VIRGINIA.

The Convention—Right of General Schofield to Confine Citizens on Criminal Charges.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24, 1868.

In the Convention to-day a resolution was adopted to memorialize Congress for an extension of the time of the Bankrupt act and the first article of the constitution was adopted.

A case comes up on habeas corpus to-morrow in the United States Circuit Court to test the constitutionality of the Reconstruction act. The prisoner is confined in Libby Prison for murder, and the point made is that General Schofield has no right to hold him if not a soldier or sailor in the United States service.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Proceedings in the Convention—The Per Diem Question.

RALEIGH, Jan. 24, 1868.

The Convention showed yesterday a disposition to go into general legislation. Numerous resolutions on various subjects were presented and referred. Mr. Yourzel, of Forsyth, presented a resolution authorizing the County Board of Registration to disfranchise all persons who engaged in the rebellion and who gave aid and comfort. A committee was appointed to confer with General Canby. A communication was received from Governor Worth stating that he had nothing to communicate, but was ready to furnish any information in his possession. To-day a resolution was passed calling on the Treasurer, on the warrant of the President of the Convention, to pay the per diem and mileage of members. Nothing of more importance was done.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Convention—Debate on the Relief Measures.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24, 1868.

The Reconstruction Convention in session here was the scene to-day of an interesting debate between colored delegates on the measures of relief for the people, urged, on the one hand, by the extremists, that whites owning property about to be sacrificed at sheriff's sale ought to suffer, because of their participation in the war, and on the other hand that the sales would be made to speculators and strangers, who would hold the property at exorbitant rates, forbidding the development of the enterprise of the colored people. The feeling of the majority evidently is to protect all classes from ruin until the Legislature can adopt permanent measures of relief.

GEORGIA.

The Convention—The Pay Question Paramount—Scramble for the Ten Thousand Dollars in the Treasury—The Treason Section Adopted.

ATLANTA, Jan. 24, 1868.

In the Reconstruction Convention to-day an ineffectual effort was made to have two sessions daily.

A resolution asking the federal government to advance its per diem and expenses to the Convention was introduced. A motion to lay it on the table was rejected by 101 to 34, and it was referred to a special committee, with directions to report to-morrow.

A resolution that the Finance Committee see on what terms the Convention could negotiate a loan of $100,000 was adopted.

A resolution to adjourn until pay could be obtained up to date was tabled.

The Convention's financial agent reported that he had received $10,000 from the Military State Treasurer, which he held subject to the instructions of the Convention.

A resolution was immediately offered to pay each member $50, which was not acted on.

The usual treason section was adopted.

Charges Against the Municipal Authorities at Augusta.

AUGUSTA, Jan. 24, 1868.

The Military Commission have finished taking evidence in defence of the city authorities against the charges made by citizens. It is understood the whole matter will be laid before General Meade.

MISSISSIPPI.

Proceedings of the Reconstruction Convention—Governor Humphreys Denies the Right of the Convention to Inquire into His Official Acts—The Tax Bill.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 24, 1868.

In the Reconstruction Convention to-day the committee to inquire into the truthfulness of the charges against a portion of the people of the State, contained in Governor Humphreys' proclamation, reported that they were satisfied that the charges were unfounded, and expressed the belief that the Governor had been misled. The letter of Governor Humphreys, submitted with the report, denies that the Convention has any power to inquire into his official acts, but informs them that the proclamation was issued at the instance of General Ord. Letters to the Governor from citizens on the subject were referred to General Ord, and all the evidence being at General Ord's disposal the committee were referred to him for further information. The report was recommitted for further action.

The Tax bill was taken up at the seventeenth section, considered by sections, and finally adopted as a whole. In addition to the two dollars and a half per thousand provided for in the first portion, the bill levies a special tax upon many branches of commerce, industry and art, upon all railroad, express companies, telegraph offices, &c.; provides for the election of the necessary number of collectors, not to exceed one in each county, the collectors to take the oath of office provided for officers of the United States by the act of Congress of July 2, 1862; to receive compensation at the rate of five per cent on all moneys collected. In default of payment, the collector shall have power to levy upon and sell a sufficient amount of personal property to pay the amount of tax, cost of levy and sale; power to administer the oath to any person as to the amount of sales during 1867, to examine all books and papers of merchants, and other persons paying tax under this ordinance shall receive from the collector a receipt for the amount, which receipt shall hereafter be received by any sheriff or other tax collector when presented for all taxes due or may hereafter become due. The receipt shall be transferred and receivable from any person who shall hold the same. A treasurer is to be appointed by the Convention to carry out the provisions of the ordinance. In addition to the State tax now assessed upon real and movable property for the year 1867 a special tax of thirty three and a third per cent is levied for that year. Sheriffs shall add this per cent to the assessment rolls of 1867, and collect the same with said tax. Warrants issued by the Convention and all receipts of tax collectors as authorized shall be received by the sheriffs in payment of this tax and all other taxes now due the State. The tax collected by the sheriffs under this ordinance shall be received by the State Treasurer, who shall pay out the same only upon warrants issued by the Convention until the meeting of the first Legislature after the adoption of the constitution. No warrants except those herein provided for shall be received by the sheriffs in payment of this tax.

