WASHINGTON

The Supplementary Reconstruction Bill Awaiting the President's Veto.

Extended Debate in the House on the Proposition to Extend Relief to the Suffering People in the South.

Prohibition of the Issuance of Agricultural College Scrip to the Rebel States.

The Credentials of Senator Thomas Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, March 19, 1867.

The Supplementary Reconstruction Bill.

The last stone in the foundation wall of reconstruction was finally placed to-day by the agreement of the two houses in the report of the conference committees on the amendments to the Senate Supplementary Reconstruction bill. This result is practically a recession of the House from its amendments requiring a majority of all the registered votes for the ratification of the State constitutions, instead of a majority of the votes cast, as provided in the Senate bill—"at least one-half of all the registered voters voting upon the question of such ratification." The other amendments agreed upon were of a comparatively unimportant character, one of them affixing the penalties of perjury to the registration officers violating their oaths, and the other merely repeating, in effect, a provision of the Reconstruction act of last session, requiring that Congress shall be satisfied with and approve of the State constitutions when ratified.

Affairs in Virginia.

From Richmond I learn that General Schofield's approval of the action of the Senate in calling a convention is an indication of the desire of that body to meet the requirements of the Military bill, and will influence the House to follow their example upon reassembling after the recess, which will expire upon the 10th of April. Their constituents will doubtless force them into this measure before that time. The people of Buckingham county held a meeting on Monday last, at which the Military bill was endorsed and their representatives instructed to vote for the call of a convention, though nothing had been previously said upon the subject.

It has been rumored that General Schofield was about to change his headquarters from Richmond to Fortress Monroe, but as Richmond is designated as headquarters in General Orders No. 10 the report is without foundation. He will send his family there during the summer months.

I find there is great destitution prevailing in various portions of Virginia among the poor of both races. Extreme want exists, and in Richmond alone there are upwards of three thousand people who can scarcely be maintained by the charitable societies there. This number are outside the protection of the Bureau. Heavy freshets in the southwestern portion of the State have resulted in destruction of immense quantities of property, including mills, &c., and the crops to a large extent have been destroyed. This will further increase the starvation.

Union Demonstration in Alabama.

A despatch from Selma, Alabama, states that the largest meeting ever witnessed in that city took place yesterday. Resolutions were unanimously adopted strongly expressive of Union sentiments and recognizing the right of Congress to prescribe the terms of reconstruction and readmission of the seceded States into the Union, and therefore urging that the people of Alabama should forthwith accept the beneficent terms of reconstruction.

State Dinner at the White House.

There was another state dinner at the White House this evening, and the following guests were among the number:—Ex-Governor Philip Francis Thomas, of Maryland; Fred. W. Seward and wife, F. P. Blair, Sr., Commodore S. P. Lee and wife, W. S. Lincoln and lady, W. Loughridge, G. W. Morgan, W. Moore, W. Mungen, C. A. Newcomb, W. A. Fyle, D. Posley, J. V. L. Pruyn and lady, W. H. Robertson, W. E. Robinson, I. Selye, T. E. Stewart and wife, F. Stone, C. N. Taylor and niece, Miss Tayler and F. Wood.

The New York Collectorship.

General Slocum arrived here yesterday for the purpose of urging in person his claims for the office of Collector of the Port of New York. He called on the President this evening, in company with Representatives Ketcham and Laflin, who will use all their influence to secure his appointment.

Meeting of the National Committee of Soldiers and Sailors.

The National Committee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union appointed at the Pittsburg Convention, held a meeting to-day in the Military Committee room at the Capitol, General H. A. Barnum, presiding, and L. Edwin Dudley officiating as secretary. The committee resolved to proceed with the work of completing a national organization and to establish central headquarters in this city. Mr. Dudley is to have charge of the office in this city. General Barnum will return to Albany next Saturday.

Personal.

Captain Samuels, so famously identified with the great ocean yacht race as the commander of the successful Henrietta, is in the city.

The Indians.

L. V. Bogy, ex-Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as Special Commissioner for negotiating treaties with the Indian tribes generally, has had preliminary interviews with the Santee and Sioux tribes, now at the mouth of the Niobrara, the intention being to remove them to a reservation lying between the Big Sioux on the east, the James river on the west, and between the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth parallels of latitude, on which they are to remove in time to make a crop this season. He has also had conversations with the Brules, Mimecoujours, Sauzares, Blackfeet, Upper Janctonais, Lower Janctonais, Unchapas, Egallialas and Lower Brules, and matters were consummated which will enable them to go to farming this summer at Crow Creek agency, old Fort Lookout, and old Fort Selly, and during the summer it is contemplated to send special commissioners to negotiate treaties with them, establish them upon reservations and provide for them reasonable annuities. Mr. Bogy is also on the eve of concluding a treaty with the Chippewas of the Upper Mississippi.

