. Finck, that this was a very important bill, and he suggested that to-day and to-night the debate should proceed, and the vote be taken to-morrow.

Mr. Le Blond, (dem.) of Ohio, remarked that the bill struck down civil government in the Southern States, ignored State lines, and broke down the judicial system there.

Mr. Garfield, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested that the debate should be allowed to go on to-day and to-morrow.

Mr. Raymond, (rep.) of N. Y., remarked that it was agreed on all sides that the question was one of so much importance that it should not be acted upon without debate, but at the same time that debate should not be without limitation or restriction. He proposed to limit the speeches to twenty minutes, which would be enough for gentlemen to state clearly their views on the measure.

Messrs. Rogers, (dem.) of N. J., and Wentworth, (rep.) of Ill., objected to the measure, which required the unanimous consent, the latter stating that he wanted the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Hise) to have at least an hour for discussion.

Mr. Maynard, (rep.) of Tenn., moved that there be a recess from four till half-past seven this evening, the session to be devoted to debate. Agreed to.

MR. ASHLEY'S IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION.

Mr. Ashley, (rep.) of Ohio, rising to a personal question, sent to the Clerk's desk and had read correspondence from the Cincinnati *Commercial*, professing to give the circumstances connected with the offering of Mr. Ashley's impeachment resolution. The reading caused much amusement. Mr. Ashley said that of all the falsehoods manufactured and sent from this city by reckless, stupid maligners, this story was the most silly. He had never had, up to the time of offering the resolution, any correspondence or conversation with General Butler on the subject. Nor had he known what his views were, except from newspaper reports. He had had his own views since his first interview with the President (correcting himself)—the acting President, after the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. The conduct of the President since that time had only confirmed him in his convictions. He believed the President ought to be impeached for usurpation of powers which, under the constitution, belonged to Congress.

Mr. Radford, (dem.) of N. Y., raised the point that Mr. Ashley was out of order, but the Speaker overruled the point.

Mr. Ashley resuming said, the President had violated his official oath in failing to execute the laws, and was guilty of treason to the nation in that he had formed alliances to resuscitate the lost cause and to put the late rebels in power. He (Mr. Ashley) being in possession of information which satisfied him that the President was guilty of other acts which, in the contemplation of the constitution, were high crimes and misdemeanors. He had said to a number of members that unless the resolutions to inquire into the President's conduct were offered before the holidays, he should be compelled to offer one himself. He had waited till a few days before the holidays when he prepared a resolution and consulted with some gentlemen who thought it should be more general in its character, and should not name the President. For that purpose alone he had drawn the resolution as offered. The first gentleman to whom he had read it was Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, and no one would accuse him of a want of friendship for General Grant. He had also shown it to Mr. Stevens and two or three other gentlemen. Certainly nothing was further from his thoughts or the thoughts of those he had consulted than the idea of stabbing General Grant in the dark. It was well known that no officer of the army could be impeached, and therefore the story on that point was so stupid as to be only worthy of contempt. As to the language alleged to have been used to him by his colleague (Mr. Bingham), no such language was ever used. He would not have risen to a personal explanation on his own account, but he had yielded to the judgment of others; and he regretted having occupied so much time in contradicting a statement which B corrected on its face—its own refutation.

Mr. Stevens asked unanimous consent to make a remark on the subject, but Mr. Dawes objected.

Mr. Eldridge, (dem.) of Wis., asked that Mr. Bingham be heard on the subject, but Mr. Spalding objected.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE ASSISTANT TREASURER OF NEW YORK.

Mr. Schenck, (rep.) of Ohio, from the joint Select Committee on Retrenchment, made a report on the subject referred to it as to charges against Mr. Van Dyck, Assistant Treasurer of New York, as to the sale of gold, declaring that there was no foundation whatever for the statement, allegations or charges implied by the House resolution of January 15. The report and testimony were ordered to be printed.

THE RECONSTRUCTION DEBATE RESUMED.