LOUISIANA.

Proceedings of the Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24, 1868.

In the Convention the day was consumed in discussing article ninety-eight of the constitution and the amendments and substitutes therefor. The article forever disfranchises all persons convicted of treason, perjury, forgery, bribery or other crimes punishable with hard labor, all officers or leaders of guerilla bands during the late war, and also disfranchises until 1878 those disfranchised by the Reconstruction acts. Pending the discussion the Convention adjourned.

Decision of General Hancock on the Question of Freedmen's Wages.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24, 1868.

The Commissioner of Freedmen from Donaldsonville forwards to General Buchanan, commanding in Louisiana, a complaint from the freedmen on Buena Vista plantation, whose wages have not been paid, and making an application for a remedy, inasmuch as there will not be another session of the District Court until the first Monday in May. The matter was laid before General Hancock, who in reply said:—

These parties are not remediless, for they can apply to the Judge of the court, who, by a law of this State, is authorized to hold adjourned or special terms. The Court can best determine the rights of all parties concerned. The Major General therefore directs that you instruct the Bureau agent at Donaldsonville to call upon the Judge of the District Court of the parish to hold at once a special term of the aforesaid court for the trial of these cases complained of, and in case of a failure or refusal to hold said term the said Bureau agent will at once make such seizure of crops and property, and sell the same, as may be requisite to secure the freedmen in their just dues.

TEXAS.

Adjournment of the Conservative Convention—Determination to Oppose Negro Suffrage.

GALVESTON, Jan. 24, 1868.

The Conservative Convention at Houston has adjourned. Its session was a stormy one. The resolutions finally adopted declare an inalterable determination to defeat the proposed reconstruction convention if possible, if not to elect delegates who will oppose negro suffrage.

It is reported that a convention is to be called at Galveston to unite the Johnson democrats and the moderate republicans.

General Hancock proceeded to Austin without stopping.

ARKANSAS.

Proceedings in the Convention—Memorials to Congress—Taxes Levied for the Pay of Members.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 24, 1868.

In the Arkansas Convention yesterday the committee appointed to memorialize Congress reported back a resolution asking for $100,000 to improve navigation on the Arkansas river. An amendment to include all the rivers of the State was lost and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Hinds offered a resolution to appoint a committee to memorialize Congress to sell at auction the Hot Springs, which was adopted; also one asking Congress for appropriations to improve the Red and Wassita rivers; also one asking for the continuance of the Freedmen's Bureau until after reconstruction is perfected. An ordinance levying a tax of one-fourth of one per cent on property to defray the expenses of the Convention was considered and passed.

CANADA.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

Prize Fight Near Montreal.

MONTREAL, Jan. 24, 1868.

A prize fight took place to-day, for $500 a side, between Gaspard Matthew, of this place, and Davy, of Burlington, Vt. After thirteen rounds, which occupied fifty-seven minutes, Matthew was declared the winner.

EUROPEAN MARKETS.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.—LONDON, Jan. 24—Evening.—Consols closed at 92⅞ a 93 for money and account. American securities closed at the following rates:—United States five-twenties, 71¾; Illinois Central shares, 85¾; Erie Railway shares, 48¾.

FRANKFORT BOURSE.—FRANKFORT, Jan. 24—Evening.—United States bonds closed at 75⅝ for the issue of 1862.

THE PARIS BOURSE.—PARIS, Jan. 24—11:15 A. M.—There is a heavy feeling on the Bourse, and rentes tend downward.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24—Evening.—The cotton market closed with fair business, the sales of to-day footing up 15,000 bales. Middling uplands, 7¾d.; middling Orleans, 8d. The amount of cotton afloat for this port is stated to be 198,000 bales, of which 125,000 bales are American. The Brokers' Circular reports the sales for the week ending to-day at 101,000 bales, of which 10,000 bales were on speculation and 20,000 bales taken for export. The stock in port and on shipboard, according to the best estimates, is 406,000 bales, of which 117,000 bales are American. The shipments from Bombay for this market, since the last report, up to the 14th inst., amount to 30,000 bales.

TRADE REPORT.—LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24—Evening.—The advices from Manchester to-day were favorable; the market was active, and goods and yarns brought good prices.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24—Evening.—Corn closed heavy and 3d. lower; mixed Western, 45s. 3d. per quarter. Wheat quotations unchanged. Oats advanced to 3s. 11d. for American, and barley advanced to 5s. 6d. for American. Peas, 46s. 6d. per 504 pounds for Canadian. Flour, 37s. 6d. per 196 pounds for Western.