Mr. Bogy has received a copy of a minute of the Baltimore yearly meeting of the religious Society of Friends, conveying to him their high appreciation of his earnest, independent and noble efforts to protect the Indians from imposition, secure them in their just rights and defend them from malicious charges and imputations.

The Department of Agriculture.

The new building for the Department of Agriculture authorized by the late act of Congress will be erected in the centre of reservation No. 2, occupying the space between the Smithsonian Institute and Washington Monument grounds. The site is imposing, high and dry, commanding a view of the city and the Potomac river. The extreme dimensions of the building will be 172 by 62 feet. The style of architecture is modern and adapted to the present wants, without reference to outlived forms of tradition, and the plans have been prepared under instructions from the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Confirmations by the Senate.

The Senate has confirmed the following nominations of Secretaries of Legation:—Wickham Hoffman, of Louisiana, at Paris; John W. Dix, of New York, Assistant Secretary at Paris; H. M. Brent, Secretary at Lima, and J. A. Gross, Secretary at Rio Janeiro.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations:—

Joseph J. Bartlett, Minister Resident at Stockholm.

Peter J. Sullivan, Minister Resident at Bogota.

Postmasters—Allen R. Richardson, Jefferson City, Mo.; George H. Swift, Cuba, N. Y.; Albert G. Clark, Toledo, Ohio; Richard Benham, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Wm. Snyder, Franklin, Ind.; Samuel D. Trull, Cohoes, N. Y.; W. W. Lander, Salem, Mass.; John N. Remgan, Warsaw, Ind.; Norman H. Pratt, Kenawa, Ill.; Henry W. Buckland, Fremont, Ohio; Charles T. Jackson Goshen, N. Y.; F. C. Little, Independence, Iowa; Lucius L. Comstock, Kanawha Court House, West Va.; Wm. L. Sentor, Jackson, Mich.; Perry Joslyn, East Saginaw, Mich.; Orson F. Parker, Paw Paw, Mich.; William H. Campbell, Dowagiac, Mich.; Calvin Hood, Sturges, Mich.; Harvey Palmer, Niles, Mich.; Samuel S. Lacey, Marshall, Mich.; Albert Hannay, Three Rivers, Mich.; E. Bowen Crandall, Cassenovia, N. Y.; W. S. Green, Salem, Ill.; William Kerns, Moline, Ill.; David L. Payne, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Charles H. Russell, Appleton, Wis.; W. C. Lemert, Bucyrus, Ohio; D. G. Williams, Dubuque, Iowa; William Standeford, Shelbyville, Ky.; David T. Moneypenny, Munfordville, Ky.; Wesley H. Slack, Paducah, Ky.; James M. Moore, Columbus, Ky.; James Howard, Mount Sterling, Ky.; Thomas J. Bidwell, Chico, Cal.

Register Land Office—Ephraim C. Holmes, Denver City, Colorado.

Receiver Public Money—G. C. Havens, Stockton, California.

Consuls—George Gerard, Maracaibo; Henry H. Wells, Naples; Charles Creamer, Ravenna; C. A. Perkins, Stockholm.

Assessors of Internal Revenue—Mark Flanegan, First district, Michigan; James S. Robinson, Fifth district, Ohio; John T. Hoque, Seventh district, Ohio; Elisha F. Rogers, Sixth district, Ohio; J. H. Veazie, Second district, Louisiana; Mack J. Leaming, Fifth district, Missouri; Benj. F. Robinson, Fourth district, New Jersey; Robert B. Hathorn, Fifth district, New Jersey.

Collectors of Internal Revenue.—C. B. Wilson, Fifth district, Ohio; Leonard T. Ross, Ninth district, Illinois; James Craig, Sixth district, Missouri; George H. Greene, Second district, Missouri; Henry C. Witter, Twenty-third district, Pennsylvania; Hilburn McClure, Eighteenth district, Pennsylvania; David Caldwell, Seventeenth district, Pennsylvania; George Sanderson, Ninth district, Pennsylvania.

Assayer Branch Mint—Isaac C. Jones, Charlotte, N. C.

