CUBA.

PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

The Slavery Question Among the Insurgents.

Movements Against Puerto Principe.

By the steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, from Havana, we have received our correspondence from that city to the 26th instant. Purser Huertas has our thanks for valued favors.

The Revolution in Cuba—The Insurgents Contemplate Liberating the Slaves—Operations in the Central Department—Local News in Havana.

HAVANA, Dec. 26, 1868.

The steamship Moctezuma arrived here from Nuevitas at an early hour on the morning of the 21st, having left on the afternoon of the 19th. She brings the Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment "Espana," with the officers, sergeants and corporals, in order to form a new battalion with the reinforcements arriving from Spain.

Valmaseda arrived there on his return from his visit to Havana on the 17th, and immediately set about measures for a vigorous campaign. A letter of the 19th says:—"There are many troops here, and they are beginning to move. One column proceeds against Sibanecoú, where the insurgents of this district are concentrated. Another, by a different route, will join this, and the united force of over 4,000 men, with ten pieces of artillery, will proceed against Bayamo."

Your correspondent writing under the same date, says:—"On Valmaseda's arrival movements begun which show his intention to make a vigorous campaign."

My last was dated the 11th. On the 12th I learned that a meeting of the principal insurgents was taking place at Sibanecou to take into consideration the question of the slaves. The authorities here are proceeding in such a way that all order on the estates is fast slipping away, and for this reason the insurgents think they had better "take the bull by the horns" at once. I have not heard the result of the junta, but it is whispered that emancipation will be decreed. Something must be done, as a complete demoralization exists among the negroes on the sugar estates near here, and among the Chinese laborers also. Many of both classes are continually presenting themselves to the authorities, and if something is not done shortly the estates will be left without labor.

On the last mentioned date the steamer Barcelona arrived here from Matanzas with a battalion of 700 men called "Volunteers of Order," but it was decidedly a misnomer, for I never saw a more drunken, disorderly set. Two hundred had been released from the military prison on condition of volunteering; forty of them were made up of Austrians, Germans, French, English, Greek, and one American. Others were of the clerks and shopkeepers of Matanzas, who state that they were misled and deceived by stories told them of brigandage and other disorders, which they could easily put down. On the evening of the 15th an Englishman named William Nelson, of St. John, N. B., who had enlisted among these volunteers, was shot by the guard at the hospital, he not understanding Spanish, and so not responding to the challenge. He was struck above the knee, causing an ugly flesh wound and fracturing the bone. He was a sailor, had gone ashore from his vessel at Matanzas, got drunk, was placed in jail and was induced to volunteer to obtain his release, and with no idea of whither he was going. He will lose his leg and perhaps his life. Yesterday a disturbance took place between an officer and sergeant, resulting in the serious wounding of both; they are in the hospital and will probably die. Last evening a portion of this battalion of "order" were sent aboard the war steamer Blasco de Garay, which sailed this morning, and the others have been sent off in coasting steamers, and the town is now comparatively quiet. Their destination is not known.

On the 17th reports reached here that Gibara was surrounded and hard pushed by the insurgents. The gunboat Africa was immediately despatched to that point.

By parties who recently reached here from Puerto Principe, coming through the insurgents' lines, I learn that there are very few insurgents near here, they seem to be all gathering at Sibanecou to organize into some military shape, which from all accounts is badly needed, as there is at present no organization or regulation, each one fighting on his own hook.

Certain statements in some New York papers in reference to matters here cause much surprise. I am authorized by Mr. Gibbs, the United States Consul, to say that he has not made any arrangement with the contending parties for the safety of his house, as has been stated, knowing well that his flag will afford the necessary protection to all who may come when the hour arrives. During several alarms his storehouse was filled with valuables belonging to both Spaniards and Cubans.

Gascon Machin, a Spanish cavalry leader, reported killed, was alive and well three days ago. The Audiencia or Supreme Court is quietly at Puerto Principe and has never thought of coming here. An American war vessel is sadly needed here, and much complaint is made that that government does not afford the requisite protection to the persons and property of its citizens. There is still no communication with Puerto Principe, the insurgents holding the line of railway.

One of the parties referred to in the foregoing communication of your correspondent at Nuevitas has arrived here, *en route* to the United States. He states that he left Puerto Principe on the 14th inst.; that Governor Mena remained there with not over 600 troops and 400 volunteers. The various public buildings and churches were fortified and every requisite preparation had been made to resist an attack. On the road to Nuevitas he met several small parties of insurgents, who treated him with great courtesy. They expressed their determination to achieve their independence at any cost, and asked him to represent them as they were in the United States, from whom they expected sympathy and support. They were armed with every variety of weapon and were generally well mounted. They destroy no property nor in any way interfere with the people, save in taking horses, for which they give receipts.

From other sources I learn that immediately on his arrival, on the 17th, Valmaseda began to concentrate his forces at San Miguel, preparatory to active operations.