LIVERPOOL PROVISIONS MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24—Evening.—The provisions market closed steady. Beef, 120s. per 304 pounds for winter cured extra prime mess. Pork, 75s. per 200 pounds for new Eastern prime mess. Lard, 51s. per cwt. for fine American. Cheese, 53s. 3d. per cwt. for the highest range of American fine. Bacon, 40s. per cwt. for Cumberland cut.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24—Evening.—Spirits turpentine declined to 26s. per cwt. Sugar steady at 24s. 6d. Rosin, 6s. per cwt. for common Wilmington and 11s. for fine pale. Tallow, 42s. 9d. per cwt. for American. Petroleum, 1s. 2¼d. per gallon for refined. Cloverseed, 48s. per cwt. for No. 1 American red.

LONDON MARKETS.—LONDON, Jan. 24—11:15 A. M.—Whale oil, £36 per 252 gallons for Iceland. Sperm oil, £110 per ton. Linseed oil, £36 10s. per ton. Linseed cakes, £10 5s. for thin oblong.

PETROLEUM MARKET.—ANTWERP, Jan. 24—Evening.—The petroleum market firm; sales standard white at 43 francs 75 centimes.

EUROPEAN MARINE NEWS.

BREST, Jan. 24.—The steamship Napoleon Third, Captain Rousseau, from New York on the 12th inst., arrived here this forenoon on the way to Havre.

QUEENSTOWN, Jan. 24.—The steamship City of Washington, Captain Halcrow, from New York on the 11th inst., arrived here yesterday at a late hour on the way to Liverpool. The steamship Denmark, Captain Thompson, from New York on Sunday, the 12th inst., arrived here yesterday (Thursday) evening, *en route* to Liverpool.

AMUSEMENTS.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE—"RIGOLETTO."—Of all Verdi's operas the story of the unhappy jester, Rigoletto, is the best and the most characteristic. From beginning to end the music never tires or becomes commonplace. We have in the first act sparkling *salon* music in the duke's palace like that which accompanies the first interview of the lovers in "Traviata," and as the terrible plot becomes gradually developed its vocal expression is charged with passion and intense dramatic fire. With all his faults, Verdi never can be justly charged with losing the interest of a dramatic situation in his music. Witness the "Miserere" of the "Trovatore," the quintet in "Ernani," and the celebrated quartet in "Rigoletto." The last is of more intrinsic value than some of the composer's entire operas; for he has not always written up to the standard of "Ernani," "Trovatore" and "Traviata." The tenor breathes a love song in the passionate tones with which Verdi clothes the language of love; the contralto ridicules his protestations and displays in every note the heartless coquette; the soprano wails forth in accents of despair her wrongs and sorrows, and the basso mutters the vengeance of an outraged father. The dramatic situation, strong as it is, is still more enhanced by the music. The quartet was sung by Madame La Grange, Miss Adelaide Phillips, Massimiliani and Orlandini in such a manner that it alone would have been a sufficient entertainment for the evening. It received an enthusiastic encore. In the air "Caro nome che il mio cor" Madame La Grange had an opportunity of proving what a thoroughly accomplished artist she is. Every note of floriture, trills, &c., was given with the utmost ease and accuracy, and every shade of expression was faithfully rendered. She was obliged to respond to an overwhelming encore in this air. The choruses, especially the "Zitti, zitti," were all that might be desired, and Mr. Nicolai kept the orchestra under the most complete control, as one would expect from such a conductor. A matinée of "Traviata" will be given to-day, and Brignoli will assist Madame La Grange in "Martha" on Monday.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Hah-yah-ta-kee and his great company of thirty Japanese artists, male and female, set down in the bills as "the most wonderful performers in the world," made their grand *entrée* in the Academy last night to a very large audience. Their performers and performances, on a larger and more imposing scale in numbers and equipments, are much the same as those of the late Japanese troupe of which little "Ali Right" was the most expert and favorite artist. The costumes and paraphernalia of this company are rich and numerous. The men are evidently of the order of samurai in Japan, and among the women are some who in the Paris fashions would be accounted very handsome, their complexions being remarkably soft and fair in contrast with the rusty brass color of the men. The bill last night as given by the company embraced drum balancing, the Brobdignag top, a Japanese dance by three of the ladies of the troupe, the queerest Celestial dance ever exhibited to "outside barbarians," and the wonderful triple tree feat by Monsieur Hah-yah-ta-kee and Mademoiselle Hah-yah-ta-kee, a little thing quite eclipsing the lad "Ali Right." After this exceedingly skilful performance Mr. Isaac C. Pray, in behalf of the management, announced that in consequence of the interruption of the rehearsal by the Philharmonic Society, the company had not been able to get their machinery arranged so as to fulfil their programme, and hoped the audience would accept the apology, with the promise of a full performance of the bill at the matinée to-day, and the audience, satisfied that they had had the worth of their money, quietly withdrew. As an inside view of Japan in the way of theatrical amusements, including costumes, music and dancing, these Japs at the Academy are exceedingly interesting.