Collectors of Customs—Richard W. King, Pamlico, N. C.; John J. Rudolph, St. Mary's, Ga.; Robert C. Congdon, Georgetown, S. C.; Daniel C. McIntyre, Corpus Christi, Texas; Joseph Parker, Albemarle, N. C.; Alanson Hinman, Oregon.

Naval Officer—Francis A. Osborn, Boston and Charlestown, Mass.

Surveyors of Customs—Josiah A. Brown, Quincy, Ill.; Oliver B. Dorrance, Portland, Me.

United States Marshals—Samuel H. Jones, Western district, Tenn.; Joseph Seal, District of Delaware.

Nominations Rejected by the Senate.

The following nominations were rejected:—

Postmasters—Daniel Bush, Hidney, Ohio; Thomas J. Anderson, Newark, Ohio; Reason B. Spink, Wooster, Ohio, Wm. C. Moorehead, Zanesville, Ohio; A. R. Van Clef, Circleville, Ohio; Archilles Scatterday, Gallipolis, Ohio; William H. Woodward, Hillsboro, Ohio; Robert Thompson, Mount Vernon, Ohio; Elliot H. Hollingworth, Albion, Mich.; Abbot R. Edwards, St. Charles, Mo.; Richard B. Owen, Springfield, Mo.; George W. Shields, Hannibal, Mo.; J. J. Thomas, Newport, Ky.; N. Seymore, Mt. Morris, N. Y.

Assessor of Internal Revenue—George W. Hayne, Eleventh District of Illinois.

Surveyor of Customs—Edward Hammond, Baltimore, Md.

Receiver of Public Money—Sarell R. Jamieson, Brownsville, Nebraska.

The President of the Senate in Favor of "Fair Play."

An illustration of the free fight propensities of the new presiding officer of the Senate took place on Saturday, which, though in contrast with the dignified punctiliousness of the late incumbent of the place, is quite complimentary to his love of fair play. During the rather exciting debate on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill two or three sharp passages took place between Senators Trumbull and Howard relative to some of the amendments proposed, the latter resenting very warmly a statement made by Mr. Trumbull that those who were sustaining the amendments proposed were placing obstructions in the way of reconstruction. Mr. Trumbull rose in reply, and, without addressing himself to the Chair, proceeded to lecture at a sound rate Senators Howard and Edmunds, turning his back upon the Chair and pitching into the offending Senators in the most approved style of parliamentary fisticuffs. Senator Johnson, who was standing at the Clerk's desk, near the chair, called Mr. Wade's attention to the parliamentary indecorum, and suggested a call to order. The Chair, however, failing to see any serious violation of rules, indifferently turned his eyes upon the scene and kindly said, "Oh, let them fight it out, let them fight it out." The friendly little mill ended without interruption from the referee.

Prohibition of the Importation of Strong Liquors into Nicaragua.

Information has been received at the Department of State of the publication in the republic of Nicaragua of the following decree:—

ART. 1. Within four months from this date foreign strong liquors shall not be imported.

ART. 2. This present decree, in observance of article sixth of the contract expressed, shall be immediately communicated to all the maritime custom authorities of the republic, and abroad, by our consuls and other agents.

Given at the National Palace of Nicaragua the 1st of January, 1867. THOMAS MARTINEZ.

RAMON ALFOSA, Secretary of Finance.

Recognition of Consuls.

The President has recognized Francisco Herrera as Consul of the United States of Colombia at San Francisco, Cal.; Enute Grisar, Consul of Belgium at San Francisco, Cal.; Gustavo Theisero, Consul of Costa Rica in New York; Moritz Baumbach, Vice Consul of Austria at Milwaukee, Wis.; and F. Schaster, Consul for Hamburg at Savannah, Ga.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 19, 1867.

A number of bills passed by the House yesterday were received and referred to appropriate committees.

THE PROPERTY AT CAMP CHASE.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, called up the joint resolution passed by the House yesterday authorizing the Secretary of War to turn over to the managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Soldiers the barracks and other government property at Camp Chase, Ohio. It was passed, and goes to the President.

HARBOR IN THE VICINITY OF POINT SAL, CAL.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a resolution authorizing and requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to cause an investigation to be made as soon as practicable, by the officers of the United States coast survey in California, as to the cost of a harbor in the vicinity of Point Sal, on the coast of California, and that the Secretary of War be required to cause estimates to be made of the amount necessary to be expended to render such harbor available for the purposes of commerce; which was adopted.

PACIFIC RAILROAD AND ITS BRANCHES.