A letter dated Gibara, the 9th, appears in the local papers here, which states that a party of fugitives had arrived there bringing information that a body of insurgents 2,500 strong had been encountered by the troops between that place and Holguin and routed; that it was afterwards expected to meet them in the vicinity of the latter place, but on the arrival of the troops they were nowhere to be seen. No official report of the engagement there has been made public. The Moctezuma did not touch at Manati or Gibara, so no news has been received.

The brig Jenny Clark, detained at Nuevitas, as noticed in the HERALD, has been released, only the five casks of rice containing arms and discovered on board of her being seized. She sailed for New York on the 8th.

The Moctezuma brought thirteen insurgent prisoners, among whom was the chief, D. Gaspar Aguero Betancourt, who was captured in the encounter on the 28th ult. as heretofore reported.

On the 19th arrived here the Cadiz mail steamer Antonio Lopez. She brought General Ginoves y Espinar, the newly appointed "Segundo Cabo," or Deputy Captain General, and General Simon Latorre, Military Commandant of the Eastern Department, who relieve Munoz, with 350 men, having left 150 in Porto Rico.

On the evening of the 22d the steamer Cienfuegos, from Santiago de Cuba and intermediate ports, arrived at Batabano. She brings dates from that place to the 18th, and from Manzanillo to the 20th.

Through private sources I learn that Santiago is still besieged by the insurgents, numbering 10,000 men. There were in the city from 250 to 300 troops and about 1,500 volunteers. Of the latter not more than 1,000 can be depended upon; the balance will join the insurgents whenever an opportunity is afforded them to do so, with their arms. The rebels are in very close proximity, and nothing is allowed to come in or go out. There is an abundance of provisions in the city except country produce, but there is no work for the laboring class and much suffering results and the men are all secretly leaving the place and joining the insurgents. No goods are coming in through the Custom House and the government officials have consequently no money to meet the ordinary expenses. The professors in the schools and others who receive pay from the government are in arrears for more than a year. There is no trade, no circulation of money, and great gloom and distress prevail.

Manzanillo is also closely besieged by a large force. It is, however, admirably fortified, and the insurgents can do nothing more than to shut it out from communication with the interior. There are here about 150 troops and 400 volunteers. The latter are all Catalans and can be depended on to fight for the government. Foraging parties are occasionally sent out to obtain a supply of green cane for the horses, and a skirmish with the rebels always ensues, but without results of importance. There was lying here when the Cienfuegos left a small steamer, designed to ply on the Canto river and prevent the introduction of arms through that source. Iron guards had been placed on her sides to protect the crew from musketry. The insurgents state that it will be an easy matter for her to go up the Canto river, but quite another thing for her to come down, as the channel is narrow and easily obstructed.

The best families in both cities have left. At Manzanillo the change in diet necessitated among the lower orders has produced a disease similar to the cholera. It is not an epidemic, however, as those having proper food do not take it. Of the three thousand inhabitants left there twenty-seven have died in one day from it.

In the hospital there lay an insurgent who had seventeen wounds in his body, including a rifle ball and a bayonet thrust, which passed through him. After he was shot down the troops marched by where he lay, and a number of the men amused themselves by giving him a thrust. No vital part was touched, however, and he was finally taken up and brought to the hospital, where he is in a fair way to recover. He will then be tried by court martial and shot, as was another insurgent captured at the same time, also severely wounded.

In the marches made by the troops since the breaking out of the insurrection they have suffered far more from the climate than from the weapons of their adversaries. Even those who have been on the island for a considerable time and are considered acclimated are found to be unable to endure the effects of sun at this, the coldest season. As an example of this is mentioned the column of Quiros, which left Santiago in October 600 strong. It returned, after a campaign of five weeks, with 300 men, but fifty of whom were able to walk; the others were brought in wagons. Similar results are observed elsewhere, and it is calculated upon by the insurgents that the warm weather of spring will kill off the new troops almost to a man.

The insurgents who have presented themselves to the authorities for pardon, in answer to the many proclamations issued, generally return after a little time. They are received kindly by the government, and fed for a day or two, after which they are left to shift for themselves, and, being in destitute circumstances, they are compelled to return.

The local papers here announce the arrival of two prisoners, arrested in consequence of the capture of certain correspondence from the insurgents. They state that nothing of importance has taken place in the Eastern Department.

A rumor has been very extensively circulated here during the past few days that the English schooner Sir Robert Peel, formerly a trader between New Orleans and this port, and a very fast sailer, recently landed a party of armed men at Cochinos bay, on the south side, headed by Cisneros, late editor of *El Pais*, and that they immediately started towards the interior, in a direct line for Las Bermejas.

The negro volunteers are to be sent to the seat of war. There are many who doubt their fealty to the government, and claim that when opportunity offers they will go over in a body to the insurgents.

Lersundi has given permission for the organization of a corps of mobilized volunteers, to serve as contra guerillas. On the 19th the steamer Antonio Lopez, from Cadiz, arrived here with 500 men, and on the 23d the Isla de Cuba, from the same place, with 816 troops, having landed 174 at Porto Rico.

There has been a rumor afloat that a revolutionary demonstration would take place on Christmas Eve. It, however, passed with the usual degree of frolic and revelry and nothing more.

General Lersundi entertained General A. J. Smith, President of the I. O. T. Co., at a dinner in the palace on the evening of the 23d. There were present Captain Irving, of the United States ship Gettysburg, a number of the foreign consuls and of Spanish officials. Speeches were made and toasts offered, but all political allusions were carefully avoided. In the course of the evening the Acting American Consul General thanked the Captain General for his uniform courtesy to the consular body and expressed feelings of regret at his intended departure.

The weather in this locality has been very stormy during the past week, and a number of the steamers have been behindhand in their arrivals.

The French steamer Washington was detained at Vera Cruz several days awaiting the "conducta" from the capital. She brings one and half millions. The balance will be brought by the English steamer.

General Espinar, who recently arrived here to take the place of Valmaseda as "Segundo Capo," does not intend to take the field, but will leave the latter in charge of operations. This has caused much unfavorable comment, as it is known that Valmaseda is anxious to be relieved. General Simon de la Torre, who also recently arrived to take command of the Eastern department, intended to proceed to his post at once; but as he is not acquainted with the country he has been advised not to go, and is at present acting on the advice.

The *Gazette* of last evening publishes an official statement that among the effects captured from the insurgents on the 5th, near Moron were some pots of strychnine, which were intended, as was afterwards ascertained to poison, the volunteers at that point. This statement, given in the most prominent part of the journal, has caused much merriment among the Cubans.

A rumor has been current here for the past few days that General Dulce had died when two days out from Cadiz, and that the fleet had returned to Spain. It created much excitement and was denied upon authority by the *Diario de la Marina*. *El Pais*, the only paper published here in the interest of Caba and Cubans, suspended the publication on the 22d. The reasons are embodied in the following address to the public contained in its last issue:—"Circumstances known to all, causes entirely beyond our control, place us under the necessity of suspending for the present the publication of this journal. It not being permitted us to discuss with full liberty those questions which we consider most important and vital to the country, and as, according to the positive news which we have received by the last packet, it is still unsettled as to when we shall be able to do so, and as whenever we are attacked we are compelled to make the utmost endeavor or have our replies mutilated and rendered disconnected by a strange hand and one hostile to our principles, although they are the same as are now held in the peninsula, it has become impossible to sustain our position. For this reason, awaiting better times, we now terminate our task, thanking our constant patrons for their valuable and heartfelt support, without which we should have long since thrown down the pen—a useless arm in circumstances like ours—for at present it can, consistently with our dignity and our convictions, only be used when unfettered. Rather than vegetate in the impotency to which we have been reduced we prefer to observe the strictest possible silence."

In the same column is the following, under the heading "It is impossible to write!"—"According to the last accounts it is so cold at the Poles that it is necessary to be incessantly muffled up, and it is impossible to take out the hands even to write. The natives are desirous to see themselves free from so much cold and hope that the day of fire may arrive."

El Pais has been practically suppressed, as with its principles it could not longer continue under the rigid censorship to which it was subject. Its termination is a striking commentary on the policy of Spain toward Cuba. Its closing words are received and adopted by the Cubans as a declaration of war, that this is no time for the pen, which must be laid down for the sword.

HAYTI.

Demand for the Schooner De Hart—Imprisonment of the French Consul—Military Movements.

PORT AU PRINCE, Dec. 5, 1868.

The details of the release of the American schooner E. H. De Hart reached us a few days since. They are as follows:—When the news of the affair reached here it caused considerable sensation, and the British war steamers Niobe and Dart and the French Destrees and Surcouf immediately left to demand the restoration of the vessels. It is proper to mention here that the cargo of the Hart belonged to a French merchant in St. Marc, and the French commanders were determined not to allow it to be sold as a prize, as the blockade was not regarded as effective. On their arrival at Gonaives the commanders immediately demanded the release of the American captain (Low), the restoration of the vessel and payment for the cargo sold, with damages and an apology for the insult. The General refused compliance and asserted publicly that he would prefer to sacrifice all foreigners rather than yield to these peremptory demands. The commanders hereupon invited the consuls and the foreign subjects on board their ships and gave General Chevalier twelve hours to accede to their demands on penalty of seeing the town laid in ashes. Captain Marcus Lowther, of her Britannic Majesty's steamer Dart, being the senior officer, was to take command of the combined fleet in case of bombardment, and the vessels were prepared for action. General Chevalier became terrified at these preparations and secretly began making arrangements to leave the town and flee to Port au Prince in an open boat. The populace, getting knowledge of this, surrounded his house and demanded that he should accede to the request of the commanders, which he finally did. Captain Lowther then went on board of the schooner Hart and had the American flag raised amid the hearty cheers of the British seamen.