Mr. Stevens, resuming the floor on the bill to provide governments for the insurrectionary States, prefaced his remarks by stating that the reference made to him in the correspondence just read was wholly false. He went on to say that, while he was willing to allow all proper latitude of debate, any considerable delay at this period of the session would be fatal to the bill. He would therefore ask the House to second the previous question at one o'clock to-morrow. This was a bill, he said, for the purpose of giving governments to the States that were now without governments. Congress was now almost unanimously of the opinion that there were no governments in the States known to the constitution and laws of the United States. For two years they had been in a disorganized state. Two years ago the armies of the government calling itself the Confederate States of America were conquered, and that government dispersed, and by the law of nations the conqueror had a right to say what kind of government should be administered there. The reason why no government had been established there before was that there had been divisions in the councils of the nation, that the Executive had assumed to be a new government, to enact new laws and to establish new regulations of authority in the conquered territory. The sovereign power of the nation repudiated, and had entirely repudiated on all occasions, the authority which had thus attempted to establish governments within the Congressional provinces. It had waited patiently, he thought, in the hope that some way might be found to establish harmony in the councils of the United States, and that the necessary government for those States might be agreed upon without collision. That hope had failed, and the longer Congress waited the more pertinacious seemed to be the determination of the executive to maintain his usurpation. It had now become the duty of Congress to assert its rights and to do its duty by establishing some kind of government in those provinces which for two years had been in a state of anarchy. For two years the loyal people there had endured all the horrors of the worst anarchy. Exiles, persecutions and murders had been the order of the day. The best men of those States were driven from their homes and compelled to live on the cold charity of the cold North, where they were to be seen living about, every where wandering about, haggard and miserable. The ghosts of the unburied dead wandering on this side of the Styx. He was for making one other effort to protect those loyal men from the cruelties, persecutions and vengeance to which they were subjected. If Congress failed to interfere effectually, it would be responsible to the civilized world for the gromest neglect of duty that any great nation was ever guilty of before humanity. In conclusion, he proposed that speeches should be limited to twenty minutes.

Messrs. Eldridge and Randall, (dem.) of Penn., objected.

Mr. Brandegee, (rep.) of Conn., addressed the House in support of the bill. Of all the propositions that had been submitted from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction this bill seemed at once the clearest, the plainest, the most appropriate, the freest from constitutional objections, and the plan the best calculated to accomplish the two great master aims of reconstruction—the one, the garnering up of the fruits of victory; and the other, the restoration of peace on the only basis on which peace and union could be restored—to wit, protection to all, liberty to all and rights to all. This proposition commenced at the right end, and employed the right tool for its accomplishment. It commenced at the point where General Grant left off the work at Appomattox two years ago. It had one purpose, to hold the revolted communities in the grasp of war until the spirit of rebellion should be laid down, as its arms had been laid down two years ago. He saw in the bill a promise that the sword of the republic shall be unsheathed again; shall be placed in the hand of the greatest captain of the age, and should be held by him suspended once more over the heads of rebels, with the awful memory of the reverberation of the cannon which opened Richmond to the federal arms.

Mr. Le Blond, in rising to oppose the bill, said that Ohio was not to have a State Convention on Wednesday next, and therefore he would not indulge in high sounding declamations (referring to Mr. Brandegee's speech), but would present his views in brief form. The adoption of the law, he said, would be the death knell of civil liberty on this continent, and would be the establishment of military despotism over the country. The preamble of the bill did not embrace a single truth in it, not one. The State organizations in those States, he contended, were never broken up. When the war ended they came back into the Union as they had gone out. All that was necessary was a surrender and a declaration to the American people that those States no longer made war against the government of the United States, but submitted to it and would be loyal to it in the future. General Sherman, in his convention with General Johnson, had laid down the true doctrine, and if that doctrine had been pursued it would have produced harmony and peace, and rendered all this legislation unnecessary. This bill was the same in principle as that introduced in the Senate by Senator Williams; but that Senator had sufficient regard for the constitution to leave to the President his constitutional rights as Commander-in-Chief, to detail the general officers who were to govern the proposed military districts; but this bill deprived the President of that right and lodged it in General Grant. The bill, therefore, was unconstitutional even in that light. He appealed to the gentlemen to pause and see where this legislation was taking them. It was setting aside the right of trial by jury, and the privilege of habeas corpus. He believed they had already prepared articles of impeachment against the President. He believed the decree had gone forth and that the impeachment would take place. If it had not been caucussed publicly he believed it had been caucussed privately, but the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee had refused to give the House any light on the subject. Nothing but the strong arm of the American people wielded on the bloody battle field would restore liberty to the people. We were drifting to war, and must have it unless the people took the matter in hand and stopped the downward tendency of things, and restored the government on the basis on which it was placed by the fathers of the constitution.