Mr. RAMSAY, (rep.) of Minn., introduced a bill amendatory to the act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean, approved July, 1862, providing that the roads of the several companies named shall be so constructed that when completed they shall, in connection with the branch road to Sioux City, afford continuous railroad communication between the Union Pacific Railroad and the head of Lake Superior, which was referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroad.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Mr. COLE introduced a bill to further define the qualifications of members of Congress, which provides that no person shall be eligible to either house of Congress who has voluntarily borne arms against the United States, while a citizen thereof, or who has voluntarily given aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto, or who has sought, or accepted, or attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States, or who has yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government authority, power or constitution within the United States hostile or inimical thereto. Referred to the Judiciary Committee and ordered to be printed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEEDS IN THE DISTRICT.

Mr. PATTERSON, (dem.) of Tenn., introduced a bill for the acknowledgment of deeds in the District of Columbia, which was passed.

THE PAYMENT FOR SLAVES DRAFTED OR ENLISTED IN THE MILITARY SERVICE.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., called up the House joint resolution to suspend all further proceedings under the law for the payment for slaves enlisted or drafted into the military service of the United States.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., hoped Mr. Trumbull would either consent to postpone this measure until to-morrow, or until next session.

Mr. TRUMBULL could see no necessity for the postponement. It was an old matter that had already been considered and debated.

Mr. DAVIS said the bounty now proposed to be withdrawn had been solemnly pledged to the owners of slaves in the form of a law, and this was a proposal to repudiate the plighted faith of Congress. He wished an opportunity to enter his solemn protest against it.

Mr. TRUMBULL said the Senator from Kentucky had just now entered a protest, and he did not think he could enter a more solemn one if he tried.

Mr. DAVIS—Well, I will make it a little more lengthy, if not more solemn. (Laughter.)

By consent the bill was postponed until to-morrow.

CLAIMS OF INDIANA.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., from the Military Committee, reported favorably the bill introduced by him a few days since to pay the State of Indiana for quartermaster stores, supplies, transportation, &c., furnished to the militia of the State to repel rebel raids, &c.

Mr. SHERMAN said if the bill was passed to a vote he should move to amend by inserting Ohio, which had also been at expense to repel the Morgan raid.

Mr. MORTON explained the bill and the circumstances which led to its introduction, and justified its passage. The government had already provided for paying the troops called out to repel the Morgan raid. If it was right to pay the troops it was right to pay for their subsistence.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, asked how much money it would take.

Mr. MORTON replied that the amount was estimated at $300,000.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., objected to the immediate consideration of the bill, and it was postponed until to-morrow.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., reported from the Committee on Printing a resolution to print one thousand extra copies of the last annual report of the National Academy of Science, which was passed.

THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES ON ATLANTIC DOCK, BROOKLYN.

Mr. MORGAN, (rep.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably a joint resolution to authorize the sale of the government warehouses on the Atlantic dock, Brooklyn, and asked its immediate consideration; but Mr. CONNESS, (rep.) of Cal., objecting, it went over.

BRIDGING THE MISSISSIPPI AT LA CROSSE.

Mr. NORTON, (rep.) of Minn., introduced a bill to authorize the Southern Minnesota Railroad to construct a bridge across the Mississippi at La Crosse, Wis., which was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LANDS FOR NEBRASKA.

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., introduced a bill extending to the State of Nebraska the benefit of the act granting lands to the State for the establishment of agricultural colleges, which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

THE REWARDS FOR THE CAPTURE OF JEFF DAVIS.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., from the Military Committee, reported without amendment the bill to regulate the distribution of the awards for the capture of Jefferson Davis, and recommended that it pass.

PROSECUTION OF THE SURVEYS ORDERED BY CONGRESS.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., introduced a joint resolution authorizing the Chief of the Engineer Corps to employ such civil engineers, not exceeding five in number, as may be necessary to prosecute the surveys ordered by Congress, and the persons so employed shall be paid at a rate not exceeding that of colonels of engineers, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

THE PUBLICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. CONNESS introduced a resolution declaring that whereas it has frequently happened that the proceedings of the Senate in executive session have been published in the newspapers of the country contrary to the injunction of secrecy thereon, therefore that a committee of three Senators be appointed to investigate the matter, with power to send for persons, papers, &c.

At the suggestion of Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., the resolution was ordered to lie over for the present.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

The Clerk of the House announced the action of that body on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved that the Senate insist on the Senate's action and agree to a conference committee.

The motion was agreed to, and Messrs. Trumbull, Wilson and Buckalew were appointed as the conference committee on the part of the Senate.

THE WOOL TARIFF—CORRECTION OF AN ERROR.

The House resolution to correct an error in the enrolment of the Wool Tariff bill was taken up and passed.

CLOTHING FOR INVALID SOLDIERS.

Mr. WILSON called up a bill directing the Secretary of War to furnish to each invalid soldier who is an inmate of a Soldiers' Home a complete suit of army clothing out of the stock on hand in the Quartermaster's Department.

THE MISSISSIPPI AND MISSOURI BRIDGES.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Mo., called up the bill declaring the bridge over the Missouri river at St. Charles and the bridge over the Mississippi at Louisiana, Mo., to be lawful structures and post roads.

It was amended so as to include the bridge over the Missouri river at Leavenworth, Kansas, and was then passed.

THE CREDENTIALS OF SENATOR THOMAS.

Mr. JOHNSON, (dem.) of Md., rose and said he had been requested by his colleague, Mr. Thomas, since the charges made against that gentleman yesterday, to move the reference of his credentials to the Judiciary Committee, that a full investigation might be made.

The motion was agreed to without debate, and the Senate then went into executive session.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

After some time spent in Executive session, the doors were reopened and Mr. TRUMBULL, from the Conference Committee on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill, made a report. The Conference Committee agree to the Senate proposition that the State constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the votes cast, provided that it shall appear that a majority of the registered voters voted on the question of ratification. A clause is added that Congress must be satisfied that all the registered voters had an opportunity to vote freely and fairly without any fear or interruption, and that the constitution meets the approval of a majority of the qualified voters.

The report was agreed to and the doors were again closed. After the transaction of further Executive business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 19, 1867.

CORRECTION OF AN ERROR IN THE ENROLMENT OF THE WOOL TARIFF.

The reading of the journal of yesterday having been dispensed with, Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution to correct an error in the enrolment of the bill of last session increasing the duty on wool and woollens. The error was the omission in the enrolled bill of the words "Canada long wools," which were in the engrossed bill. The joint resolution was passed.

PROHIBITION OF THE ISSUANCE OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SCRIP TO THE REBEL STATES.

Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., asked leave to report a joint resolution relative to the issue of agricultural scrip to the States recently in rebellion. It recites that on the 3d April, 1862, agricultural college scrip, covering nearly two hundred and seventy thousand acres, was, on the authority and by the direction of the President of the United States, issued and delivered to North Carolina, under the act of July 5, 1862; that the General Land Office was now preparing to issue scrip in like manner to Virginia, Georgia and Mississippi; that such action by the President took for granted that these States were restored to their constitutional relations to the Union—a question which Congress alone could rightfully determine—and it prohibits the further issue or delivery of such scrip to any of the States lately in rebellion, except the State of Tennessee, or the acceptance of such scrip, or of any heretofore issued, until those States are fully restored to their rights as States by Congress.

Mr. BURR, (dem.) of Ill., objected to the introduction of the joint resolution.

Mr. JULIAN moved to suspend the rules, which was agreed to by 69 to 18.

The joint resolution was then introduced, and under the previous question was passed by yeas 103, nays 23.

THE PRINTING OF NATIONAL BANK NOTES, ETC.

Mr. MILLER, (rep.) of Pa., asked leave to introduce a joint resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause the national bank notes, bonds, and other printing to be done at the government office in Washington.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa., objected.

Mr. MILLER moved to suspend the rules, which was disagreed to by 27 to 63.

EXEMPTION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

Mr. JUDD, (rep.) of Ill., on leave, introduced a bill to exempt wooden ladders from the internal tax, and stated some facts in support of the proposition.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, opposed the bill as an exceptional matter, and suggested its reference to the Committee on Ways and Means when appointed.

Mr. JUDD moved the previous question, which was seconded.

Mr. GARFIELD moved to lay the bill on the table, which was negatived by yeas 59, nays 61.

The bill was then passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

The SPEAKER, in compliance with the new rule, laid before the House a message from the Senate, announcing, among other things, the disagreement of the Senate to the House amendment to the Supplementary Reconstruction bill, being the amendment striking out that provision of the Senate which requires the majority of the votes cast to be a majority of at least half the votes registered.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Iowa, moved that the House insist upon its amendment, and ask for a committee of conference.

Mr. BINGHAM moved that the House recede from its disagreement.

The vote was taken by yeas and nays, first on Mr. Bingham's motion, and it resulted in yeas 62, nays 77; so the House refused to recede. The motion to insist and ask for a committee of conference was then agreed to without a division.

The SPEAKER appointed as the committee of conference Messrs. Wilson, of Iowa, Boutwell and Marshall.

THE WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.

The Senate bill to provide ways and means for the prosecution of the work on the distributing reservoir of the Washington Aqueduct, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PAYMENT OF THE CHAPLAIN'S SALARY.

Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., introduced a joint resolution to authorize the payment of salary as chaplain to Rev. Charles Boynton. Passed.

THE LAWS AND TREATIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. STEVENS also introduced a joint resolution relative to the publication of the laws and treaties of the United States, so as to extend the provisions of the seventh section of the Civil Appropriation bill of the last session to the States not therein designated, and to the Territories; and to authorize the Clerk of the House to have the laws and treaties published in three newspapers in Louisiana. Passed.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. PYLE, (rep.) of Mo., asked leave to offer a resolution for the appointment of a select committee on the improvements of the Mississippi river and its tributaries.

Objected to by Messrs. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, CHANLER, (dem.) of N. Y., and others.

CLERKS IN THE DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. NOELL, (dem.) of Mo., asked leave to offer a resolution calling for lists of all clerks employed in the various departments. Objected to.

MR. STEVENS' CONFISCATION BILL.

Mr. STEVENS called up a motion to reconsider the vote by which a bill introduced by him on the 11th of March was referred to the Committee of the Whole House, being a bill to confiscate all the public lands in the late rebel States, and to confiscate and condemn all such property belonging to the belligerent enemy as is declared confiscated by the act of July 17, 1862. Mr. Stevens proceeded to address the House in support of the bill. This bill is important to our wounded and maimed soldiers; it is important to their bereaved wives and parents; it is important to the loyal men North and South; it is important to four millions of injured, oppressed and helpless men; it is also important to the delinquents whose property it takes as a fine. No committee or party is responsible for this bill. It is chargeable to the President and myself. Whatever merit it possesses is due to Andrew Johnson. Mr. Stevens explained the various sections of his bill at considerable length, and quoted from Vattel and other international writers in its support.

Mr. Stevens had not read more than a few passages of his speech when it became painfully evident, from the weak condition of his health, that he could not make himself heard by the House. He therefore requested Mr. McPherson, Clerk of the House, to read the speech for him, which Mr. McPherson thereupon proceeded to do from the clerk's desk. The reading occupied about an hour and a quarter.

Mr. CHANLER obtained the floor, but yielded to Mr. Stevens, who moved that the bill be postponed until the second Tuesday in December next.

Mr. MUNGEN, (dem.) of Ohio, asked Mr. Stevens how he could reconcile this bill with his oath to sustain the constitution—an instrument which declared that no bill of attainder or *ex post facto* law shall be passed?

Mr. STEVENS replied that no sound lawyer would call his bill a bill of attainder. He did not know whether the gentleman (Mr. Mungen) was a lawyer, and he presumed that he only asked the question to obtain information.

The bill was then postponed till the second Tuesday in December next.

THE COLORADO CONTESTED ELECTION.

Mr. SCOFIELD, (rep.) of Pa., gave notice that he would to-morrow, from the Committee of Elections, make a report on the Colorado contested election case.

RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH.

On motion of Mr. WOODBRIDGE, (rep.) of Vt., the House went into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Pomeroy in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the Senate bill appropriating $1,000,000 for the relief of destitution in the South.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., proposed to offer a substitute for his substitute offered last week, providing that the several district commanders, under the act of the 2d of March, shall have power to assess and collect by military power ratably on all persons within their districts owning more than one hundred and sixty acres of land, or who shall have an income of more than $600 a year, such sum or sums as such commander may deem necessary to relieve the destitution and pauperism of the white people there.

The CHAIRMAN informed Mr. Butler that he had a right to modify his first substitute by substituting the other for it, but Mr. Butler desiring to have both pending withdrew the latter, whereupon Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, offered it as an amendment to the substitute.

Mr. WOODBRIDGE made an eloquent appeal to the committee in favor of the bill. Referring to Mr. Butler's substitute, to appropriate the money for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Union soldiers who perished in rebel prisons, he declared that the people did not demand that measure, and that it was unwise to vote for it. Its author knew that gentlemen in voting against it would subject themselves to the calumnies of demagogues. Such a proposition as that offered by the same gentleman (Mr. Butler) partook more of the air of the politician than the purpose of a statesman. He (Mr. Woodbridge) would vote against it and in favor of the Senate joint resolution, without fear that his constituents would blame him for a want of sympathy or generosity on the one hand, or for an undue extravagance on the other in the expenditure of the public money. His sympathy for the heroic dead soldiers was as great as that of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Butler), and when the proper time came he would not be far behind that gentleman in relieving the necessities of the soldier's widow and orphan, both from his private purse and from the public treasury. The proposition submitted to-day by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Butler) was a cheap means of carrying out an idea which he (Mr. Woodbridge) deemed to be illegal and Quixotic—that of confiscation, which could not be justified by law or the constitution. He (Mr. Woodbridge) knew that there was a vacant chair at almost every table, a broken heart in almost every family, caused by the loss of a father, a son, a brother or a lover; but, when vengeance was called for, there came a voice from Heaven saying, "Vengeance is mine, and I will repay." In conclusion, he moved that the committee rise and report the bill and amendment to the House.

Mr. BUTLER inquired whether that was fair play?

The CHAIRMAN replied that it was not for him to answer that question.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., inquired whether the bill could be reported while there were amendments pending?

The CHAIRMAN replied that the committee might rise, but could not report the bill.

The motion was rejected.

Mr. KOONTZ, (rep.) of Pa., presented the reasons which would induce him to vote for the joint resolution. It was a high and solemn duty resting on Congress to relieve the destitution now existing at the South. For the honor and reputation of the nation it should not have to be said that its representatives had refused to give bread to their starving countrymen.

Mr. DONNELLY, (rep.) of Minn., sent to the Clerk's desk and had read an article written by Edward Bright, of New York, one of the secretaries of the Southern Relief Society.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ind., also sent up and had read a letter from Whittier, the poet, expressive of charity toward the destitute people of the South, and which had been accompanied by a contribution from himself.

Mr. BUTLER also sent up and had read a letter just sent to him from the reporter's gallery stating that a gentleman from Newbern, N. C., had informed the writer, whose name was not signed, that there were hundreds of blacks and whites almost starving; that a subscription of $2,500 had been raised there in a few days for Jefferson Davis, but that no effort was made to relieve the distressed blacks.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Ind., also sent up a newspaper article commencing with the assertion that "Washington was a city of thieves and prostitutes."

Mr. WOOD, (dem.) of N. Y., interrupted the reading, and asked the Chairman whether it was in order to have indecent statements read in the House.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was not, and he directed the Clerk not to read the article in question.

Mr. WILLIAMS explained that it was an article from a South Carolina newspaper published in Columbia, S. C.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it might be in order in South Carolina, but it was out of order here. (Laughter.)

Mr. FARNSWORTH expressed himself opposed to the joint resolution, not because he was uncharitable or unmerciful, but because it was not really shown that there was any suffering or destitution at the South, that there was anybody starving there, but simply that it was probable somebody might be starving there before the next crop was gathered. He would not consent to vote a million of dollars in this manner for any portion of the people. The principle contained in this bill would if carried out require of Congress to hunt up the starving poor in every city of the United States.

Mr. BINGHAM asked Mr. Farnsworth whether in the first session of the Thirty-ninth Congress four or five millions had not been appropriated for the express purpose of supplying clothing and rations to the freedmen and refugees, and whether the gentleman himself did not vote for it.

Mr. FARNSWORTH admitted that that was so, but argued that that had no relevancy to this matter.

Mr. STEVENS remarked that Congress had within a few years given some ten millions of dollars to the Freedmen's Bureau for freedmen and refugees, and that about two-thirds of it had been appropriated for the disloyal people of the South.

Messrs. BOYER, (dem.) of Pa., and ELDRIDGE, (dem.) of Wis., referred Mr. Farnsworth to the case of the sufferers by the Portland fire, for whose benefit Congress had passed several joint resolutions.

Mr. FARNSWORTH argued that there was no analogy between the cases.

Mr. ROBINSON, (dem.) of N. Y., rose to correct a statement made in the course of the discussion, to the effect that Congress had made an appropriation for the relief of the suffering people in Ireland. He said that no such appropriation had been made by Congress. It had passed the Senate, but had been referred in the House, to a committee which was unfriendly, and there it slept the sleep of death. He trusted, however, that no trouble of the kind would occur here. There was no constitutional question in the way, and he trusted the bill would pass.

Mr. COVODE, (rep.) of Pa., proceeded to relate from the Old Scriptures the story of how King Ahab was made to suffer because he had shown mercy to the King of the Assyrians, who, with his army, had been delivered into his hands. Before concluding the narrative he was interrupted by the announcement of a message from the Senate, whereupon

Mr. ROSS, (dem.) of Ill., inquired of the Speaker whether a message from the Almighty could be interrupted by a message from the Senate? a question which the Chairman declined to entertain as a question of order.

Finally, without disposing of the bill or amendments, the Committee rose.

CLOTHING FOR INVALID SOLDIERS.

The Senate amendment to the bill to clothe maimed and destitute soldiers was taken from the Speaker's table and concurred in.

A variety of motions to suspend the rules to get in bills and resolutions were made and rejected.

THE TRANSIT ROUTES ACROSS THE ISTHMUS.

While the House was waiting to receive the action of the Senate on the report of the conference committee on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill, on motion of Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass., the Committee on Foreign Affairs was instructed to inquire and report what measures have been taken by foreign governments or capitalists to secure the control of the interest of rival nationalities in any of the routes, or franchises for the transit across the isthmuses of Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, or Tehauntepec, and what action may be advisable for the government of the United States to secure the interests of American commerce on such transit routes.

GOLD RESERVE IN NATIONAL BANKS.

Mr. MORRILL, on leave, introduced a bill to provide for a reserve of gold in the Treasury and the national banks. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL—REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a message from the Senate, announcing that that body had agreed to the conference report on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill.

Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, from the Committee of Conference on the part of the House, made a report recommending that the Senate agree to the House amendment prefixing the word "electors," and that the House recede from its amendment striking out the proviso of the Senate requiring the number of votes cast to be at least one half of those registered, and that both Houses agree to a proviso that it shall appear to Congress that the election was one at which all the registered and qualified voters had an opportunity to vote fairly and without restraint, and that Congress is satisfied that such constitution meets the approval of a majority of all the qualified electors of the State. He explained briefly the effect of the report.

Mr. MARSHALL, (dem.) of Ill., one of the members of the Conference Committee, explained that, while he agreed to the report, he did so because it was much less objectionable than the original House proposition, but he did not yield his opposition to the entire bill.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., remarked that the bill as it now stood settled nothing, and left it to Congress to say whether the election was valid or not. He wanted to know how Congress was to judge.

Mr. WILSON intimated significantly that the gentleman from New York ought to know; he had had some personal experience.

Mr. BROOKS gave an assenting "Very well, indeed; very well." But in his own case the people of New York had corrected the action of the House, while the people of the South would have no such opportunity.

After some further discussion in brief, Mr. ELDRIDGE moved to lay the conference report on the table, which would carry the bill with it, which was negatived.

The conference report was then agreed to, and the bill goes to the President for his signature, and then at five minutes past five, the House adjourned.

THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

RICHMOND, March 19, 1867.

The House has passed the Engrossment bill to pay the four per cent interest of the State. The bill will certainly pass in that form.

THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, March 19, 1867.

The Senate to-day considered the bill passed by the House authorizing an election in Philadelphia to decide the question whether passenger cars shall run on Sunday. The bill was passed in the Committee of the Whole and laid over till to-morrow.

ARRESTS OF AN ALLEGED MURDERER AND COUNTERFEITER.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 19, 1867.

Willie Ferguson, a gambler, who recently shot and killed a fireman in this city, was arrested on Washington street early this morning.

A notorious New York counterfeiter, named William German, was arrested to-day, and sent to New York on a requisition of the Governor of that State.

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY RIOT.

Statements of Officers Kearney and Coleman—Condition of the Wounded—Public Sympathy—Arrest of Alleged Rioters, &c.

The deplorable affair which took place last Monday in Grand street was the great topic of public and private conversation yesterday. The excitement among the police is very great and has been the occasion of giving rise to much hard feeling in the force in relation to anything like a public procession in which their services may be needed hereafter.

The following statements concerning the affray were obtained yesterday from two of the officers who were participants in the fight:—

STATEMENT OF OFFICER KEARNEY.

Officer Coleman and I were the first to jump on the truck in order to rescue the driver from the violence of the crowd; we were standing at the corner of Pitt and Grand streets when we saw this Hibernia Society coming along; a truck was going along behind them; the driver of the truck attempted to go on between the procession and the curbstone; some of the men in the procession told him to go ahead, while others hallooed to him to stop; suddenly they made a rush towards him and got hold of the horses' reins; some of them jumped upon the truck