BARNEY WILLIAMS' BROADWAY THEATRE.—Mrs. D. P. Bowers, the favorite American tragédienne, took her farewell benefit at this popular establishment last evening prior to the close of her engagement, which will terminate this evening, and which we may here remark has been successful beyond precedent. The house was crowded to overflowing with appreciative and admiring friends of the talented *bénéficiaire*, who appeared in the character of Juliet in Shakspeare's beautiful tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet," and was ably sustained by her no less talented sister, Mrs. F. B. Conway, who enacted the part of Romeo. Both actresses did their difficult *rôles* to perfection and were rewarded with the most deafening rounds of applause, and were twice called before the curtain. In the interview between Juliet and Friar Lawrence in the fourth act Mrs. Bowers sunk her own individuality and apparently breathed the very spirit of the unfortunate Juliet; but it was in the final scene at the tomb of the Capulets, where she discovered Romeo, and her anguish and despair over his dead body, that she crowned her glorious achievements of the night and brought down the house. Messrs. Hamilton as Mercutio, Metkiff as Tybalt and Jack as Friar Lawrence, did excellently and are deserving of praise for the perfect manner in which they enacted their several parts. Mrs. Bowers will appear as Mary Stuart at the matinée, and this evening she will again appear in her great *rôle* of Juliet, which will be her last appearance in this city this season.

MRS. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, BROOKLYN.—Last night a perfect ovation was witnessed at the Park theatre, in Brooklyn, on the occasion of the presentation of the excellent and thrilling drama of "Nick of the Woods; or, the Jibbenainosay;" with Mr. Joseph Proctor in the title *rôle*. The house was filled so that standing room was a luxury that was enjoyed by many, who were obliged to seek it on the window sills and in every available nook of the auditorium. Mr. Proctor acquitted himself admirably in the versatile character portrayed by him, and seemed inspired, as indeed he well might with such an audience before him, evincing as it did in no measured applause its appreciation of his efforts. Nothing was left undone by the management that might conduce to the effective setting of the play, and the scenery, costumes and appointments were in most appropriate taste. Mrs. Violet Campbell, as Telie Doe, played with much taste the difficult part for which she was cast, and in several of her finely rendered passages was enthusiastically applauded. Mr. F. Chippendale as Colonel Bruce and Claude Hamilton as Ralph Stackpole acquitted well the acknowledgments bestowed upon them, and nothing could be desired to render the piece more effective and amusing than as played and presented. To-night Mr. Proctor appears for the last time in the same play, closing a most successful engagement of two weeks, and will be succeeded on Monday by Mrs. D. P. Bowers in Read's dramatization of Tennyson's "Dora."

WASHINGTON

Debate in the Senate on the Reconstruction Bill.

Speeches of Senators Morton and Nye.

No Agreement on the Cotton Tax Question.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1868, 11 o'Clock P. M.

The Debate in the Senate on the Reconstruction Bill.

The debate in the Senate to-day on the House Reconstruction bill was listened to throughout by the largest and most fashionable audience that has filled the Senate galleries since the beginning of the session. Every vacant seat on the floor was occupied either by members of the House of Representatives or privileged strangers, and the Diplomatic Gallery was taxed to its utmost capacity to accommodate the foreign Ministers and their families. The beautiful weather of to-day contributed in a great measure to bring a throng of visitors to the Capitol, a particularly large proportion being ladies. Senator Morton, of Indiana, who still seems very feeble in the limbs, delivered his speech, seated at Senator Sherman's desk. His voice rang out clear and resonant in the hushed silence of the Senatorial chamber, and his arguments, which were pleaded with marked dispassionateness of feeling, were heard with noticeable interest by all present. The absence in his speech of all partisan abuse was not the least commendable feature in it, while republicans were unanimous in pronouncing its logic incontrovertible and its tone eminently dignified. Among the first who gathered around him after the conclusion of his address to extend their congratulations was Senator Doolittle, whose *empressement* of manner in greeting his adversary was no less warm than that of the radicals themselves. Senator Nye, whose reputation as a stump orator is of no mean order, followed on the same side, and if he failed to introduce any striking arguments succeeded admirably, by his vein of humor, in placing himself on good terms with its audience generally. He addressed himself especially to Senator Doolittle, and at times appeared to grow quite satirical on that gentleman's course in politics. The Miltonic illustration he introduced to show the plastic adaptability of political trimming had the merit of being dramatically rendered, and excited the risibility of the grave and reverend Senators themselves. An incident happened afterwards which evoked, at the risk of censure from President Ben Wade, the patriotic sentiment of the galleries. Referring to the great gathering of the clans alluded to by Mr. Doolittle in his speech the previous day, he asked the latter under what banner he would then be found—led by Jeff Davis under the Stars and Bars? Mr. Doolittle rose promptly and replied with emphasis:—"Under the flag with thirty-seven stars." This provoked applause very naturally rendered.

