WASHINGTON.

CONTINUED FROM FIFTH PAGE.

concur in the report of the committee and ask a committee of conference.

Mr. Morrill withdrew the motion to concur, and moved the Senate insist on the amendment. Agreed to.

The committee recommended non-concurrence in the House amendment that no Senator or member receive any newspaper but the *Congressional Globe*, nor stationery nor commutation thereof beyond $125 for work in one session, which was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL CURRENCY ACT.

Mr. Van Winkle, (rep.) of W. V., from the Finance Committee, reported a bill to amend the National Currency act. It authorizes the Comptroller of the Currency to replace national bank notes mutilated or defaced, and provides for the destruction of the latter by maceration, instead of by burning. The bill was passed.

RELIEF FOR DESTITUTE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH.

Mr. Wilson called up the joint resolution authorizing the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau to distribute to the destitute people of the South such desiccated meats and vegetables provided during the war as are not needed for the use of the army, which was passed.

THE DISCHARGE OF FREEDMEN'S BUREAU AGENTS.

Mr. Wilson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands forward for the information of the Senate his circular discharging the officers and agents of said Bureau, on the 15th of February proximo, in certain States, with the reports of assistant commissioners and others detailing the effect of the issue of said circular letter.

THE MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

At the expiration of the morning hour the Senate resumed the consideration of the Supplementary Reconstruction bill.

Mr. Morton, (rep.) of Ind., took the floor and argued as follows:—First, that the constitution guaranteeing to all the States a republican form of government, and the rebel States in 1866 being without State governments, and therefore having no right to representation in Congress, the United States, that is, the government, must reconstruct them. He quoted from the constitution and from judicial opinions to show that this guarantee could be enforced only by Congress, and said that Senators Doolittle and Johnson had voted for this proposition. He also said, in reply to the strictures yesterday of Mr. Doolittle on his (Mr. Morton's) course, that as the constitution did not define the means to be exercised by Congress in executing the guarantee, it must be left to circumstances. If the rebel States could not be reconstructed with the help of the white citizens living in them, Congress had a right to raise up a class of men who had been disfranchised by the rebel State laws in order to do it, and that right could not be reviewed by the courts. He said that the President proposed by his policy the disfranchisement of a far greater number of persons than the Congressional plan of reconstruction did; and the constitutions framed under that policy had never been submitted to the people, and were, therefore, illegal. They looked to returning the freedmen under the power of their rebel masters. Congress had determined to go through the rubbish down to the eternal rock and secure equal rights to all men. He defended his speech in Indiana referred to by Mr. Doolittle, wherein he had said merely that while he admitted the rights of all men he thought that before the blacks should have suffrage there should be a period of probation. Replying to the charge that the republicans were overthrowing the constitution, he said those who talked the loudest about it were men who, if they could, would have replaced it by the Montgomery constitution. The so-called radicals of the South—the secessionists—he repeated, were democrats. He next took up and commented on the claim that the republicans sought to establish negro supremacy, and then criticised Mr. Doolittle's proposed amendment. Of the first qualification, negro suffrage, requiring one year's service in the United States Army, he said they allowed rebels to vote who had served three years in the army; of the educational qualification, he said they allowed white men to vote who did not know how to put their mark to a vote given for whiskey—(laughter)—and in regard to the third qualification, requiring the possession of a freehold worth $250, there it would cut off ninety-nine out of a hundred loyal blacks, while a white rebel, never in his life worth twenty-five cents, and who had never paid one honest debt, was allowed to vote. This disclosed the purpose of the proposition, leaving, as it would, the white rebels largely in the ascendancy, and putting the South again into their hands. He disclaimed having, in 1865, endorsed the President's present policy, as charged by Mr. Doolittle yesterday. He had merely repelled statements made then that the President had left the republican party, and the majority of the republicans were of that opinion. He was doubtless wiser now, however, than then; men learn by experience. Their present course was dictated by the logic of events, and he would go as far as might become necessary for reconstruction on the right basis and the restoration of every part of the Union. They had done no title for punishment that justice itself was not satisfied. The arch traitor himself would never be punished. But the time for that had passed. They simply sought to establish peace now and peace for the future. The policy of the republican party was that of humanity; that of the democratic party to rouse prejudice of race. The first stood on the platform of inalienable rights of man; the latter endeavored to deprive the weak of all protection.

The galleries had become densely crowded during Senator Morton's remarks, which were delivered in a sitting position, he being in ill health. Some one in the gallery who made an ejaculation, inaudible to the reporter, was quickly ejected.