Captain Low came here on the French war steamer Surcouf and demanded $7,000 damages for his illegal imprisonment, through the United States Minister, who informed him that nothing would come of it, as he considered him a blockade runner, and the seizure and his arrest as legal; but the attitude of the British and French officers finally induced him to act.

The French Consul at St. Marc was imprisoned a few days since for shipping $250,000, Haytien currency, of the old issue, for the purpose of purchasing produce. The amount of money was seized, and several letters were found in his possession compromising a number of persons and causing their arrest. The Consul was released after a few hours' detention.

As you have been informed the government troops now occupy Miragoane. The revolutionists are reported to be in close proximity to the town and to keep up an incessant firing. It is said that the troops refuse to hold the town unless the war vessel remains to protect them. During the recent bombardment of that place 110 men were landed from one of the ships to make an attack. They have not since been heard from, and it is presumed they were killed or surrendered themselves to the revolutionists. Several boats were found in the harbor laden with logwood, which were given to Admiral Neckels by Salnave. He has sold the logwood and will no doubt do the same with the boats.

The President leaves to-night on the Alexandre Pétion, destination unknown.

The following are in port:—American gunboat Nipsic, her Britannic Majesty's steamer Eclipse, and the French war vessel Destrees.

News from the South Coast—Course of General Domingue's Government—A New War Steamer to be Purchased.

HAVANA, Dec. 26, 1868.

By way of Jamaica we have news from Aux Cayes to the 26th ult. Your correspondent, writing on that date, says:—"The new President, Domingue, has just returned from an official visit through the South. He has been everywhere received with popular rejoicing, and the peasantry have listened with earnestness to his proposals of peace. Everything was in his favor, and even the "Picos" in many places were disposed to rally round his standard and join in the new movement. The love of plunder is very strong among these, and they will join any side that would afford them protection in foraging upon the stores and dwelling houses of the wealthy.

The highway between Jeremie and Aux Cayes is free from depredating gangs, and officers of the revolutionary army pass freely and without meeting a single enemy on the way. It would therefore appear that in the interior of the country the peasantry have returned to agricultural pursuits.

General Domingue has called to his Council of State Mons. Bameau, Mons. Pradine, Mons. Listant, General Monplaisir Pierre and General Normiel, all of whom are men of acknowledged ability and possess the confidence of the Haytien people. The gentlemen have resolved upon obtaining another vessel of war, in order to challenge the Galatea, which is now attacking the various towns on the coast that refuse to acknowledge the authority of Salnave. In order that all might feel an interest in this work a subscription list has been opened for the purchase money, and $12,000, gold, was subscribed in a few hours. A commission has since proceeded to the United States to make the necessary purchase and select an American crew.

President Domingue is doing much to repair the injury which the country has sustained by the continuance of the civil war which is now devastating Hayti. The peasantry are now returning to their settlements to prosecute their agricultural operations. The President's counsels are being listened to by the people, and there is every probability that his example of patience and forbearance will do much for Hayti.

At St. Marc General Nessage is making gigantic preparations for the attack which the government party are threatening to make on that place by land and sea. The Army of the North will, during this attack, make a dash on Port au Prince.

At Jacmel all is quiet. The "Picos" still threaten the town, in expectation of carrying off spoil; but they make no attack. The army are prepared for them, and so matters remain.

From other sources I learn that an amnesty proclamation has been issued by Salnave.

MEXICO.

Arrival of General Rosecrans—Great Excitement About Cuba—Vera Cruz Railway and Tehuantepec Grants—Condition of the Treasury—General News.

MEXICO, Dec. 10, 1868.

An important event, which has occurred since the last steamer, is the arrival of the American Minister, General Rosecrans. He forwarded his letter to this government as United States Minister yesterday, and will be received formally by President Juarez to-day at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Plumb is expected to leave here for the United States by the English steamer for Havana, and thence to New York or Philadelphia.

Great excitement has prevailed here of late in regard to the present revolutionized condition of Cuba. One of the principal papers of the capital considers Cuba as the key to the Gulf of Mexico, and views the demonstrations there with suspicion, and imagines it sees a large Yankee "nigger in the fence;" fears that it may all result in annexation to the United States; that such an issue would be a misfortune for Mexico, and even hints that, with a view to annexing Cuba to Mexico, material aid from here would be advisable, even though that aid came from the government itself. On the evening of the 5th there took place in the theatre of Hidalgo a most enthusiastic manifestation in favor of the independence of the isle of Cuba. The crowd was great and not a single seat was left unoccupied. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was put upon the stage and received repeated applause. In one of the *entre actes* Mr. Villalobos read a beautiful poem, and Mr. Prieto, being called for by the people, improvised in a few moments a most beautiful sentiment, full of fire and enthusiasm for liberty. The Alcalde, Mr. Mendiolea, and also Mr. Santacilia, son-in-law of President Juarez and a Cuban by birth, spoke, eulogizing the great efforts being made by patriotic Cubans to make an independent nation of the people of that island. Colonel Bobadilla, a Cuban by birth, thirty years a resident of Mexico, who had served in the Mexican army against the United States in 1847-'8 and against the French more recently, prayed for the liberty of Cuba and gave thanks to the Mexicans for the sympathy which they had shown for Cuba. Miss Calderon recited a poem upon the subject, and great enthusiasm prevailed and "*vivas*" for "Cuba and Céspedes." Among the concourse were many military men, members of Congress and other public functionaries. The *Siglo XIX*. says:—"When Cuba shall no longer be a part of Spain and shall become a sovereign nation, then will cease threatenings to the Spanish-American nationalities; for, there being no longer an enemy in Cuba, there will be found a brotherly people, identified in fortune and interest with all America."

The *Monitor* of the 4th, referring to the matter, quotes the *Opinion Nacional* as follows:—"Without fear of exaggerating we assert that there never has been presented a question so important for Mexico as the revolution in Cuba, for the reason that its result will be favorable or adverse in the end." It is stated that another meeting will be held on Sunday next, in Chiarini's Circus, for the purpose of further demonstrations by way of encouraging the revolutionists in Cuba. It is not certain that it is yet proposed to raise money for their aid, but to simply make further expressions of sympathy.

The case of impeachment of Mr. Romero has fallen to the ground, Mr. Zambrano having wholly failed to sustain his charges. Rumor is silent for the present in regard to Mr. Romero being again sent to the United States as Mexican Minister. That subject and the Seward-Romero treaties yet sleep.

Yesterday Congress passed the bill reported by the committee on the 25th of October, rehabilitating the American and Mexican Railway and Telegraph Company, upon its third and final reading. It goes now to the President; and as the report is rather severe upon the action of the President and Cabinet when they annulled the original grant in Chihuahua it is feared by some that he will put some obstacles in its way. Such a result will hardly follow, as the vote by which it passed is very large, and strongly endorses the report of the committee.

The modifications requested by Mr. Lasere to the concession granted for the Tehuantepec route, in which Marshall O. Roberts' name figures prominently, have been under discussion during the last three or four days. The member of Congress (Mr. Mendeolea) who months since, in the previous session, declared that he disliked those people, or that race which had blue eyes and light hair, as expected, made an exhibition of his talent by opposing the bill, making use of the element of fear. He depicted the possible filibustering result which might follow from having 5,000 armed men (workmen) of another nationality actually breathing the air in Tehuantepec. It may be said, to the honor of many of the members, that he was laughed at. Sufficient opposition was made to postpone final action on the bill, although it is highly probable that the majority of Congress will act favorably on it soon.

Work has commenced on the Puebla branch of the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad, and Mr. Crawley, the contractor, is expected here from England by the coming French or English steamer. These three railroad projects, if passed by Congress and the Executive, will entitle this Congress to the credit of having started upon a career which, if followed up, may result in a happy future for Mexico.

The disposition has been further shown of late to aid and promote the material interests of the country by a subvention of $50,000 which has been voted to assist in the immediate completion of the railroad to Tlalpan, which is now running to Coahuacan. Modifications are also being asked to the concession granted to the Tuspan Railroad Company and are now before the committee.

The state of the treasury is such that the fifteen day payments to the military and civil list have been met, and the last "conducta" of $3,000,000 or thereabouts will probably reach Vera Cruz, as it is well guarded. It is a lamentable fact that a large portion of it is actual capital seeking investments abroad.

With the exception of the Indian disturbances on the northern frontier and in Yucatan, there is no considerable party now in arms against the government, if we except that in the State of Tamaulipas. On the 23d of November General Escobedo was at Villagran, with two battalions of his division, dictating the necessary dispositions for a speedy and successful campaign. It is stated that Branlio Vargas had made propositions to General Escobedo to surrender, asking guarantees, &c. General Escobedo is said to have replied that he had no instructions to treat with him and no conditions to concede. It is not known here for certain that Quiroga is on this side of the Rio Grande.

The elections in the State of Yucatan have passed off tolerably quiet, although some will be contested. An effort is being made by residents of that State to induce the general government to send more troops to drive the Indians southward.

The week ending November 28 the mint of Guanajuato coined 2,875 doubloons and $77,000 hard money; total, $123,000. During the same week the mines sold $9,952.

Gold and silver have been discovered in the district of Tampico. On the 24 the telegraph line between San Luis and Zacatecas was completed, so that Mexico city is now in communication with both of the above places. Work is about to be renewed in the mines in the district of Xichu, abandoned since 1810. The principal revenue office of the district of Mexico produced in November $251,193

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1868.

General Grant Misrepresented by His Radical Friends.

From a source entitled to the highest credit and which I am not at liberty to divulge I derive information to-night that leaves no doubt of the fact that all the recent publications pretending to give General Grant's views on important political subjects were simply misrepresentations. My informant is an official conceded to be on the most intimate terms with the President elect and possessing in a high degree the confidence of the latter. The gentleman to whom I allude spent some hours with General Grant yesterday at his headquarters, subsequently dined with him and had a full and free conversation on public matters. I do not violate any confidence in stating that when this gentleman called General Grant's attention to the recent *quasi* official publications and asked him if it was true he had authorized or even acknowledged them as correct expositions of his views he replied in the negative, declaring that, though he had many conversations with public men recently, he had never given utterances to the views attributed to him. Visitors were constantly calling upon him and peppering him with all sorts of questions on ticklish points, such as his policy, &c. He could not always bluntly refuse an answer, but he invariably got away with some evasive remarks, which he found afterwards twisted and tortured in the newspapers, owing to the anxiety of his curious political friends to fasten him to views favored by themselves. As to expressing himself one way or the other on subjects coming under the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, he had too much discretion to do anything of the kind. After his inauguration his views would be known as circumstances called for their disclosure. My informant states that there is no doubt that all the recently published statements about the General's views in regard to the Pacific Railroads, the Civil Tenure bill and the distribution of federal patronage originated in the unreliable manner described above. The *Tribune* expositions on some of these points has excited the indignation of Grant and his friends, and a prominent republican has already written to Greeley to learn whether his paper is still radical or not.

The New York Senatorship.

Several prominent New York politicians here at present speak confidently of the re-election of Morgan for Senator. Fenton's chances are disparaged, and the supposition of his friends that the ballots likely to be cast for Noah Davis will be finally thrown for Fenton is ridiculed. Morgan is represented as being prepared to spend a million dollars to secure his election for another term, and that his plans are already so well laid, his organization so complete and effective that there is no likelihood of his defeat.

Reform in the Legislative Appropriation Bill.

The House Appropriation Committee spent another session to-day on the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill. As this is one of the largest and most important of the Appropriation bills the committee are giving it particular attention, with a view of making some important reforms in the interests of economy. They have ascertained that a large number of clerks in the several executive departments can be dispensed with without the slightest detriment to the public service. The salaries of these clerks will amount in the aggregate to between two and three hundred thousand dollars per annum, and the committee propose to save this to the government by cutting down the appropriation to that extent. A curious fact has been discovered by the committee, which illustrates the force of habit in passing appropriation bills without too much scrutiny. It appears that when the proposition was made many years ago to deposit the remains of General Washington in the Capitol, under the dome, a man was appointed to take charge of the place where they were to be laid. Of course they were never placed there; but it seems that each successive Congress since that time has regularly made an appropriation to pay the man whose services were never called into requisition. The present Committee on Appropriation will leave that item out of the bill this year.

Another Leak in the Treasury Stopped.

At the last session of Congress, Mr. Ela, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Printing, offered and had passed a resolution turning the printing of specifications for the Patent Office over to the Congressional printer. Before that it had been given out to contractors, who made handsome sums out of it at the expense of the government. To show the effect of the resolution, Mr. Ela has obtained from the Commissioner of Patents a statement showing the cost of printing these specifications under the two systems. In November, 1867, when the matter was given out by contract, it cost the Patent Office over $9,500. During the same month this year, when the work is done at the government printing office, it cost $3,422. The Commissioner of Patents estimates that it will be an average saving of about $75,000 a year to the government, which would otherwise have gone into the pockets of contractors.

The Charges Against Judge Busteed.

The Sub-Committee of the House Judiciary Committee held a meeting to-day to investigate the alleged charges against Judge Busteed, of Alabama. F. E. Woodbridge, of Vermont, Chairman, and Charles Eldridge, of Wisconsin, were present. James F. Wilson, of Iowa, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, also attended. Robert H. Smith, of Mobile, and H. C. Semple, of Montgomery, Ala., are the prosecuting party. Mr. Smith made no appearance, but sent a letter stating he was ill. Mr. Semple and two witnesses, Josiah Morris and James R. Powell, were present. The charges advanced against Judge Busteed by Smith and Semple may be condensed under the head of gross ignorance and gross corruption in office. The witnesses mentioned were placed under an injunction severally not to divulge the character of the testimony they presented. The committee and principals in the case were similarly enjoined. Mr. R. T. Merrick, it is understood, declined acting, though previously retained, as counsel for the prosecution. W. E. Chandler, ex-Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was associated with Judge Busteed for the defence. The tenor of the evidence offered to-day is said by Busteed's friends to be inadequate to support the charges against him. The prosecution, however, are confident he will be impeached.

Expose of Revenue Frauds in Virginia.

John Gilmer, of Richmond, is preparing a pamphlet giving a full exposé of alleged whiskey, tobacco and other revenue frauds in that part of the country. Disclosures are said to be made in the pamphlet which are calculated to excite a muss in the Cabinet, as well as to provoke an acrimonious controversy between McCulloch, Rollins and the President. The publication will be ready by Monday next, and it is said Mr. Gilmer intends to send a copy to every Senator and Member of Congress. Should the pamphlet come anywhere near tore what is promised it will contain rich developments, compromising high officials whose names have not yet been connected with the revenue frauds.

Meeting of the Army of the Potomac.

A number of officers in this city received by mail to-day from Generals Butterfield and Ingalls, in New York, circulars informing them that they had taken the liberty to append the names of such officers to a call for a meeting of the officers of the Army of the Potomac, at Washington, on the 22d day of February next, for the purpose of organizing an association of the officers of that army. The call will be issued on the 1st of January next, and it is believed that the project will be favorably received and the call promptly responded to. The committee adopted by the Third Corps Reunion to initiate a meeting of officers of the Army of the Potomac have resolved to co-operate with Generals Butterfield and Ingalls.

Volunteer Soldiers' Asylums.

General B. F. Butler, President of the Board of Managers of the Volunteer Soldiers' Asylums, drew from the Treasury in the latter part of last week $167,000, being the balance of the fund for the support of those institutions left deposited in the Treasury.

The Taxes on Distilled Spirits.

Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue Harlan has issued supplemental regulations concerning the tax on distilled spirits. They are intended to secure correctness and uniformity in the monthly reports of assessors. It is provided among other things that having found the quantity of material used they will then determine the quantity of spirits which should be accounted for from this quantity of material; and if they have no more definite means of determining this they will determine from the character of the material used what quantity of spirits a bushel of such material should yield and calculate the product to be accounted for or the required production accordingly. The number of days upon which the per diem capacity tax is to be assessed is the whole number since the date of the commencement in the month inclusive, less Sundays and the days upon which operations have been legally suspended.

Repacking of Manufactured Tobacco.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has issued a special circular concerning the repacking and reinspection of certain kinds of tobacco now in bulk or packages. Section seventy-eight of the act of July 20, 1868, as amended by joint resolution December 22, 1868, provides that after the 15th of February, 1869, no smoking or fine cut chewing tobacco or snuff shall be sold or offered for sale unless put up in packages and stamped as required by said act. It is represented that notwithstanding the extension of time many dealers will be put to great inconvenience and expense, unless they can be permitted to repack the stocks on hand now in bulk packages into packages as required by law, under the supervision of the proper officers of the internal revenue. In order to furnish the relief desired it is directed that the repacking and reinspection of such stocks may be made under the following regulations, viz.:—

Any dealer in manufacturing tobacco who has made a true and correct inventory of the same to the assessor, as required by law, may apply to such assessor, and in the submission to him of satisfactory proof that the tobacco which the dealer desires to repack and have reinspected was properly inspected under the former law, said assessor may direct an inspector of tobacco for the district to supervise the repacking. The inspector shall personally supervise the repacking, and when the work is done he will transcribe upon such case on enclosure the inspection marks and brands upon the original package, and also mark "Repacked under my supervision," together with the date, State and district and his own name and official title, and immediately make a detailed report to the assessor, showing the number of packages branded, kind and quantity in each, the name of the person or firm for whom the reinspection was made, the number of original packages and the original inspection marks on each package. The inspector's fee will be paid by the dealer for whom the work is done.

Order from the Ordnance Bureau.

The following order has been issued by the command of General Grant:—

Mammoth powder only will be issued in firing the fifteen-inch guns; the use of any other is expressly forbidden until means for checking the recoil are applied to all carriages. No charge greater than fifty pounds of mammoth powder will be used without instructions from the Ordnance office. In all firing the chassis rails should be well sanded.

Personal.

Colonel Wynkoop, the Indian agent, whose statements and letters have recently attracted so much attention, arrived here yesterday. Senator Dixon, of Connecticut, is in town with his family.

THE WHITE HOUSE.

A New Event—A Children's Party—Calm and Happy Days at Last—Youth and Age in Festive Mingling—An Innocent Phase of Washington Society.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1868.

In the half century or so of the existence of the White House there have been many very brilliant gatherings of beauty, worth and intellect at parties and receptions, at State dinners and on casual occasions of public rejoicing. The wise and the witty, the grave and the lively, the amorphous and the fashionable, have come together many a time under the hospitable shelter of the Executive Mansion, have promenaded for hours in the ample space of the airy blue room, have heard the marine band play its choicest *morceau* of melody and have talked a thousand things beneath the gilded chandeliers or on the damask lounges of blue in this room and of red in that. A stately dignity might not be the exact characteristic of all these festive gatherings of the past, but yet the aim was always in that direction. Gravity and decorum were presumed to be the prevailing features of Executive entertainments, but this very presumption too often led the unsophisticated into such ludicrous ideas of etiquette that there was never wanting something at which to laugh and make merry. People of very numerous climates attend White House receptions. The stranger, come from wheresoever he may, is bound to procure an invitation. It forms an era in his existence, and unless he is decidedly unassuming or unambitious he can hardly quit Washington without enjoying the reflection that he has trod the carpets of our republican palace, admired himself in the gilded mirrors, looked everybody in the face and shaken hands with the President. For fifty years I was saying this kind of thing has been going on. With the advent of each New Year comes the great reception by the Executive servant of all his sovereign masters. The world and his wife went, and made as free with the White House as with the waiting room of a ferry slip. Through the subsequent months of winter the evening receptions were interspersed, which were seldom more than a walk round the east room and the indulgence of the sentiment of mutual admiration. Then there were State dinners for the heavy guns in public and political life; but as a general thing there was little liveliness and less fun than dull frivolity.

Andrew Johnson, be his faults what they may, and, by comparison, they don't seem very heinous, must be given the credit of having introduced into the social existence of the White House a feature hitherto unknown, but none the less delightful from its very novelty. The children's party last evening at the Executive mansion was, without exception, one of the happiest events that has ever taken place within its limits. The grandchildren of President Johnson—an interesting group of fair-haired little girls and bright eyed boys—invited over 300 of their own juvenile class to a party, in which was embraced a reception dance, supper and general merriment. The invitations were sent out several weeks previously and included the children of the high and the lowly, the only precaution it was thought prudent to adopt being the prevention of too many from attending. It was a happy thought this children's party, at this particular season of the year, in these peculiar times, when so little sentiment is left and so little charity is shown in public life. Every invitation was gladly accepted, with but one solitary exception, which it would be inharmonious to recall. The children came in troops, and with their merry laughter raised a foreign echo in the dull walls of the White House. It was odd, but it was very delightful to see these little ones in such a place, decked in rainbow colors, dancing around the East room where we have been so long accustomed to find none but the adult creation in solemn promenade. They came and saw and were overjoyed. They shook hands with the President, blushed at his kindly questions, looked awkward for a moment and then ran away gayly, with innocent laugh and prattle.

The East Room where the dancing took place, was very brilliant from the glare of gas. All its color and gilding were brought out into very bold relief, and, together with the many mirrors and marble mantel-pieces, presented an exceedingly bright and luxurious picture to the eye. There was no additional ornamentation except a few large baskets of natural flowers at either end of the music stand, a few small flags and a festoon of evergreens in front. The children commenced arriving at six o'clock and continued pouring in until nearly eight. They were driven up under the high Doric portico and after alighting were escorted to a reception room where, after leaving cloaks, &c., they issued on the broad corridor in the middle of the mansion in groups of half a dozen or so, looking like living bouquets of flowers, so *petite* they seemed in appearance and pretty in contrast. Grown folks came also, some to see how their offspring would acquit themselves and others to witness the latest novelty of the season. Indeed, there were people beyond the term of minority who came to trip the light fantastic toe, forgetting with the happy obliviousness of elderly maiden or bachelorhood that they had passed the meridian of youth. Of this class, however, there were but very few.

The anxiety to procure invitations to this party afforded a topic of much amusement to those in the secret. One fond parent is reported as having written a request to be supplied with an invitation for his boy on the score that he was a youth of such brilliance and excellent parts that he would lend lustre to any festive assemblage. Others wrote on the score of personal acquaintance derived from a New Year's introduction. The secretaries of the Executive Office were besieged from morning till night by ladies of very winning ways, and the coveted cardboard besought with as much solicitude as though it were the sesame to the gardens of Paradise. The ladies were well aware that the display would be something more than ordinary and the fondness of the female heart, especially the maternal heart, for admiring well dressed children in a grand exhibition of 300 or 400, in a large, bright, palatial apartment, with music thrown in, gave rise to the irresistible desire to be numbered among the favored ones to whom invitations were extended. Had every one who wished to be present been gratified in the innocent desire the limits of the White House would have been much too confined to accommodate one-half. As it was there was hardly room enough for the tiny waltzers to whirl freely around the circumscribed space of the East Room. The form of invitation was worded as follows:—

"The children of the President's family request Master —— and Miss ——'s company on Tuesday evening, the 29th inst., at six P. M. Dancing. R. S. V. P."

These mystic letters at the end puzzled a few, and in consequence several invitations were left unanswered; but those invited came. The entire household of the President, white and sable, were abroad, through room and hallway, long before six o'clock. A force of police was stationed outside to preserve order among the carriage drivers and curiosity seekers. Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Stover, the President's daughters, accompanied by General Michler, took up a position in the Red Room, where the children swarmed around them like so many butterflies. Both ladies were dressed in long heavy black silk trains and looked vastly more happy among the little ones than ever they seemed in the stately bustle of an official reception. The very small boys clustered around the tall form of General Michler like so many natives of Lilliput admiring the dimensions of the renowned Gulliver. The General was supremely happy, but none the less so than the ladies by his side. In the Green and Red rooms the presence of natural flowers in great abundance and of exotic richness lent a charm of sweetness to the air. The boys came in, rather coyly at first, but in a very short time their bashfulness disappeared and