Petition of the Louisiana Convention for the Removal of General Hancock.

Thomas W. Conway, formerly agent of the Freedmen's Bureau in Louisiana, arrived in this city this afternoon from New Orleans. He is bearer of a petition from the radical Convention in Louisiana asking the removal of General Hancock, and praying Congress to accord the Convention the power to appoint all the civil officers of the State. The petition will be presented to Congress next week.

Presentation to the President of the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the North German Union.

To-day Baron Gerolt, who has for many years resided here as the esteemed representative of his Majesty the King of Prussia, delivered to the President his new credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Confederation of North Germany. He made the following remarks upon the occasion:—

MR. PRESIDENT—I have the honor to inform your Excellency, by order of the King, my august sovereign, that his Majesty, in his quality as President of the United States of North Germany, and in accordance with the constitution adopted in July last by the governments of twenty-two German States and their representatives elected by the universal suffrage of thirty millions of the German nation, has been pleased to accredit me, in the name of the North German Union, as his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the government of the United States of North America. On presenting to your Excellency my credentials I beg leave to express my sincere hopes that the same confidence and kind disposition of which I have had so many proofs from your Excellency and your predecessors may be continued to me in the discharge of my increased duties as representative of Prussia, as well as the North German States, which are connected with the peoples of this great country by so many ties of consanguinity and mutual interests. I feel happy, Mr. President, to be the interpreter of the sentiments expressed to your Excellency in the royal credentials entrusted to me. It will be an inexhaustible source of satisfaction to me if I can contribute to maintain and strengthen the bonds of friendship and sympathy which have always existed between the governments and people of Germany and the United States. May I be allowed also, Mr. President, to give expression on this occasion to my feelings of gratitude for the many testimonies of goodwill and kindness which I have received during my long residence in the United States on the part of the national authorities and from so many personal friends who have enabled me to discharge successfully in most instances my arduous duties toward my government and to my numerous countrymen under all the political vicissitudes which have occurred during the last twenty years.

To which the President replied:—

BARON GEROLT—A curious incident related in Prussian history is worthy of attention on this occasion. It was said that after Prussia had regained a condition of peace in 1807, diminished in territory and shorn of political influence, the King invited a public teacher, Fichte, to advise him by what means the Prussian government could restore its former prestige. The teacher, after consideration, replied that the temple of German independence had now to be rebuilt from its foundations; that the old stock of liberty had withered and been swept away in the tornado which had just passed over their heads; that a new growth must take place, springing from a deeper root and quickened by a fresher stream. The means which he suggested for this purpose were the establishment at Berlin of a new school of higher education, free from the imperfections of the old universities, from which, as from the spiritual heart of the community, a current of life and energy might be poured forth through all Germany. The advice was adopted, and has ever since been practically pursued. You, Baron, will know better than I the truth concerning the incident which I have just cited. Certain it is, however, that the event which brings us together to-day is not merely the recent establishment of the Prussian kingdom upon firmer foundations than before, but also a great advance towards the unity of the German people. It has always been a maxim with us that intelligence and a strict observance of constitutional law are essential to free government. It is now seen that in the case of Germany universal education is an element of national union and aggrandizement. I could not refuse you a welcome in your new and elevated character of Envoy Extraordinary of the North German Union without doing violence to the sentiments of the whole American people. You were the prominent foreign representative here—although happily not the only one—whose wishes, counsels and labors were contributed constantly and fearlessly during our civil war to the cause of the administration and the indestructible unity of the United States of America. You may assure your King and the people of North Germany that they may always expect appreciative and sympathetic friendship from the government and people of the United States. As to yourself, Baron, you may rest assured that the esteem in which you have been held among us will suffer no abatement. If such a misfortune should occur it would make us almost distrustful of the possibility of mutual confidence between statesmen and enlightened nations.

Proposed Reorganization of the Treasury Department.