Mr. Nye, (rep.) of Nevada, followed Mr. Morton. He said the amendment was introduced to elicit political discussion, and the object of its action would be achieved, for the other side would have enough of it before the close. The power of the republican party had been felt on every battle field, and would continue to be felt until the work was completed. There had been faint-hearted ones during the war as there were now, and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Doolittle) had greatly changed since he (Mr. Nye) had sat in the galleries listening to the musical strains of his appeals in behalf of liberty. He (Mr. Nye) was a radical, and gloried in it. His friend had been once, but was so no longer. What, then, was he now? A democrat? I hardly know which to apologize to for saying so, the gentleman or the democratic party. (Laughter.) To show his distinguished friends and the world the exact status, politically, of a conservative he read from "Paradise Lost"—a work he recommended to his honorable friend—the following:—

"For spirits, when they please,
Can either shape, assume, or both, so soft
And uncompounded is their essence pure;
Not tied or manacled with joint or limb,
Nor founded on the brittle strength of bones,
Like cumbrous flesh, but in what shape they choose,
Dilated, or condensed bright or obscure,
Can execute their airy purposes,
And works of love or enmity fulfil." (Laughter.)

Milton had the Senator in his eye when he wrote that. (Laughter.) Mr. Nye then took up the proposed amendment, and said that to instruct the committee in accordance with the amendment would make humanity blush. He reiterated the question of Mr. Morton, why the Senator voted in 1864 that reconstruction was the work of Congress alone? Not one step had been taken in reconstruction but what had been dictated by necessity. The leading papers of the North and the vilest copperhead paper of the North, the Chicago *Times*, had supported negro suffrage from ulterior motives at first. Now there was a holy horror that the Southern people were to be overridden by a half barbarous race, as the Senator called them. The negroes had, as he said, dug trenches for the rebels, but it was under the rod of their taskmasters, and of that emancipation was born. Like true Christians they raised no insurrection, but bided their time. The pinch was that they were to vote. Reconstruction was now a thing of the past, and conservatism could not stop it. Seven hundred thousand men had the ballot, and the conservatives could not take it away. The ballot was given them only to vote upon conventions and constitutional amendments, and the Southern whites if they wished could join them in the establishment of governments and then fix the suffrage as they chose. He alluded to the hopeful close of the Senator's speech in regard to the gathering of the class that were to overthrow the republican party. What column would Jeff Davis lead? Under whose banner would the Senator come with his squad? (Laughter.) Would he come with the Northern wing, under Vallandigham and Pendleton? The gathering would be easily numbered. What would be the uniform? The Senator would hardly don the gray, and of course would not wear the blue. Under what banner would he march; the old glory or the stars and bars?

Mr. Rousseau, (rep.) of Wis.—I would march under a flag having thirty-seven stars. (A buzz of applause in the galleries, which was quickly suppressed.)

Mr. Nye continued, saying that these hosts could gather under no other banner than that of thirty-seven stars, undiminished by conservatism or rebellion, though the Senator seemed to wish to prevent it. He then alluded to the course of the democratic party in past years. He had belonged to it once; but he ought to say in excuse that he was then quite young. (Laughter.) He argued that disunion took its rise in Kansas, when the first blood was spilled by the aggressive policy of slavery. To the Senator's question whether there had not been enough suffering entailed on the South, he replied that he supposed the fear was that there should be imposed upon them the further infliction of a democratic administration. (Laughter.) Referring to the proposition to make an educational qualification, he said he supposed the democratic party would disfranchise a man named, perhaps, Langston, who would not suffer in comparison in that respect with the Senate. The property qualification was a principle broken up by the old democratic party and the great God. Take out of that party those that can't read and write, and where would it be? (Laughter.) He appealed strongly to the republican party to stand firmly by their principles, even though they took the position of a minority. They would get their reward. For their former associate, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Doolittle), he would say "let west may he rest in history now." (Laughter.) The democratic party had put out those conservating fire-fetlemen to see how it is going to come out. (Laughter.) They were sent out as skirmishers to see how it was to affect Grant. He had not much to say for Grant—his story was written. He had not compromised—he fought. After speaking of General Grant's hold on the national memory, he said the conservatives, such as the Senator from Wisconsin, attempting to stand in the path of Grant were like a certain animal on a railroad, butting against a locomotive. While he admired its courage, he could not think much of its discretion. (Laughter.) Grant, unlike the conservatives, belonged to the class of animals called vertebrates. The only sins of Congress during the last twelve month had been sins of omission; those he hoped would soon be repaired. Sheridan had been translated on the cowardly platform of conservatism, and he did not know which was the most disappointed, the conservatives of that body or the President at the course of Meade. Quoting from a Georgia paper a remark that they had got rid of a tyrant and got a devil instead, he said doubtless Meade's head would go to-morrow, but that he was the last eligible officer on the list. He denounced as a false, foul slander the assertion of Mr. Doolittle that the radicals of the North are secessionists. Was Sheridan a secessionist? Let the Senator tell him so if he dared. Was Mr. Sumner, who had felt the bruises of a rebel, a secessionist? Was their chairman, Mr. Wade, who had been twenty years in service, a secessionist? The republican party during a mighty war had done what the democratic party when in power dared not do—they had carried through an enterprise that was destined to change the commerce of the world—the Pacific Railroad. He concluded with a fervid recital of the achievements of the republican party.