Mr. Funk followed on the same side, and denounced the bill as a nefarious, iniquitous scheme to overthrow the government. No government could long continue to be free when one-third of its people and States were controlled by military power. He did not believe that the men who supported this bill were the friends of a free government, or were willing that the government should be controlled and administered in accordance with the constitution.

Mr. Pike, (rep.) of Me., addressed the House in support of the bill. It did not seem to him that the change contemplated by it in the management of the Southern States was so very violent as the gentlemen on the other side supposed. Since the suppression of the rebellion the government of those States had been in the hands of the President of the United States. Whenever the President chose to intervene he had done so; whenever he was dissatisfied with elections or legislative action there, he had disregarded them. Acting as Commander-in-Chief of the army, and exercising within himself the powers of the government, he had intervened and controlled those States, and the proposition of this bill was simply to regulate that intercourse between the government and the people of those States, and to specify when, where, how and under what circumstances that power of the general government should be exercised. To show the urgent necessity for the passage of this bill, Mr. Pike related the history of the murder of three United States soldiers in South Carolina, of the conviction and sentence of their murderers, the commutation of the death sentence to imprisonment for life, their transfer from Fort Pickens to Fort Delaware, and their subsequent discharge from custody under a habeas corpus issued by Judge Hall.

Mr. Cooper (dem.) of Tenn., asked Mr. Pike whether he did not know that the Secretary of War had assumed all the responsibility of advising the commutation of the sentence and of removing the prisoners to Fort Delaware?

Mr. Pike admitted that that was the case. He then sent up and had read the testimony of General Schofield in relation to the murder of a freedman in Virginia by Dr. Watson.

Mr. Farnsworth, (rep.) of Ill., followed on the same side, referring to what Mr. Le Blond had said about this bill being the death knell of civil liberty. He said that if civil liberty meant the right to slaughter and slay and destroy at pleasure, then he trusted that this was its death knell. The bill was framed for the purpose of protecting all the people in the insurrectionary States; and the necessity for it was found in the fact that there was at present no protection in those disorganized States afforded by the courts and civil tribunals. The power of the courts and of such governments as they had set up there was in the hands of disloyal and unrepentant rebels, who still held the same views and the same hatred of loyal men and of the institutions of the government as they had during the war. The bill was in accordance with the views of generals of the army who had experience in the South—Schofield, Thomas, Baird, Wood and Sickles—and he believed that it was in accordance with the views of the distinguished commander of the army. In reply to Mr. Shellabarger, who said that it was very important that that statement should go before the people, Mr. Farnsworth repeated it.

Mr. Le Blond asked him whether he understood him as saying that General Grant approved this measure?

Mr. Farnsworth had not said so, but had expressed his belief that it was in accordance with General Grant's views.

Mr. Le Blond said that he supposed the gentleman did not claim that he had any personal knowledge on this subject.

Mr. Farnsworth said he did not.

Mr. Rogers followed in an hour's speech against the bill. He declared that rather than see a military government established in his country, he, for one, would use the power which the Almighty had given him in resisting the invasion of his liberties. If this thing were continued it would bring on a war that would rock the land like an earthquake. If Congress thus undertook to ride over the Supreme Court and over the constitution, then, unless the people had become slaves and were unfit to be freemen, they would not submit without resistance, even though it cost their blood.

Mr. Thayer (rep.) of Pa., interrupting—"Your neck!"

He (Mr. Rogers) was not willing to submit to the galling yoke of despotism. If that were treason, then, in the words of Patrick Henry, he would say, "Make the most of it!" If the people of the South were not already so oppressed and broken down that they had not the ability to defend themselves, and if they had the had the blood of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and the sages and heroes of the Revolution, they would protest, as their fathers had, protested, by their blood, against the despotism of King George. He hoped that the President of the United States would resist. He hoped that before he submitted