The bill recently introduced in the Senate by Mr. Fessenden providing for the reorganization of the Treasury Department will, if adopted, decrease the expenses of the department, according to a careful estimate, fully $200,000 per annum. It will increase the salaries of several of the clerks and other officers of the department who have become invaluable on account of their experience and enable the government to retain their services. An estimate may be made of how much has been lost in this connection when it is known that nearly six hundred clerks have resigned their positions since the 1st of January, 1868, nearly all of the number doing so on account of the inadequacy of their salaries and being able to obtain better paying positions on account of their experience elsewhere. The present Secretary has recommended the adoption of this or a similar bill in every financial report he has made since he first occupied the office; and this bill is drawn up and recommended by the head of every bureau in the department. The department is now being worked upon an organization made in 1853, when there were only four hundred and eleven clerks employed in all the bureaus. There are now employed about two thousand four hundred. By the provisions of the bill the chief clerks of the different offices are made deputies and assume the duties of the official heads in case of inability, death or resignation, while as at present constituted serious embarrassment is often felt in consequence of the delay necessary to authorise proper persons to act in case of any of the above disabilities. The female clerks are also separated into three grades without increasing in the aggregate the salaries now paid to this class of the Treasury Department employés; at present the good, bad and indifferent are all paid alike, and as there is no promotion there is consequently little or no incentive to exertion. The Secretary is now preparing a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance which will convey substantially these facts.

The National Banks.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day replied to the resolution of the House requiring him to communicate any information in his possession in reference to the loan by any national bank, in violation of section 29 of the National Currency act, of any portion of their capital in excess of the limit provided by that law upon railroad or mining stocks at fictitious values, and whether he has any information in his possession that any officers of such banks are engaged in speculations in such stock which involve the capital and credit of their respective institutions, &c. The Secretary enclosed a report from the Comptroller of the Currency, who says:—

On the contrary, I am in possession of reliable information, the results of recent investigation, sufficient to satisfy me that the national banks, particularly those located in the city of New York, are not in the habit of loaning their money upon fancy stocks at false or fictitious values. When a loan in excess of the limitation prescribed in section 29 is reported, its immediate reduction is required without inquiry as to the character of the securities on which such loan is based. The law fixes the limit. I require conformity with the law, and with such conformity on the part of the bank I regard my powers as exhausted under the law. To the second inquiry of the resolution, I reply that I have no information in my possession that any officers of such banks are engaged in speculative operations in such stocks which involve the capital and credit of their respective institutions. I am not able to reply affirmatively or that I know they are not engaged in such speculations, because I have no authority under the law to investigate the private or personal transactions of bank officers. Common precedents of the past of bank directors and stockholders should forbid the retention in office of any president, cashier, teller, bookkeeper or clerk who was known to be engaged in speculative operations outside of the bank. The directors and stockholders have the remedy in their own hands and should apply it rigidly. As Comptroller of the Currency I can interfere only when such speculative transactions involve the banks in a violation of the act of Congress. Bank examiners are uniformly instructed to report, and all my official powers are exercised to prevent violations or evasions by national banks of the act under which they were organized.

The Revenue Cutter Service.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in a communication to the House to-day says:—

The six steamers employed on the lakes are not of the character best suited to the wants of the revenue service, but their services are by no means unimportant or valueless, and as they were placed there by Congress in view, perhaps, of weighty considerations, aside from the ordinary purposes of the revenue, he does not feel at liberty to recommend the sale of them unless they can be disposed of without sacrifice. He suggests that if Congress shall be of opinion that these vessels are unsuited for revenue purposes and shall deem it advisable to dispose of them, that in the bill authorizing their sale the minimum amount for which they shall be sold be inserted. In addition to the vessels now in service there are required for use steamers to meet the peculiar wants of two collection districts on the Atlantic coast, and two on the Pacific, namely:—Charleston and Mobile, Columbia river, Oregon, and Alaska in the new possession recently acquired from Russia. The first two ports require strong built and capable sidewheel steamers of light draught, the shoalness of the waters preventing the present employment of the ordinary vessels, while the new Northwestern territory requires vessels properly constructed, in view of the peculiarities of the coast and climate. The department has put in service at the ports of New York and Boston small steam tugs, commanded by a revenue cutter officer, in lieu of the open boarding boats heretofore employed at those ports, which, while rendering more efficient protection to the revenue, are attended with less expense than the open boats referred to, and at the same time enabling the department to reduce somewhat the number of other vessels employed in the service. These tugs have made and are making daily many seizures, and, in addition to the duty of preventing smuggling, act as a police over the shipping in the harbors. With this system of small tugs confined to the harbors, with proper vessels for duty on the coast for the purpose of boarding incoming vessels, examining manifests and rendering aid to distressed vessels during the winter season, as required by acts of Congress, the department has every reason to believe that not only great benefits will accrue to the revenue in the prevention of smuggling, but also much life and property will be saved from shipwreck. The entire cost of maintaining the revenue cutter service for the year ending September 30, 1867, was $1,155,400.

The Capture of Jeff Davis.