On motion of Mr. Wilson the further consideration was postponed.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPOSITION AT HAVRE.

An adjournment until Monday was then provided for, and Mr. Sumner called up the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to detail officers to represent the United States at the forthcoming International Maritime Exposition at Havre.

Mr. Conness offered an amendment providing that it shall not be attended with expense.

Some discussion ensued, Mr. Trumbull opposing the resolution on the ground that no authority existed for detailing such officers. They could go without.

Mr. Sumner earnestly urged the immediate passage, explaining that the exhibition included vessels and everything relating to navigation, and that every people in Europe would be there represented by commissioners. Thirty-seven American exhibitors had entered their names, and it was desirable that commissioners should represent their interests there. It would involve but trifling expense.

Mr. Sherman thought it had better go over until Monday. In his opinion it would involve a good deal of expense.

After further opposition by Messrs. Trumbull and Conness, the death of Hon. Elijah Hise, of Kentucky, was announced by the Secretary of the House, and Mr. Davis offered the usual resolutions, accompanying them by a brief speech. They were seconded by Mr. Hendricks, who also made a few remarks, whereupon they were adopted; and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 1868.

CHOLERA ON EMIGRANT VESSELS.

Mr. Chanler, (dem.) of N. Y., asked leave to offer a resolution reciting the facts, in relation to the deaths on board the emigrant ship Leibnitz, and providing for the appointment of a select committee of nine to inquire into the means of preventing such evil for the future.

Mr. Spalding, (rep.) of Ohio, objected to any select committee, and Mr. Chanler moved to refer the matter to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Spalding had no objection to that, and the resolution thus modified was offered and adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. Washburne, (rep.) of Ill., from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the regular Appropriation bill. It was ordered to be printed and recommitted. The bill appropriates between $18,000,000 and $19,000,000. In connection with the bill Mr. Washburne presented a report in the form of a tabular statement. He stated that his object in having the bill recommitted was that the Committee on Appropriations might be examined in connection with the revised estimates sent in by the Secretary of the Navy, whose original estimates amounted to between $47,000,000 and $48,000,000.

Mr. Butler, (rep.) of Mass., suggested, in addition to that, the Secretary of the Navy had on hand an unexpended balance of $15,000,000.

Mr. Washburne assented to that statement. The committee, he said, deemed the amount reported in the bill sufficient to meet every exigency of the naval service. He called attention to the fact that by this bill, reported by a republican committee of a republican Congress the estimates originally sent in by a democratic Secretary of the Navy of a democratic administration were reduced from $47,000,000 or $48,000,000 to $18,000,000 or $19,000,000.

Mr. Spalding thought it should be stated in justice to the Secretary of the Navy that that officer had revised his original estimates and reduced them to $25,000,000.

Mr. Washburne said he had been about to state that fact. It was for the purpose of examining the bill in connection with those revised estimates that he had moved its recommittal.

STATUS OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS.

Mr. Starkweather, (rep.) of Conn., presented the petition of over one thousand citizens of Norwich, Conn., praying for legislative action by Congress defining the status of naturalized citizens, and demanding that the British government shall be made to respect their rights. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Ward, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the proceedings of a public meeting in Elmira, N. Y., and the petition of three hundred citizens of the Twenty-seventh Congressional district of New York on the same subject. Same reference.

CORRECTION OF THE RECORD.

Mr. Washburne, of Ill., rising to a question of privilege, called attention to the fact that his vote on the Supplementary Reconstruction bill had not been recorded, although he had distinctly voted in the affirmative. He had been surprised to find his vote was not recorded.

The Speaker directed that the record should be corrected.

PRIVATE BILLS.

This being Friday, the morning hour was devoted to business of a private nature. A large number of bills was reported from the Committee on Invalid Pensions and passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The morning hour expired at a quarter past one o'clock, when the Speaker presented Executive communications, as follows:—

From the Secretary of War, with information respecting the capture of Jefferson Davis. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

From the Secretary of the Treasury, with a communication from the Comptroller of the Currency relative to loans by national banks. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

From the same with reference to the revenue cutter service, in response to a resolution offered by Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

GENERAL DEBATE ON SATURDAY.

On motion of Mr. Washburne, of Ill., it was ordered that the session of to-morrow be for general debate only.

PREVENTION OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF THE REBELLION.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the bill reported by Mr. Washburne, of Ill., from the Committee on Appropriations, January 14, and postponed to this day after the morning hour, to prevent payment of certain claims. It enacts that hereafter no money shall be paid out of the Treasury on any claim in the following class of cases arising during the rebellion until further action of Congress:—First, on account of seizure or imprisonment of or for damages or demurrage or detention of any appliances of transportation, whether by cars or water in insurrectionary States; second, for transportation service, tolls, passage, &c., beyond the tariff of rates fixed by the Quartermaster General during the war; third, for the use and occupation of land in the insurrectionary States used for fortifications and other military defensive purposes during the war.

Mr. Maynard, (rep.) of Tenn., announced the bill as most glaringly and most wickedly injust, and one which no man could vote for with a safe conscience.

Mr. Trimble, (dem.) of Ky., denounced it as violating the faith of the nation.

Mr. Washburne said he had no interest in it except to save the government from these classes of claims. He moved the previous question.

The previous question was seconded and Mr. Washburne took the floor to close the debate. He had not anticipated any opposition to the bill, especially on his own side of the House, and he thought that members were entirely under a misapprehension in reference to it. The reason for the bill was that hundreds of thousands of dollars were being paid out daily on just such claims by heads of the departments, he would not say at the instigation of the President, but outside the line of ordinary procedure at the departments.

Mr. Boutwell, (rep.) of Mass.—By whose order?

Mr. Washburne—By those in authority.

Mr. Boutwell—Who are those in authority?

Mr. Washburne—The gentleman from Massachusetts knows too well who those in authority are. (Laughter.)

Mr. Maynard inquired why indignation should be visited on honest claimants instead of on the heads of departments.

Mr. Washburne thought that if there were honest claimants they could show the honesty of their claims to Congress instead of speaking around the department.

Mr. Maynard reminded Mr. Washburne that he had voted last Congress for a resolution forbidding the Committee on Claims to entertain such claims—closing the doors of Congress against them, and now seeking to close the doors of the Treasury against them. He needed no other commentary on the character of the bill.

Mrs. Stevens, (rep.) of Pa., asked Mr. Washburne if when he spoke of casualties by the war he meant that when one of the United States officers ordered the destruction of private property for military purposes there should be no compensation allowed?

Mr. Washburne meant to be understood that where a lieutenant undertook to destroy property to the amount probably of a million of dollars, the government should not be compelled to pay for it in the rebel States.

Mr. Stevens knew of hundreds and thousands of claims that had been brought before the Committee on Claims of the first Congress after the close of the war, and that had been favorably reported on until they were stopped by the resolution referred to.

Mr. Pike, (rep.) of Me., in supporting an amendment offered by him, so as that it shall not apply to claims now on file from claimants residing in the loyal States, spoke of the rising tide of economy, and intimated that after the Presidential election was past there would not be so many small men seeking cheap reputations by a great pretence of economy.

Mr. Washburne repelled the insinuation. He was not in pursuit of reputation, cheap or dear. He was here to do his duty as a representative of the people generally, and of his constituents particularly, and he should not be deterred from the performance of his duty by any such flings of gentlemen. The Committee on Appropriations deemed this bill imperative for the public interest, and having, as a representative of that committee, discharged his duty in the premises, he would leave the matter to the decision of the House. If the House rejected this bill it would of course take the responsibility of such rejection.

Mr. Nicholson, (dem.) of Del., a member of the Committee on Appropriations, denied that that committee was unanimous in ordering the bill to be reported.

Mr. Maynard intimated that he had supposed that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) was also a member of that committee. [Mr. Stevens is the chairman of the committee.]

Mr. Washburne said that the gentleman could find out that fact by reference to the record.

Mr. Sulter, another member of the committee, thought that the bill went further than its author (Mr. Washburne) intended. He thought it had economy to perpetuate injustice, and he favored the amendment offered by Mr. Pike.

Mr. Washburne contended that that amendment was illogical, for why confine it to claims already filed when there might be as many just claims unfiled? This bill was intended to shut up the sluices of the Treasury. If the House thought proper to throw them wide open it was at liberty to do so.

THE COTTON TAX.

Pending the disposition of the question, Mr. Schenck, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Conference Committee on the Cotton Tax bill, reported that the committee had agreed to recommend that the Senate recede from its amendments and agree to the bill, with an amendment adding the following words:—"And cotton imported from foreign countries on and after July 1, 1868, shall be exempted from duty." Mr. Schenck explained the meaning and operation of the report, and the reason why the conferees on the part of the House had agreed [illegible] not affect materially [illegible] to it. The provision, he said, [illegible] the interests of the country or the revenue [illegible] tion that it had been.