The Secretary of War has replied to the resolution of the House asking for information respecting the capture of Jefferson Davis on file in that department. The report of Colonel Pritchard, commanding the expedition, states that at the time of the capture there were present eight officers and one hundred and twenty-eight enlisted men, but their names are not given. Captain Hathaway, of the Fourth Michigan cavalry, in a list subsequently furnished, accounts for eight commissioned officers and one hundred and forty-five enlisted men present at said capture. A copy of the list is enclosed. There is no record showing the name of Lieutenant J. O. Yeoman, First Ohio cavalry. The report of General J. H. Wilson, United States Army, made to General Grant January 17, 1867, narrates the circumstances of Lieutenant Yeoman's expedition. No other information on this subject can be given except what is in Executive Document No. 90, Thirty-eighth Congress, first session, House of Representatives, containing a report by the Adjutant General and Judge Advocate General, to which reference is made.

The Indians.

Colonel James Worth, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern superintendency, has arrived here direct from the Indian Territory south of Kansas. He reports everything very quiet among the Indians in all that section, while the Seminoles and other tribes are making very rapid advances in civilization. It is particularly noticeable among the Seminoles that schools and institutions for religious purposes have flourished during the past year. Delegations from several Indian tribes are expected to reach this city shortly for conference with the Commissioner. Among the tribes which will be represented are the Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, Osages and Pottawattomies.

Revision of the Army Regulations.

The Commission composed of Generals Sherman, Sheridan and Augur, appointed some time since for the revision of the Army Regulations, has nearly completed its labors. General Sherman is devoting the larger share of his attention to this duty. It is expected the Commission will have completed its task by Wednesday next. The revision will make no material change in the matter of the Regulations, though in some portions a new system of classification of subjects has been adopted. The report of the Commission will be made to General Grant. As soon as the report is made General Sherman will return to the West.

The Bureau of Statistics.

The Van Wyck Retrenchment Committee, having come to the end of their investigation of the Gettysburg Soldiers' Asylum lottery scheme, will shortly take up the Bureau of Statistics for an overhauling. Facts have already come to light clearly proving the notorious mismanagement of that bureau, its extravagance, and, under its present control, utter worthlessness, in view of the laudable objects for which it was established. The opinion generally entertained by members of Congress is that the bureau has had two years to demonstrate its utility and has failed, and its continuance in its present form is a large expense to the government without a corresponding return.

The Proposed Increase of Tax on Receipts of Theatres.

Theatrical managers here are considerably exercised by the fact that it is proposed to increase the internal revenue tax on theatre receipts to four per cents, instead of the two per cent now levied.

The Meeting of the Officers of the Army of the Cumberland.

Private advices from Cincinnati say that the forthcoming meeting of the officers of the Army of the Cumberland, on the 6th of February, will be generally attended. A large number of the general officers of that army have already signified their intention to be present. Half fare arrangements have been completed with the principal roads centring in Cincinnati.

The Acquisition of Alaska—Testimonial from New York Merchants and Bankers to Secretary Seward.

The following correspondence will explain itself:—

NEW YORK, Jan. 6, 1868.

To the Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State of the United States:—

The undersigned, merchants and bankers of the city of New York, in common with their fellow citizens throughout the United States, beg leave to tender to yourself, as the patriotic and enlightened head of the Department of State of the American Union, their congratulations on the success of your recent negotiations for the acquisition by the United States of the Russian territories, continental and insular, in North America.

After the full and exhaustive discussion of the merits of the treaty in the Senate, as the constitutional advisers of the Executive, it would seem superfluous to add any expression of opinions by individuals in private life, to no way entrusted with the conduct of national affairs. The undersigned cannot, however, refrain from attesting, as they now do, their high sense of the commercial, social and political importance of this territorial acquisition in stimulating and vivifying the hopes and energies of the development of our national interests on the Northern Pacific, at present great and as yet nearly unoccupied ocean, the destined theatre for many coming ages of the expanding trade and power of the American republic. Nor are they insensible to the wise and comprehensive statesmanship and the high moral value of this great civic achievement to stand side by side in future history with the purchase of Louisiana bringing thus early, and on a scale so extensive, our continental Union into lasting and friendly contact with the wide spread empire of Russia, our illustrious continental compeer and so steadily and so truly, whether in sunshine or storm, our trusty and well tried friend. For your untiring vigilance and sagacity, in cherishing and cementing a moral alliance so valuable and so important, during the long and eventful period in which our foreign affairs have been entrusted to your watchful attention, the American people have reason to be forever grateful.