Mr. Moorhead, (rep.) of Pa., one of the conferees, said he did not rise to oppose the report, although he had not signed it, but to explain his own position. He considered the amendment entirely inconsistent with the principles on which the House had been acting; for while on the one hand the House was trying to stimulate the production of cotton, it was trying on the other hand to give American cotton a rival.

Mr. Beck, (dem.) of Ky., the third conferee, explained his action as a member of the Conference Committee in agreeing to the report. One reason was that the prior conferees on the part of the House had agreed to it; another was that the cotton imported was not such cotton as comes into competition with the American product.

Mr. Maynard opposed the report, showing that cotton could be brought from Brazil and India and landed in New York as cheaply as it could be landed in Liverpool. The tax of three cents per pound on imported cotton had been required to be paid in specie, while the tax on American cotton was payable in currency, and to that extent the tax had operated in favor of the domestic article; but the pending proposition would bring the foreign article into immediate and ruinous competition with the domestic article. If the duty was taken off domestic wool why should it not be taken off foreign wool? He was for protection—the protection of labor and industry—and he trusted the House would not concur in the report. A new conference committee might agree to something better. It certainly could not agree to anything worse.

Mr. Allison, (rep.) of Iowa, said that though he might vote for the report he would do so under protest, because this was the first time where, in the consideration of an internal revenue bill, the House was called upon to treat of a tariff measure. He thought the bill would work great injustice to the holders of cotton prior to the 1st July, 1868.

Mr. Blaine, (rep.) of Me., expressed the hope that the House would vote down the report, and see whether, with another conference committee, the House could not get a better report.

Mr. Schenck said the committee had only made the concession it had made from the assurance that no better terms could be obtained from that or any future conference committee on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Covode, (rep.) of Pa., said he could not vote for the report. The effect of removing the tax on imported cotton would be to let manufacturers get in a cheap article and make goods of a shoddy character.

The previous question was seconded and the conference report was disagreed to by yeas 67, nays 79.

Mr. Allison moved for a new committee of conference.

Mr. Schenck moved that the new committee of conference on the part of the House be instructed to adhere to the bill, as he found that the Senate committee was acting under instructions.

The Speaker intimated that it was not parliamentary to instruct a committee of conference. It was supposed to be a free committee of conference.

Mr. Schenck withdrew the motion.

Mr. Allison's motion was agreed to, and Messrs. Allison, of Iowa; Blaine, of Maine, and Trimble, of Kentucky, were appointed as such committee.

EULOGIES ON THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE HISE.

The death of Mr. Hise, late a member from Kentucky, was then, at a quarter past three o'clock, announced, and after remarks by Messrs. Golladay, Grover, Trimble and Jones on the character and public services of the deceased, appropriate resolutions were adopted, and the House at a quarter before four o'clock adjourned.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

An Act of Justice to New York Taxpayers—A Bill to Return the Bank Taxes of 1863 and 1864, Amounting to a Million and a Quarter of Dollars, Unjustly Collected by the State from New York County.

ALBANY, Jan. 24, 1868.

OPPOSITION TO THE EXCISE LAW CHANGES.

The attorney of the Metropolitan Excise Board, Mr. George Bliss, made his apperrance here this morning to oppose the bill to extend the time for the collection of the annual license fees now due from the liquor dealers, in accordance with the present law. The bill went through the Assembly without any difficulty, but is likely to meet with serious obstacles, if not actual defeat, in the Senate, from the republican majority there. Senator Tweed has labored hard to get a report from the Committee on Internal Affairs, to which the bill was referred. A stated meeting of the committee will be held next Wednesday, when Mr. Bliss and others will be heard in opposition to or in advocacy of the measure.

IMPORTANT TO NEW YORK TAXPAYERS.

In the years 1863 and 1864 the banks and other institutions of New York county were taxed on their capital stock to the amount of $1,256,258, which sum was collected from them by the county of New York and paid into the State Treasury. The assessment of this tax was protested against, and on the question being taken up to the United States Supreme Court its imposition was declared unlawful. To repair this injustice Mr. Tweed introduced a bill in the Senate to-day providing for the payment into the Treasury of New York county of the sum above mentioned, the same to be raised by a State tax in October next.

RAILROAD BILLS.

Senator Cauldwell has revived the Metropolitan underground railroad scheme of last winter, which went through the Senate but was defeated in the House. He gave notice of his intention to introduce the bill at a future day.

Senator Genet has given notice of a bill for a railroad in Thirty-fourth street.

The resolutions instructing the Committee on Cities to investigate and report upon the workings of the Metropolitan Fire Department passed the House to-day. An amendment to the effect that no expense to the State shall be incurred is likely to prevent the committee from taking any steps to accomplish the object of the resolutions.

The retrenchment mania found another manifestation in the resolution of Mr. Starr, of Ulster, relative to the expediency of abolishing the banking and insurance departments, and transferring their duties to a bureau of the Comptroller's office. It is a question, if the present incumbents were democrats, whether the democratic majority would insist on their expulsion.

Some of the papers have made a curious mistake in the title of Mr. Reed's bill. Its object is to incorporate a society of marksmen and not marketmen. The bill has gone to the committee of the House. Mr. Genet introduced it in the Senate this morning.

FREE GERMAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

Senator Creamer has introduced a bill proposing to establish, on the east side of the city of New York, an institute containing a reading room and library and classes of instruction, where superior advantages are to be afforded for intellectual improvement to the working classes of the east side of the city, said institute to remain open until ten o'clock P. M.

THE NEW YORK FERRY REFORMS.

The Committee on Commerce and Navigation has had under discussion for some days past the consideration of the subject relating to the regulation of fares on boats plying between New York and Brooklyn and what protection is necessary to secure the safe transit of passengers to and from those places. It seems to be the general impression that some change is required, and it is quite probable that this subject, giving rise to sharp debate, will occupy the attention of the committee for some weeks yet. Mr. Kiernan, the chairman of the committee, is determined to have the matter fully investigated and such laws passed as will prevent the recurrence of such accidents as have lately shocked the feelings of our citizens.

NEW YORK MUNICIPAL RIGHTS.

Mr. Kiernan offered the following, which was referred to the appropriate committee:—

Whereas the city of New York has, through the operation of special commissions created and appointed at Albany, been deprived of many of its corporate rights and privileges and made subservient to a government foreign to the provisions of its charter and not identified with its interests;

Resolved, That the Committee on the Affairs of Cities be requested to report at as early a date as possible what constitutional means may be adopted by the State Legislature to restore to the metropolis its ancient power and independence.

Adjourned to Monday evening.

COLLECTION OF LIQUOR LICENSE FEES.

The bill passed by the Assembly extending the time for the collection of liquor license fees in New York ninety days will be taken up for consideration and [illegible] by the [illegible] tion. [illegible] Towns and [illegible] mittee on Internal [illegible]

ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, Jan. 24, 1868.

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLY.

To prevent gas companies in Brooklyn from collecting rents on gas meters; to incorporate the Industrial Savings Bank of Newburg; to incorporate the Sixth Avenue Savings Bank of New York; making appropriations for New York State Institution for the Blind; to regulate the sale of hay; for the relief of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. Bamber, to incorporate the East Buffalo Street Railway Company; by Mr. Prince, for the protection of certain railroad employes; by Mr. Wellington, to amend the act to enable husband and wife to testify for or against each other; by Mr. Kiernan, to incorporate the United States Fireproof Company; by Mr. D. Burns, to incorporate the New York Dramatic Union; also for the construction of a railroad in Thirty-fourth and other streets, New York.

RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY.

Mr. Starr introduced a resolution that a committee of nine be appointed to inquire whether the offices of Superintendent of Insurance Department, Superintendent of Banking Department and Superintendent of Public Instruction may not be abolished without detriment to the service of the State. Laid on the table.

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Fuller called up the resolution offered yesterday referring all resolutions providing for investigating committees to the appropriate standing committees. Adopted, 60 to 47.

NEW YORK CITY COMMISSIONS.

Mr. Kiernan offered the following:—

Whereas the city of New York has, through the operations of special commissions created and appointed at Albany, been deprived of many of its corporate rights and privileges and made subservient to a government foreign of the provisions of its charter and not identified with its interests;

Resolved, That the Committee on the Affairs of Cities be requested to report, at as early a day as possible, what constitutional means may be adopted by the State Legislature to restore to the metropolis its ancient power and independence.

Laid on the table.

METROPOLITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Johnson called up the resolution providing for an investigation into the affairs of the Metropolitan Fire Department. Adopted.

Adjourned to Monday evening.

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE PASSENGER ACT.

Seizure of the Morro Castle.

Yesterday officers from Marshal Murray's office, acting under a warrant, proceeded to the dock of the Morro Castle and seized that vessel for alleged violation of the Passenger act, similar to those charged against the steamers of the European lines. The Morro Castle plys between this port and the island of Cuba.

FIRE IN CANAL STREET.

Shortly after eleven o'clock last night a fire broke out on the third floor of No. 101 Canal street, supposed to have been caused by carelessness. The whole upper part of the building and a store on the first floor are occupied by Frederica Kalberer as a cigar store and lodging house. The damage to the furniture will be about $1,000; insured for $3,000 in the New York Fire Insurance Company. The adjoining store in the same building is occupied by Tooker & Schmidt as a boot and shoe store. Damage by water about $200; insured for $2,250 in the Germania Insurance Company. The building is owned by J. Maicom. It is damaged about $1,800 and is insured.

THE BENNEHOFF ROBBERY.

The Titusville (Pa.) *Journal*, commenting on the Bennehoff robbery, the particulars of which we have already published, says:—

Some time since one of our citizens ferreted out a well arranged plan to rob Mr. Bennehoff and at once took means to prevent it. He committed all the particulars to writing, and sent a man over in the night to notify Mr. B. Any one knowing the road knows what a journey it is on a dark, rainy night. The messenger delivered the message and received $5 for his trouble—enough to pay horse hire—while the sender received "thanks." The matter leaked out and the robbery was not attempted. Whether or not the robbery last night was by the same parties remains to be seen.

Mr. Bennehoff has just sent the following characteristic note and protest to the editor of the Titusville *Herald*, which is published *verbatim*:—

PIONEER, Jan. 21, 1868.

MR. EDITOR:—SIR—I see a note in your paper this morning in which you allude to a gentleman coming from Titusville, to inform us, of an anticipated robbery for which we paid the bearer of said information five $5. I say it is damnably false, the gentleman came in the evening and not at night as stated in your paper, the gentleman stayed all night in the morning I asked him what it cost him to come down he told the hire of his horse was five dollars, which I paid, then not knowing that he was a police I dident wish to pay him more till I was satisfied that he was not an imposter or cut throat, and had taken that plan to get some money, but however in a few days I sent him five dollars more, I also see an note in your paper of the other day stating that the other safe in our house contained a larger amount than that taken, which is also not correct and hereafter you will do me a favor not to advertise for robbers, until I tell you to do so. Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH BENNINGHOFF.

GENERAL ITEMS.

The Fire Department of Chicago last year cost the city of Chicago $130,300 82, and the 250 patrolmen and 16 officers, $241,835 20.

Daniel Eastman, of Bridgeton, Me., a wealthy man, sixty years of age, cut his throat with a razor in his barn last Tuesday.

Dickens has been invited to read at Cairo, Ill., the people of which city propose to show "Boz" that the Eden of Martin Chuzzlewit has got out of the swamp.

The Woodford (Ill.) *Journal* says at Mount Zion church, in that county, there were present last Sunday no less than a dozen bridals and bridegrooms, six couples, all "bran new."

A few days ago a chicken flew into a grain bin in the elevator at Lacon (Ill.), was carried down with the grain and then carried up the elevator, emerging at the top, with a loud cackle, alive and well.

Iowa hunters find prairie chickens so numerous this season that there is no sport in killing them. They can be knocked down with a stick and bagged by the hundred.

The subject of a railroad between McGregor and Dubuque, Iowa, long talked of and much agitated by the people of both cities, is about to terminate in a tangible shape.

Yale College has instituted a most sensible reform. The commencement exercises are to be cut down to sixteen speeches; these to be selected according to merit as orations, not according to scholarship.

The packing season has closed in Keokuk, Iowa; 68,000 hogs were cut, which is double the number of the previous season. The total for the State is given as 172,914 against 115,241 the year before. The falling off in weight, however, is heavy, being nearly forty-five pounds per hog, and in lard and grease the decreased production is larger in proportion, being nearly twelve pounds per hog.

Mrs. Brownber, charged with poisoning her three children in Upper Sandusky, has been admitted to bail in the sum of $2,000. One of the witnesses testified that eighteen months since Mrs. Brownber said she wanted to get rid of her five children, and that she could procure arsenic from her brother-in-law at Fort Wayne, administering it at different times so as not to excite suspicion. During the examination she was indifferent and brazen.

A man named McCormick was brought to Des Moines Iowa, recently, charged with the brutal murder of an old man named James, in Humboldt county, on the 15th inst. It appears that James had been to Fort Dodge, and McCormick, learning that he had some eight hundred dollars with him, obtained the privilege of riding in his wagon, and when near Dakota City beat out the man's brains, robbed the body and started East. The body was found soon afterwards, and the murderer arrested the same evening.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

ALBANY, Jan. 24, 1868.

Sundry remonstrances were presented against the repeal of the Metropolitan Excise law.

BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLY.

Amending the act relating to railroads in the town of West Farms and Morrisania; incorporating Hudson City Savings Bank; for improvement of Second and Fourth avenues, in the town of New Utrecht; for the relief of the Franklin Insurance Company; extending the time for the collection of taxes (a general bill)—it extends the time to the 1st of April, except in cities where special laws are in operation.

BILLS NOTICED.

By Mr. Genet, incorporating the New York Citizens' Marksmen Company; also incorporating Thirty-fourth Street Railroad Company; by Mr. Cauldwell, authorizing the construction of the Metropolitan Underground Railroad; by Mr. Pierce, to regulate freight on milk on the Hudson and Harlem Railroads; by Mr. Creamer, to establish a free German-American Institute in New York; also incorporating the New York Stock Clearing House Association; by Mr. Pierce, incorporating the People's Mutual Warehousing Security Company.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. Tweed, to provide means to reimburse the county of New York the amount of State tax collected in 1863 and 1864 on capital stock of banks and other moneyed corporations, and which levy and collection has been decided illegal by the United States courts; by Mr. Cauldwell, incorporating the Quarrymen's Union, Westchester county; by Mr. O'Donnell, to make more stringent the Excise law.

RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD.

Mr. Fuller called up the Assembly resolution relative to the protection of the rights of American citizens abroad, and moved the following as a substitute, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That our government, recognizing no distinction between native born and adopted citizens, should demand of other nations the immediate and unconditional release of all citizens of the United States illegally held in military service or in custody for pretended political offences not committed on their soil, and that it is the duty of government to enforce the demand, if necessary, with all the power of the nation.

RAILROAD TRAVEL.

Mr. Nichols called up the resolution for the appointment of a select committee to report what legislation, if any, is necessary to secure greater safety to railroad travel.

Adjourned to Monday evening.

COLLECTION OF LIQUOR LICENSE FEES.

The bill passed by the Assembly extending the time

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM HAS THE LARGEST circulation of any afternoon paper in the city. It is, therefore, the most desirable medium for advertisers.

A TRUMP CARD IS THE GREAT SERIAL OF THE DAY, EDITH AVELAND; OR, ALL IN THE WRONG, by J. F. SMITH, the distinguished English novelist, author of "Sir Bernard Gascon, or the Heir of Moulton Hall," "Lady Ashleigh," "Woman and Her Master," "The Banker's Secret," "Stanfield Hall," &c., &c. WILL BE CONTINUED AT GREAT LENGTH IN THE SUNDAY MERCURY OF TO-MORROW.

The four chapters of this extraordinary story which have already appeared have created a universal desire on the part of the novel reading public to penetrate the mysteries foreshadowed in the introduction, and if demand be the measure of popularity, "Edith Aveland" is the most acceptable contribution which imaginative literature has yet made to the columns of THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

Since the commencement of Edith Aveland the news agents in all parts of the country have largely increased their orders, and the prospect is that the increase will continue during the entire period of its publication, thus affording to the advertising world unusual advantages at a season of the year when the circulation of newspapers of every class ordinarily droops and languishes. Probably there is not a public journal in the United States, with the exception of the Sunday Mercury, the issues of which have not materially declined this winter. On the other hand, the leading Sunday newspaper of the age has added many thousands to its regular edition since last June, and its progress upward and onward steadily and rapidly continues. Contemporary sheets complain bitterly of the stagnation of business and curtail their expenses accordingly, but the Sunday Mercury, unaffected by the "dull times," practices no such pettifogging economy. Expending larger sums than ever in securing original stories of the most interesting class and constantly improving all its departments without regard to cost, it REAPS A GOLDEN HARVEST while its would-be competitors are groaning over the meagre returns which are the legitimate consequence of their lack of enterprise and their inability to understand the wants and wishes of a sagacious, wide awake community.

The chapters of the new story to be published in to-morrow's issue are of the highest interest. THE QUARREL at the village inn, between the mysterious stranger, Paul Lygan, and the villanous steward of Sir Edward Horsely, is one of the most striking scenes to be met with in the whole range of modern action. Dumas, with all his skill in the delineation of the passions and his power of giving expression to them in terse and vigorous diction, has never equalled it, and the triumph of straightforward honesty over conscious guilt is a masterpiece of effective description. THE MYSTERIES OF JOY LODGE, the pivot upon which the main interest of the story turns, thickens as it proceeds. The tale of the MURDER OF GUY HORSELY, by a shot from the window of the cottage, and the inexplicable circumstances connected with the deed, are eloquently narrated by George Upton; and the question WHO WAS THE ASSASSIN? will haunt the imagination of every reader and give rise to innumerable conjectures, which will prove in the end to be wide of the mark, or, in the significant words of the title, "All in the Wrong." Out of the homicide of Guy Horsely, the discovery of the corpse of his alleged murderer in the lake, the suspicious conduct of Stephen Goring, the sudden lighting up of the deserted cottage at midnight, and the other marvels connected with these events, many theories will, of course, be constructed; but it is safe to say that not one of them will anticipate the wonderful denouement. It is the opinion of competent critics to whom the romance has been submitted, that the plot is the most ingenious in the whole range of sensational fiction, and its finale the most complete surprise that ever startled the nerves of the reading public.

Two new characters, admirable types of the classes of society which flourished in the days of George the Third and his hopeful son, the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Fourth, are introduced in the forthcoming instalment. Richard Blantyre, the jaunty grandfather of Clement Cleveland (