As a visible evidence of the sentiments thus imperfectly expressed, the undersigned have caused the impressive international act of signing the recent treaty, on the one hand by yourself, as the representative of our national sovereignty, and on the other by his Excellency M. de Stoeckl, as the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, rivetting still more closely the bonds of amity between the two great Powers of the Pacific, to be made the subject of a picture, just completed by a distinguished American artist. This work of art, so replete with historic interest, the undersigned now respectfully place at the disposition of yourself, as the far-seeing statesman, whose skilful and wise diplomacy has done so much to elevate the character of his country among the nations of the earth.

With assurances of grateful and profound regard we subscribe ourselves, your friends and fellow citizens,

PETER COOPER,	A. C. KINGSLAND,
ALEX. T. STEWART,	F. A. CONKLING,
HAMILTON FISH,	WILLIAM ORTON,
MOSES TAYLOR,	PAUL SPOFFORD,
MARSHALL O. ROBERTS,	ELLIOT C. COWDIN,
WILLIAM H. APPLETON,	SHEPHERD KNAPP,
ROBERT L. STUART,	WM. T. COLEMAN,
JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON,	C. K. GARRISON,
	WM. T. BLODGETT,
DUNCAN, SHERMAN & CO.,	WM. E. DODGE.

SECRETARY SEWARD'S REPLY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1868.

GENTLEMEN—I have had the honor to receive Leutze's descriptive painting of the Alaska treaty, and the letter in which you have so kindly presented it to me. I pray you, gentlemen, to accept my sincere thanks for this considerate and generous gift. You have rightly supposed that I would highly appreciate it. I shall place it as a national memorial by the side of the lamented Cole's magnificent picture, which was ordered and presented to me twenty-five years ago (as a State memorial, by enlightened and eminent statesmen, citizens of the city of New York, to perpetuate the memory of a success which the policy of material improvement then achieved over great obstacles and opposition, in the enlargement and extension of the New York canals and railroads.

Leutze's painting has great merit, not merely as a work of art, but in other respects also. The national transaction which it illustrates has not yet passed out of the domain of doubt and debate. I must therefore speak with some reserve of the historical and political value of the work. I trust that I may, however, dwell without impropriety upon the instructive composition. It will keep always before me a scene in which two great and friendly Powers then came together in the Department of State whose dominions very nearly touched each other, and extended around the northern hemisphere. Their political institutions and traditions were very divergent, while their close proximity was seen to threaten that, sooner or later, they must fall into conflicts which would disturb the peace of the world and hinder the progress of civilization. They, therefore, thoughtfully, and with mutual generosity, agreed upon and drew through the middle of a common ocean a new demarkation line which thus became a harbinger of their eternal peace and enduring friendship. By a happy contrivance, the picture preserves the personal and individual traits of important public characters, but to me very familiar friends, who were associated in the transaction—the President of the United States, under whose authority it was conducted; the agents of the United States and Russia, who were honored with the negotiations and execution of the treaty, and the American statesmen who defended it in the Senate and commended it to our countrymen. Nor had the artist forgotten to fasten another and specially interesting association in the drapery of the picture so properly composed of the American flag, with its thirteen stripes and thirty-seven stars, now more than ever truly symbolical of the perpetuity and aggrandizement of our free republic.

I am, with great esteem and respect, your obedient servant, WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To Messrs. PETER COOPER, ALEX. T. STEWART and others.

Stanton Will Not Resign—The Cotton Tax—Lack of Employment in Washington.

[From the Evening Telegram of yesterday.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1868.

That Stanton has no idea of resigning seems to be settled now beyond doubt. In answer to a question from Senator Wade as to whether he did entertain any notion of resigning, Stanton remarked:—"Sir, I would as soon think of turning over the War Department to the rebels during the war as of surrendering my trust now into the hands of Andrew Johnson."

The House has disagreed to the report of the Conference Committee on the bill repealing the tax on cotton by a vote of 67 to 79. The advocates of a protective tariff all voted against the report, together with the representatives of the wool interest. Another Conference Committee has been appointed.

General Grant returned from Richmond last evening, and was at his headquarters this morning receiving visitors.

Opinion here in reference to the late retrenchment operations of General Grant is undergoing something of a reaction, at least among the working classes. They think that whatever benefit the government derived from the extended retrenchment accomplished by General Grant, its effect upon them has been to bring them to the verge of destruction.

The number of mechanics and laborers who have been discharged from the government shops in and about this city is greater than is generally known. Discharges have been going on since the beginning of November, and within the last four months over five hundred men have been discharged from the Quartermaster's Department alone. This sudden cessation of work at the commencement of a severe winter has produced a vast amount of suffering and want, and not a day passes but the departments are besieged by crowds of people seeking employment, all reciting the same sorrowful story. Efforts are being made to induce Congress to so legislate that the government may give work to those who most need it.

The Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Commissioner of Public Buildings, it is said, are contemplating the arrangement of some plan by which they may be enabled to give work to a portion of those who are seeking labor sufficient to keep their families from want.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan.