WASHINGTON

Argument in the Supreme Court on the Writ of Prohibition Against Judge Underwood.

The Habeas Corpus Case of the Lincoln Conspirators Under Advisement.

Discussion on the Currency Bill in the Senate.

Mr. Butler's Protest Against Vice President Wade's Proceedings Tabled in the House.

Parliamentary Defeat for the Hero of Dutch Gap.

Passage of the Air Line Railroad Bill in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1869.

Defeat of Butler's Resolution.

The galleries of the House were again crowded to-day in anticipation of a renewal of the debate on Butler's resolution of censure upon Ben Wade. The subject did not come up until two o'clock, and the delay evidently wearied the patience of the audience. General Logan was entitled to the floor, but he "farmed out" all his time, with the exception of twenty minutes, to gentlemen who were desirous of speaking. Logan's speech consisted chiefly in a eulogistic defence of Ben Wade, but his manner was so earnest that he produced a visible effect upon the House. When he concluded with his motion to lay Butler's resolution on the table there were audible remarks of "Good, good!" "That's it," "That's the way to serve it," &c., in different parts of the hall. Kelsey, of New York, whether on his own account, or being prompted by others, was desirous to "let us have peace," and offered a substitute, which Butler gladly accepted in lieu of his resolutions. The House, however, seemed disposed to hold Butler to a strict account, and to give him a square defeat. There was a manifest desire to keep him from getting out of the difficulty by going behind a substitute altogether different from the original resolution. Towards the last he seemed very willing to accept anything that would help get him out of the position he had assumed without a crushing defeat. The Wade men, however, had made up their minds that his resolution should be laid on the table, and there was considerable rivalry for the honor of making the motion. Logan carried off the prize. It is generally conceded now that Butler made a mistake in offering the resolutions. The democrats voting with Butler were Archer, of Maryland; Eldridge, of Wisconsin; Golladay, Jones and Grover, of Kentucky; Mungen, of Ohio, and Marshall and Ross, of Illinois, eight altogether. It is noticeable that several of the republicans who voted against the repeal of the Tenure of Office act voted to-day with Butler.

What It Costs to Soap Congress.

The latest illustration of the retrenchment policy of the House of Representatives is the purchase by the Clerk of that body of combs, brushes and soap to the amount of $1,400. The Clerk is authorized by law to make such purchases as he deems necessary and his bills must be approved by the Committee on Accounts, of which the independent statesman Broomall is chairman. The bill for combs and brushes and soap is now before the committee, and three of its members refuse to approve it. It might be supposed that $1,400 worth of brushes, combs and soap would be sufficient to comb, brush and wash two or three Congresses; but it does not appear that they have been equally distributed; for many members complain that they have not received either a comb, a brush or a piece of soap during the whole session. The question is, where did the articles go? And this is what the three members of the Committee on Accounts who refuse to approve the Clerk's little bill are trying to find out.

The Currency Bill.

The Currency bill, which was under discussion to-day in the Senate, comes up again to-morrow, when Sherman anticipates a vote will be taken and the bill passed. In this expectation it is very generally believed the Senator from Ohio labors under a delusion, as there is an utter indifference among Senators to give the measure any proper degree of consideration. Senator Morton appeared to be the only one to-day who cared to give it any attention, and that was to denounce it as a nostrum incapable of effecting any good.

No Interference With Mormondom This Session.

The Senate Committee on Territories held a meeting to-day and instructed Mr. Rice to report in favor of appropriating $50,000 to complete and furnish the Court House in the Territory of New Mexico and offer it as an amendment to the Appropriation bill when it is presented in the Senate. No action has yet been taken on the claim of Montana to compensation for troops furnished in fighting the Indians. Mr. Cragin has relinquished his purpose of reporting the bill this session regulating the peculiar institution of Mormonism and providing for a general change in the Territorial government of Utah.

Railroad Land Jobbers Disappointed.

The Senate Committee on Public Lands had a meeting to-day, and disposed adversely of three bills granting lands to railroads in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Another Amendment Wanted.

Memorials continue to pour in asking Congress to recognize a Supreme Being in the preamble to the constitution. Eleven of this character were presented to-day.

General Custer's Late Battle With the Indians.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs yesterday examined Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, agent of the Kiowa, Apache and Comanche Indians, in regard to the attack on the Indian camp on the Washita by General Custer. Colonel Leavenworth was within eighty miles of Fort Cobb when the fight occurred. He stated that instead of fifty-three lodges that were attacked, as reported by General Custer, there were only thirty, and that instead of 300 warriors having been killed, as reported, only about fifteen were men, while the remainder were women and children. He said that the Indians all agreed in the statement that Mrs. Blinn, the white captive, reported by Custer as having been killed by the Indians, was shot by our own soldiers; that she had started to run towards the troops when the firing first begun and received a bullet in the right eye.

Director Delmar Badly Snubbed.

A few days ago Mr. Delmar, of statistical notoriety, wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, informing him that previous to his retirement from the Bureau of Statistics he had almost completed his monthly report No. twenty-one, and requested him to direct its publication. The Secretary referred the letter to Special Commissioner Wells, who, in turn, referred it to General Walker, the present head of the Statistical Bureau, for a report. General Walker has transmitted his reply to the Secretary, and in it he gives, as one of the reasons why the report referred to has not been issued, that his predecessor had indulged largely in his own peculiar theories in reference to trade and commerce, and has set forth his views and opinions concerning the advancement and contraction of these pursuits, which views and opinions seemed especially designed for the advocacy of free trade. In the report Mr. Delmar asserts that the importation of a commodity cannot be permanently checked by an increase of duties. As the report was not completed when Mr. Delmar left, if published now it could only be issued as the report of the present director, which General Walker is not willing to do. He thinks the Bureau of Statistics should confine itself to the publication of statistics, and leave speculations on affairs of the country to the proper officials.

Scannell Petitions to be Released from Arrest.

Scannell, James Brooks' "poor and humble constituent," has prepared a petition to the House, which will be presented in a few days, praying to be released from "durance vile." Scannell's petition is said to be satirical. It starts out very humbly, but winds up somewhat defiantly.

Reception of the President Elect.

It is said that General and Mrs. Grant are about issuing cards of invitation to a large reception to take place within a few days of inauguration. This, it is understood, will be the only occasion on which the General and Mrs. Grant will receive previous to the installation of the General as President of the United States.

Payment of Pensions.

The Secretary of the Treasury is making preparations to have the necessary funds ready for the pension agents, so that the instalments of pensions due on the 4th of March next may be promptly paid. The Secretary desires to avoid the delay and difficulties that attended the payment of pensions in November last, especially as the amount to be disbursed this time is unusually large, amounting to about $15,000,000.

New Disposition of Indian Funds.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have had under consideration an application asking for an appropriation of $10,000 from the funds of the Kiowa Indians, held by the government, for the education and support of two little white girls recently rescued from that tribe, whose parents were killed by the Kiowas. The committee have agreed to report in favor of the application.

A Washington Railroad War.

There is a lively contest over the bill prepared by the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia proposing to grant a charter to construct a junction railroad over the line of the Washington and Alexandria Railroad. It involves the question of depriving the present company of its franchise.

The Southern Pacific Railroad.

General Fremont, General Heintzelman and others were before the House Committee on the Pacific Railroad to-day as to the merits of the thirty-second parallel for railroad purposes.

Securities Held from Government Depositories.

It appears from an official statement that the amount of securities held by the Treasurer for United States funds deposited in national banks at points where there are either Assistant Treasurers or designated depositories other than national banks is $12,022,000, while the balance to the credit of the Treasurer in the banks is about $2,700,000. In these banks, while the security held by Treasurer Spinner is $12,000,000, the deposits have already been drawn down to the above small amount, making the security therefore in the ratio of five to one.

Importation of Hay into Great Britain.

The Minister of the United States at London has informed the Secretary of State that he has received an official notification that the restrictions imposed by orders in council of the 15th of September, 1868, and the 19th of October, 1868, upon the importation of hay into the United Kingdom were removed by an order in council of the 15th ult., revoking those to which reference is above made.

General Grant, General Dix and the Cabinet.

[Washington correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.]

General Grant does not conceal the fact that he wrote a letter to General Dix, American Minister at Paris, after the November election, stating that he could remain at that important post during his term if he so desired; nor is there any doubt that General Dix replied to this courteous offer by stating that his business would prevent him from doing so, and that he preferred returning home as soon after the commencement of the new administration as possible.

It is now believed that General Grant neither expects nor favors any legislation by which he can be restored to his position as General-in-Chief of the army at the expiration of his Presidential term: that Sherman will be appointed his successor, and that Sheridan will be selected Lieutenant General in the place of Sherman.

The certainty that a thoroughly republican Cabinet will be called around General Grant is everywhere conceded, a fact which entirely destroys the theory that Seward will be invited to remain in the State Department.

The Speakership.

[From the Philadelphia Press.]

A republican paper in New Hampshire asserts that "Massachusetts alone, of all the New England States, has ever been honored with the Speakership of the House of Representatives, and that State has at four different times enjoyed the dignity in the persons of Theodore Sedgwick, Joseph B. Varnum, Robert C. Winthrop and N. P. Banks." This is substantially but not precisely correct, for Connecticut furnished the Speaker of the Second Congress (1791-3) in the person of Jonathan Trumbull. No other New England State ever had the Speaker. Virginia, Massachusetts and Kentucky have furnished the Speakers of the House more than half the time since the foundation of the government—Virginia having had the office fourteen years, Massachusetts ten years and Kentucky eighteen years, making an aggregate of forty-two years out of the eighty that the federal government has been organized. Next to these States come Indiana, with eight years of the Speakership, and Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Tennessee, each with six years.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1869.

The Assassination Conspirators.

P. Phillips, in the Supreme Court to-day, moved for writs of habeas corpus in the cases of Spangler and Arnold, in pursuance of the petitions filed several days ago. Attorney General Evarts stated that he had been served with a notice of the motions, but should regard them as *ex parte* unless the court directed notice to be served upon him. Here the matter rested.

The Writ of Prohibition Against Judge Underwood.

A motion was also made by James Lyons for a writ of prohibition to Judge Underwood, United States District Judge for the State of Virginia. Mr. Lyons, for the commonwealth of Virginia, spoke an hour and a half in support of the motion. He alluded to the cases of three convicts sentenced for crimes, including James J. Phillips, who was condemned to death for the most atrocious crime known to the law, and said they were released by Judge Underwood and permitted to go at large, unscathed entirely and unwhipt of justice. If Judge Underwood could set aside the judgments of the State courts in these cases he might do so in all cases, thus, in effect, overthrowing the judiciary while he represented the commonwealth of Virginia. He thought it proper to say that this was a matter in which not Virginia alone, but all the Southern States, were concerned. The criminals to whom he alluded were tried according to the laws of Virginia, and according to the laws recognized by the general government, by the action of Congress and by the military authorities. There had been no impeachment of the trial and of the correctness of the sentences. But Judge Underwood had set them aside on the ground that the State judges were not competent to try the cases, being incapacitated from doing so by the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States, and under writ of habeas corpus he undertook, not to inquire into the guilt or innocence of the accused, or any question of illegality connected with the trial, but under what tenure the Virginia courts exercised their power. Judge Underwood had, in effect, decided that grand and petit juries, as well as the functions of the judges, were illegal. The action of Judge Underwood did not only extend to criminal but to the civil courts of the commonwealth. Virginia had therefore asked for a writ of prohibition to prevent these enormous ills, and to protect the people in the liberties and rights which the constitution was intended to secure. Mr. Lyons quoted numerous authorities to show the Supreme Court could grant the writ, and that it was, under the common law, an inherent right to be exercised by the superior to the inferior court, and that according to Blackstone it could be employed whenever it appeared that a court was transcending its jurisdiction, and whether in criminal, civil or ecclesiastical cases. He then said Virginia was a State, and had been recognized as such by all branches of the government. The Chief Justice had held court in Richmond. He certainly did not do so by permission of the military authorities. The source of authority was the people. On them depended the erection of their own State government. If, however, it should not be republican in form Congress could remit it for amendment under the constitution, for the United States are required by that instrument to guarantee every State a republican form of government. So far from conferring on Congress power to degrade a State that instrument requires the preservation of the State. But the question was whether the constitution justified the wrongs which it was the intention by writ of prohibition to prevent.

Associate Justice Miller inquired of the gentleman whether the argument was addressed to the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Lyons replied in the affirmative. He had recited legal authorities. If the court had not original it had appellate jurisdiction in the case. He thought it best to confine himself to such views as admitted of no question. If the inferior courts could not be restrained as the District Court of Virginia criminals could be scattered all over the land. He thought there was no doubt of the power of the court to issue such writ.

The court took the motion under advisement. A. B. Guigon appeared for J. J. Phillips, but took no part in the argument. Judge Underwood was not in court.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1869.

Mr. CAMERON, (rep.) of Pa., presented a petition for amendment of the constitution so as to recognize Almighty God as the source of all civil authority.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a like petition.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., introduced a bill to encourage telegraphic communication with Europe. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

The bill authorizes the American Atlantic Cable Telegraph Company of New York to take any practicable route for laying their cable to Europe, and extends the time named in the act of March 29, 1867, for the establishment of telegraphic communication to three years from the enactment of this bill.

Mr. ABBOTT, (rep.) of N. C., introduced a bill to aid in the construction of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

The bill authorizes the consolidation of the Atlantic and Pacific Company and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Texas, under the style of the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company; to construct a railroad and Telegraph from Marshall, Texas, to connect with the Atlantic and Pacific line.

CLAIM OF W. W. CORCORAN.

On motion of Mr. HARLAN, (rep.) of Iowa, the Committee on the District of Columbia was authorized to send for persons and papers in connection with the investigation of the claim of W. W. Corcoran for compensation for use of his property by the government during the war.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. HARLAN moved to set apart to-morrow, after the morning hour, for the consideration of business pertaining to the District of Columbia.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., supported the motion, and said if the business of the District could not be better attended to by Congress it would be necessary to amend the constitution so as to take it out of the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress.

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Conn., also supported the motion, and said that owing to the neglect of its affairs by Congress the condition of the District and of the city of Washington was a disgrace to our civilization.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., moved to set apart Tuesday instead of Saturday for that purpose.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., moved to set apart Monday evening, at seven o'clock. Carried.

COURTS IN THE TERRITORIES.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., from the Committee on Territories, reported, with amendments, and recommended the passage of a bill to provide for the better administration of justice in Territories of the United States.

IOWA AND MINNESOTA RAILROADS.

Mr. POMEROY, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported adversely to the bill to extend the limits of certain railway land grants in Iowa and Minnesota. Also adversely the bill amendatory of certain acts of Congress granting lands to the States of Iowa and Minnesota to aid in the construction of railroads.

BILLS REPORTED.

Mr. VICKERS, (dem.) of Md., from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to make general provision for the incorporation of churches and religious societies in the District of Columbia.

Mr. RICE, (rep.) of Ark., from the same committee, reported favorably the bill to incorporate the Masonic Mutual Relief Association.

Mr. HARLAN, (rep.) of Iowa, from the same committee, reported favorably the bill to amend and consolidate the several acts relating to the metropolitan police force of Washington.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., introduced a joint resolution authorizing the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to issue first mortgage bonds to the extent of $32,000 per mile on its main road and the branch to Portland, Oregon.

NEW YORK AND EUROPE STEAMSHIP LINE.

Mr. RAMSEY moved to take up the joint resolution declaratory of the act to establish an American line of mail steamships between this country and Europe. It gives the company another year to build their ships.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Mo., opposed taking up the bill.

Mr. WHYTE, (dem.) of Ind., also opposed it, and said he would oppose the bill itself. There were already two lines of American steamships from Baltimore.

Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nev., asked him what flag those ships sailed under.

Mr. WHYTE admitted that they sailed under a foreign flag.

Mr. THAYER, (rep.) of Nev., was in favor of taking up the bill. He liked, at least, the object of the bill, to take our mail carrying business from foreign vessels.

Mr. SUMNER said that his course with regard to the proposed line of American steamships would be determined by the degree in which it would cheapen ocean postage.

The motion was still under discussion at the expiration of the morning hour.

THE PUBLIC DEBT AND CURRENCY.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, moved to resume the consideration of the Currency bill.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., Wednesday next, after the morning hour, was set apart for the consideration of the bill to reorganize the judicial system of the United States.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., then addressed the Senate on the bill in relation to the public debt and the currency.

He thought the bill reported by the committee less remarkable for what it did than what it failed to do. It was not a bill for the resumption of specie payments nor for the funding of the national debt represented by the greenback currency, and it made no provisions whatever for the resumption of specie payments by the existing national banks. The committee seemed to have been at a loss for an appropriate title for the bill. He thought they might have better called it a bill to improve the value of the bonds of the country, for certainly it was not designed to improve the currency. It made no provisions for the payment of that portion of the public debt already due and dishonored, but provided that the surplus gold in the Treasury should be devoted to the purchase, through the medium of gold notes, of bonds that would not be due for fourteen or fifteen years. The speech of the chairman of the committee (Mr. Sherman) upon the bill seemed to him (Mr. Morton) inconsistent with itself, because in it, after declaring that gold and silver were the standard values of the world and setting forth the importance of an early return to specie payments, that Senator made an elaborate argument to show the disasters that would result to the business of the country from appreciating the currency to par, and had drawn such a dark picture of the condition of things to be brought about by such appreciation, that if his views were correct, it would seem to be the duty of Congress to avoid resumption as long as possible: but he (Mr. Morton) believed that the danger and hardships of resumption had been greatly exaggerated by the Senator from Ohio, and by others in and out of Congress, and that resumption brought about gradually by proper means would not result in evils of the hundredth part the magnitude anticipated by those gentlemen. It should be remembered that there were great interests in the country opposed to the resumption of specie payment, for the premium on gold was demoralizing the nation. These parties were trying to alarm the people in regard to the effects of resumption and indirectly attempting to control the legislation of Congress, and it was idle to expect that those whose incomes were payable in gold, which they could sell at a premium of at least thirty-five per cent, would release their advantage until compelled to do so. The predictions about the hardships and injury that would result from the appreciation of the currency had ample refutation in the recent financial history of the country. During the first four and a half months of 1865 gold fell ninety-nine per cent, and although it caused a great and sudden decline of prices and some bankruptcy, yet the evils and hardships resulting from that fall were not one hundredth part as great as the Senator had predicted now from a fall of thirty-five per cent. But the Senator was mistaken. It was but reasonable to suppose that a decline in gold of thirty-five per cent would cause greater injury to the country and to business than the same decline in 1865 would have caused; but there was no good reason to believe that a decline of thirty-five per cent now would produce even so much hardship as resulted from a decline of ninety-nine per cent in 1865. The Senator from Ohio had referred to the disastrous results of the resumption of specie payment in England after the revolution of 1688, but the fact was that those evil results had been brought about not by the appreciation of the coin to the value but by a sudden and violent contraction of the currency. The coin of England had been clipped, and hammered, and worn so as to be depreciated on an average of about twenty-five per cent below the mint value, causing much trouble and distress. Parliament thought that some measure of relief was necessary, and determined to restore the coin to its mint value by calling it back into the Treasury and recoining it. Among the provisions for calling the coin back into the Treasury was one that after a certain time the depreciated coin should not be received for taxes by count but only by weight, and that it should not be a legal tender in the payment of duties by count, but only by weight. When that day came around the new coin had not made its appearance, while the old coin had almost entirely disappeared from circulation. In this way had occurred an extraordinary contraction of the currency of the country (from which great hardships resulted. Mr. Morton read from "Macauley's History of England" a description of this financial crisis. A reference had also been made to the resumption of specie payments in England in 1821, after the Napoleonic wars, to show the dangers of resumption; but the facts in that case also failed to justify the conclusion drawn from them. Great commercial distress had undoubtedly existed in England from 1815 to 1820. It had not resulted, however, from the resumption of specie payments, but, as in the previous case, from a sudden and violent contraction of both the paper and gold currency of the country. Mr. Morton then criticised in detail the bill reported by the Finance Committee.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, followed in advocacy of the amendment providing that not more than $2,000,000 of currency shall be converted into bonds in any one month. The Senator from Indiana (Mr. Morton) had attacked with equal vehemence the original bill and its defects and the amendments designed to remedy those defects. That Senator seemed determined to oppose every proposition coming from any member of the Finance Committee without regard to the merits or demerits. It was well known that he (Mr. Morton) had a pet theory upon the subject of finance, and he appeared to think it impossible for any one but himself to suggest anything valuable in relation to it, unless the suggestion harmonized with his theory. The Senator from Indiana had argued and attempted to show from the history of England that most disastrous results must follow from any considerable contraction of the currency; but it was easy to demonstrate that his own plan for the redemption of specie payments, if adopted, would produce a more violent contraction of currency than would be brought about by any other plan yet proposed. The proposition of the Senator was that the government should hoard up in the treasury all the gold it shall receive, except what is used for the interest on the public debt, for two and a half years, and then resume specie payment. The gold being thus withdrawn and hoarded, of course it would be most violently contracted. The greenback currency would be contracted and hoarded in another way. A man having ten thousand dollars in greenbacks, worth to-day only seven thousand dollars in gold, would, upon the adoption of the plan of the Senator from Indiana, withdraw it from circulation and hoard it in his safe, having the guarantee of the law that at the end of two and a half years his seven thousand dollars would be worth ten thousand dollars. This would be the inevitable result, because no man would take the risks of ordinary business when he could so profitably hoard his money. Mr. Williams went on to defend the scheme of the Finance Committee, which, with his amendment, would be the best and safest way yet suggested of bringing about what all parties professed to desire—resumption of specie payments.

Mr. SHERMAN opposed Mr. Williams' amendment, because he thought there would arise a difficulty in determining what parties should be entitled to preference in the conversion of greenbacks into bonds, when the amount to be converted was limited to $2,000,000 a month.

Mr. WILLIAMS said the rule should be "first come, first served."

Mr. SHERMAN replied that according to that rule a man in or near the Treasury Department could get served first every month.

Mr. WILLIAMS thought the difficulty suggested a very slight one compared with the great difficulty and injury that would arise from too rapid contraction.

Mr. MORTON said that the amendment of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Williams) was no better than the provision in the original bill, because it proposed to limit the amount of contraction to $2,000,000 a month. But he was opposed to all contraction, as uncalled for, unnecessary and utterly useless.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., thought it would be wiser to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds in exchange for greenbacks, and leave the time and amount of the issue to his discretion, than to compel him to make the issue in an amount and at a time fixed by Congress.

The Senate then voted on the first clause of the amendment offered by Mr. Williams, limiting the amount of conversion to $2,000,000 a month, which was rejected, all the Senators present voting in the negative except Messrs. Buckalew, Cattell, Davis, Dixon, Hendricks, Howe, Ross, Patterson of Tennessee and Williams.

Then, at four o'clock, the Senate took a recess until half-past seven this evening.

Evening Session.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

The Senate reassembled at seven o'clock and resumed consideration of the River and Harbor bill. The appropriations for removing obstructions in the East river at Hell Gate and other places were reduced to $215,000.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., suggested that the term "Hell Gate" should be changed to Hurl Gate, which he understood was the proper name of the place.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich.—It is "Hell." (Laughter.)

Mr. DAVIS said he knew it was in the vicinity of that place, but he hoped not quite at the gate.

One of the amendments reported by the committee was to strike out the appropriation of $450,000 toward completing the Louisville and Portland Canal, the appropriation to be made upon the condition that Kentucky relinquish her claim upon the canal to the general government.

The amendment was discussed at length by Messrs. DAVIS, BUCKALEW, YATES, NYE, MORTON and HENDRICKS in favor of the appropriation and Messrs. STEWART and FRELINGHUYSEN against it.

At twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock, while the amendment was still pending, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1868.

PAY OF CLERKS OF COMMITTEES.

The first business in order being the consideration of a resolution offered last night to put the clerk of the Committee on Invalid Pensions on an equality with the clerks of the committees on Claims and Public Lands considerable time was occupied in its discussion. Finally, on motion of Mr. Maynard, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Accounts, with instructions to report generally on the subject on the pay of committee clerks.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., presented a memorial from the New York brewers for the removal of the duty on Canadian barley, as the United States production of barley is insufficient to supply their demand and as Canadian barley is of better quality.

MEMORIALS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. O'NEILL, (rep.) of Pa., presented a memorial asking an amendment to the constitution acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all civil power and the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler among nations; also a memorial of the professors and students of the Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, for the passage of the bill reorganizing the medical corps of the navy; also a petition of drafted men who served till the close of the rebellion, for additional bounty.

Mr. LAFLIN, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the remonstrance of Tilt Brothers and others, of Little Falls, N. Y., against the imposition of additional duties on steel.

Mr. KELSEY, (rep.) of N. Y., presented the preamble and resolutions adopted by the Union Wool Growers' Association of Ontario and Livingston counties, N. Y., at its annual meeting on the 2d inst., against the renewal of the so-called Reciprocity treaty with Canada.

The House then, at one o'clock, proceeded to the consideration of private reports from committees.

PAYMENT OF CHARLES W. WHITNEY.

Mr. ARCHER, (dem.) of Md., from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to pay $50,000 to Charles W. Whitney, for the enlargement of the iron-clad Keokuk. Objection being made that the bill made an appropriation it was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the private calendar.

PRIZE MONEY FOR THE CREW OF THE KEARSARGE.

Mr. PIKE, (rep.) of Me., from the Naval Committee, reported a bill to pay Commodore John A. Winslow and the officers and crew of the United States steamer Kearsarge $190,000, to be distributed as prize money, being the estimated value of the rebel piratical vessel Alabama, destroyed by the Kearsarge on the 19th of June, 1864. After some discussion and the insertion of a proviso that no money should be paid to the assignee of any mariner entitled to a share, but only to the mariner himself, his wife or his children, the bill was passed, by 85 yeas to 25 nays.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. BOUTWELL, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported the following bill to provide for the organization of a provisional government for the State of Mississippi. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

A bill to provide for the organization of a provisional government for the State of Mississippi.

Be it enacted, That for the better security of persons and property in Mississippi, the Constitutional Convention of said State, heretofore elected under and in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed March 2, 1867, entitled "An act for the more efficient government of the rebel States," and the several acts of Congress supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof, is hereby authorized to assemble forthwith upon the call of the President thereof, and in case of his failure for thirty days to summon said convention, then the Commanding General of the Fourth Military district is hereby authorized and required, by proclamation, to summon said convention to assemble at the capital of said State, and said convention shall have and is hereby authorized to exercise the following powers in addition to the powers now authorized by law, to wit:—To appoint a provisional governor; to make removals and appointments of all State, county, township and other officers of the provisional government of the said State; to authorize the provisional governor of said State to remove and appoint registers and judges of elections under said acts of Congress; to submit to the people of said State the constitution heretofore framed by said convention, either with or without amendments; to provide ordinance for holding all elections authorized by said acts of Congress, and for ascertaining and declaring the result of said elections, and especially of any election which may be held for the ratification or rejection of any constitution which said convention may submit to the people of said State; to exempt from attachment or sale on execution for debt household property and agricultural and mechanical implements and tools, not exceeding in value the sum of $500 in any one case; and to pass such ordinances, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States, as it may deem necessary to protect all persons in their lives, liberty and property; provided that said convention shall not continue in session for more than thirty days nor allow to the members thereof more than five dollars each per day as compensation nor more than ten cents per mile for travelling to and from the place of meeting.

SECTION 2. The several ordinances which may be passed by the Constitutional Convention of said State as herein provided, shall be in force in said State until disapproved by Congress or until Mississippi shall have adopted a constitution of State government, and the same shall have been approved by Congress; provided that nothing in this act contained shall deprive any person of trial by jury in the courts of said States for offences against the laws of said State.

SEC. 3. The military commanders in the cities of said State shall give aid to the officers of the provisional government of said State in preserving the peace and enforcing the laws, and especially in suppressing unlawful obstructions and forcible resistance to the execution of the laws.

SEC. 4. The said provisional governor may, after the adjournment of said convention, remove from office in said State any person holding office therein, and may appoint a successor in his stead, and may also fill all vacancies that may occur by death, resignation or otherwise, subject, however, to the order and directions of the President of the United States; and the President of the United States may at any time remove the said provisional governor and appoint a successor in his stead.

SEC. 5. Any persons who shall, by threats, intimidation, fraud or force, attempt to prevent any citizens of Mississippi from voting who may be entitled to vote shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000, or by imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor for more than two years, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 6. The courts of the United States and of said State shall have concurrent jurisdiction of cases arising under the fifth section of this act.

SEC. 7. The poll tax levied in any one year upon any citizen of Mississippi shall not exceed one dollar and fifty cents, and all laws in said State for the collection of taxes and debts shall be uniform, and every citizen shall be entitled to all exemptions and immunities in this respect of the most favored citizens or class of citizens.

SEC. 8. All acts and parts of acts so far as the same may be in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

PRIVATE CLAIMS.

Mr. PIKE, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to pay Richard M. Green for the use of his patent by the government. Referred to the Committee of the Whole, private calendar.

Also a bill to pay Foster & Tower, of New York, $2,251 for a difference in the cost of crucibles furnished to the New York Navy Yard. Passed.

Mr. BLAIRE, (rep.) of Mich., from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill directing United States agents to examine the claim of Knott & Co., American merchants, trading and doing business in China, against the Chinese government for loss of corn caused by the capture and robbery of the Neva, 1857, and if found to be just to cause its payment with interest.

The morning hour having expired while the report was being read the bill went over till the morning hour to-morrow.

MR. BUTLER'S RESOLUTION OF PROTEST.

The House then, at two o'clock, resumed the consideration of Mr. Butler's privileged question protesting against the manner of procedure and the orders of the President of the Senate *pro tem.* in counting the vote of Georgia in obedience to the order of the Senate only, and in dissolving the joint convention of the two houses at his own will, as an invasion of the rights and privileges of the House. Mr. Dawes, of Mass., occupied the chair as Speaker *pro tem.*

Mr. BENTON, (rep.) of N. H., having three minutes allowed him, proceeded to conclude the remarks which he had commenced at the close of yesterday's morning session in advocacy of the resolution.

Mr. WOODBRIDGE, (rep.) of Vt., having eight minutes allowed him, argued that in counting the electoral votes the House of Representatives was not a mere cipher; but had rights to sustain and duties to perform; and also that the decision of the presiding officer was correct in ordering the tellers to proceed with the count.

Mr. LOGAN, (rep.) of Ill., said he should not attempt to go over the questions discussed by the various gentlemen who had preceded him in the debate. He was in favor of having the rule governing the count of the electoral votes made clear and distinct. He was opposed to the adoption of the resolution, because he held that there was no intentional violation of the rule on the part of the presiding officer. He agreed with Mr. Woodbridge, that the error committed by the presiding officer was in receiving the objections of the gentleman from Massachusetts in the first place. He would not vote for any resolution that would contain the slightest sting or reflection on the brave and patriotic Senator from Ohio, and he purposed submitting a resolution to lay it on the table. So far as the conduct which had been characterized as disgraceful was concerned, he had naught to say. He was sorry to witness the scene; it was an exciting moment. There might be some excuse or palliation for some of the conduct that was witnessed. He did not participate in it, nor did he sympathize with either side then nor did he now. Who was it that the House was asked to censure? A man sixty-nine years of age, the presiding officer of the Senate, the presiding officer of the joint convention, a man who has been thirty years in harness, a man who stood in the vanguard, the old captain of the Legion of Liberty, on whose head Heaven has showered the bouquets of its sunshine, who stands to-day as the great living monument of this great age. The House was asked to inflict a sting upon that man because he had accidentally done wrong. Were members ready to do that? Were they ready to assign to ignominy a man who had been born a patriot, had lived a patriot and would die a patriot? Nothing would give him greater satisfaction than to have that resolution withdrawn. He did not believe there was a man in the House who could put his hand on his heart and say that he was ready to censure Ben Wade in the idea that he had acted from any improper motive.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass.—I never did say that. I never shall.

Mr. LOGAN—Hence I say that I should prefer to see the resolution withdrawn.

Mr. BUTLER—I never have believed, and I do not now believe, that Ben Wade ever meant to do or ever had done an intentional wrong; but I do believe that the privileges of the House have been invaded. That question has been discussed. It is necessary to have legislation, so that this will never happen again. Waiving all pride of opinion and with a distinct enunciation that I never have censured Ben Wade or meant to censure him for any intentional act of his, but that his act, acting under the Senate, acting under whatever influence he was, was an invasion of the privileges of the House. I am ready to withdraw the resolution and accept a substitute suggested by the gentleman from New York, Mr. Kelsey.

Mr. Kelsey's amendment was read, as follows:—

Resolved, That the subject of the amendment of the joint rules governing the convention of the two houses for counting the electoral votes for President and Vice President be referred to a select committee of five, with power to report by bill or otherwise.

Messrs. PRUYN, (dem.) of N. Y., and MULLINS, (rep.) of Tenn, had other substitutes which they desired to offer; but Mr. Logan declined to yield for that purpose.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., raised the question of order that the substitute did not present a privileged question, and that it was not germane to the original resolution.

The SPEAKER *pro tem.* (Mr. Dawes) overruled the point of order.

Mr. FARNSWORTH appealed from the decision of the Chair.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., moved to lay the appeal on the table. The motion was agreed to—yeas 131, nays 30.

Mr. LOGAN, resuming his remarks, said that longer discussion of the subject would keep up a disturbing element in the House. He had concluded that the discussion and the excitement should cease. He believed that the proper way to arrive at that result was to have the resolutions and amendment laid on the table. A resolution might then be offered and referred to a committee, disconnected entirely with the idea of censure, but looking merely to an amendment of the rule governing the counting of electoral votes. He therefore moved to lay the whole subject on the table.

The motion was agreed to—yeas 130, nays 55, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Ames, Ashley of Ohio, Baker, Barnes, Barnum, Beaman, Beatty, Beck, Benjamin, Bingham, Blaine, Bowen, Boyden, Boyer, Broomall, Buckland, Buckley, Burr, Butler of Tenn., Cake, Callis, Cary, Chanler, Churchill, Clarke of Ohio, Cobb, Coburn, Cornell, Dawes, Deweese, Dixon, Dockery, Dodge, Eckley, Eggleston, Elliott of Ark., Farnsworth, Ferry, Ferriss, Garfield, Getz, Glossbrenner, Griswold, Halsey, Haughey, Hawkins, Heaton, Holman, Hooper, Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hulburd, Hunter, Jenckes, Johnson, Jones of N. C., Judd, Kelley, Kellogg, Kerr, Ketcham, Kitchen, Knott, Koontz, Laflin, Lake, Lawrence of Pa., Lawrence of Ohio, Lincoln, Logan, Loughridge, Mallory, Marvin, McCarthy, McCormick, Miller, Moore, Moorhead, Morrell, Newcomb, Newsham, Niblack, Nicholson, Norris, Nunn, O'Neill, Orth, Paine, Perham, Peters, Pettis, Phelps, Pile, Plants, Poland, Polsley, Pomeroy, Price, Pruyn, Randall, Raum, Robertson, Sawyer, Scofield, Shellabarger, Smith, Spalding, Starkweather, Stewart, Stokes, Stone, Taylor, Thomas, Twichell, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Auken, Van Horn of N. Y., Van Trump, Washburne of Wis., Washburn of Mass., Wilson of Iowa, Wilson of Ohio, Wood, Woodbridge, Woodward and the Speaker—130.

NAYS—Messrs. Archer, Ashley, of Nev., Axtell, Baldwin, Banks, Benton, Boutwell, Bromwell, Butler, of Mass., Clark, of Kan., Cliff, Corley, Cullom, Dickey, Donnelly, Driggs, Ela, Eldridge, Eliot, of Mass., Fields, Golladay, Goss, Gove, Graver, Haight, Hamilton, Higby, Ingersoll, Jones, of Ky., Julian, Kelsey, Lynch, Marshall, Maynard, McKee, Mullins, Mungen, Pierce, Pike, Prince, Roots, Ross, Schenck, Shanks, Stevens, Stover, Sypher, Taffe, Trimble, of Tenn., Trowbridge, Van Horn, of Mo., Van Wyck, Ward, Washburne, of Ind., Whittemore—55.

A motion to reconsider was made and laid on the table, which closed the matter.

THE AIR LINE RAILROAD.

The next business taken up was the bill to authorize the building of a military and postal railroad from Washington to New York, the question being on its passage. The bill was passed—yeas 100, nays 54—as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Ashley of Nev., Ashley of Ohio, Banks, Barnes, Beatty, Beaman, Benton, Bingham, Blaine, Blaire, Boutwell, Bromwell, Buckland, Buckley, Cake, Callis, Clark of Kas., Cliff, Cobb, Coburn, Corley, Cornell, Covode, Cullom, Deweese, Dockery, Donnelly, Driggs, Eckley, Edwards, Ela, Eliot of Mass., Elliott of Ark., Farnsworth, Ferris, Ferry, Fields, French, Garfield, Goss, Hamilton, Haughey, Heaton, Higby, Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Jones of N. C., Judd, Julian, Kelsey, Lash, Lawrence of Pa., Lawrence of Ohio, Logan, Lynch, Mallory, McCarthy, McKee, Miller, Moorhead, Morrill, Mullins, Newcomb, Norris, Nunn, Orth, Paine, Plants, Perham, Pettis, Pierce, Pike, Pile, Polsley, Raum, Sawyer, Scofield, Shanks, Shellabarger, Starkweather, Stokes, Stover, Sypher, Trimble of Tenn., Upson, Van Aernam, Van Horn of Mo., Vidal, Ward, Washburn of Wis., Washburn of Ind., Welker, Williams of Pa., Williams of Ind., Wilson of Ohio, Wilson of Pa. and Windom—99.

NAYS—Messrs. Archer, Axtell, Baker, Baldwin, Barnum, Beck, Benjamin, Boyer, Broomall, Burr, Butler of Mass., Cary, Chanler, Dawes, Eldridge, Getz, Golladay, Grover, Haight, Halsey, Hawkins, Holman, Hubbard of W. Va., Hunter, Jones of Ky., Kelley, Kitchen, Knott, Laflin, Marshall, Marvin, Maynard, McCormick, Moore, Niblack, Nicholson, O'Neill, Phelps, Poland, Price, Pruyn, Randall, Robertson, Ross, Stone, Taylor, Thomas, Twichell, Van Auken, Van Trump, Washburn of Mass., Wood, Woodbridge and Woodward—54.

Messrs. Cook, Pomeroy, Dickey and Pettis, who were in favor of the bill, were paired off with Messrs. Kerr, Sitgreaves, Myers and Hill, who were opposed to it.

Mr. WOOD, (dem.) of N. Y., moved to amend the title by making it read:—"A bill to deprive the States of their constitutional jurisdiction over State territory and to take control of the railroad interests of the country. Rejected.

Mr. PRUYN asked leave to offer the following:—

Resolved, That in view of the question which arose on the late counting of the votes for President and Vice President of the United States it be referred to the Committee on the Revision of the Laws to inquire into the expediency of such legislation as it may be in the power of Congress to adopt, in order to regulate future proceedings in such cases, and also to provide that the Attorney General prepare and forward to the Governors of the several States proper forms which may be used by the Electors of President and Vice President in the discharge of the duties which devolve upon them by law.

Objected to by Mr. BENJAMIN, (rep.) of Mo.

The House then, at half-past four, took a recess until half-past seven, the evening session to be exclusively for the consideration of the tax bill.

Evening Session.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE BILL.

The House met at half-past seven in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Schofield in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the amendments reported from the Committee on Ways and Means to the Internal Revenue bill.

The proposition giving the appointment of all the subordinates to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, instead of to the Secretary of the Treasury, were agree to, with the understanding that if the House refused to erect the internal revenue bureau into a separate department the amendments would be struck out.

Various formal amendments were proposed by Mr. Schenck and agreed to.

Section fifty-nine was amended by making the special tax on distillers $200 a year where they produce fifty barrels or less, instead of $400 on distillers producing 100 barrels, with four dollars for each additional barrel. Also by modifying it so that a distiller who re-distills spirits so as to refine it shall not have to pay tax as rectifiers, and that all compounders of liquors shall be treated as rectifiers.

These concluded the amendments of the Committee of Ways and Means to the whiskey sections.

Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn., moved to make the special tax on distillers, referred to in the preceding paragraph, $100 a year on distillers producing twenty-five barrels or less.

Mr. SCHENCK opposed the amendment.

After about an hour's discussion as to the policy or impolicy of crushing out small distilleries and particularly such as distill from apples, peaches and grapes, the amendment offered by Mr. Maynard was adopted.

Section fifty-six, referring to distilled spirits in bonded warehouses, was, on motion of Mr. Schenck, amended by requiring the withdrawal on or before the 20th of April, 1869.

Mr. KELLEY moved to amend by extending the time to the 20th of April, 1870, and spoke in explanation and advocacy of his amendment.

Messrs. BECK and COVODE also spoke in support of it.

Messrs. SCHENCK and ALLISON opposed it.

On a vote being taken there was no quorum voting, and the amendment was temporarily withdrawn.

The committee then rose and the House at ten o'clock adjourned.

BRAZIL.

Admiral Davis at Buenos Ayres—Bliss and Masterman Under Arrest—New Positions of Lopez—The Fire in the Custom House.

RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 29, 1868.

The steamship City of Brussels leaves this morning for Europe, and I take the opportunity to give a few items of news gathered since the departure of the New York packet of the 26th.

Some further details and development have been had from the River Plate. Admiral Davis, with the gunboats, had arrived at Buenos Ayres with, I am assured, Porter C. Bliss and Masterman on board, under arrest. Admiral Davis is reported to be satisfied with the explanations made by Lopez and to be convinced that the Paraguayan President has been sinned against. The story is that Lopez produced irrefragable evidence that Bliss and Masterman had tried to promote a revolution against him; that ex-Minister Washburn was actively interested in getting it up; that he received money from Caxias, and that Lopez holds letters proving ex-Minister Washburn's implication and reception of money from Caxias.

General McMahon remained in Paraguay and had gone to Luque where Lopez's seat of government has been since the forcing of Humaita. Luque is situated about a dozen miles from Asuncion on the Asuncion and Villa Rica railroad, and is said to be a very strong place and one which will give the allies great trouble to capture. It is to Luque and not to Cerro Leon, that Lopez has gone with whatever troops are not garrisoning Angostura, and Luque will be his bulwark in advance of Cerro Leon, which is further in the interior.

Angostura still resisted at the last accounts, and in fact Caxias had not brought his army to its siege as it was necessary to reorganize his troops after the desperate fighting on the 11th. It was not probable anything serious will be attempted against Angostura for ten days, inasmuch as the army had not only to reorganize but to obtain ammunition and other supplies before it could assume the offensive again, and Angostura is said to be garrisoned by 6,000 Paraguayans, well munitioned and found, who are prepared to make another Humanita defence of it.

The losses of the Brazilian army in the fight of December 11 were so great that little more than one-half of the troops brought from the Chaco by Caxias remained fit for immediate service. Osorio, the second in command, was shot through the jaw, breaking the lower one, but was getting on well. The Brazilian forces were at one time so thoroughly beaten that Caxias, in despair, advanced with his staff into the fire, and was probably saved only by the devotion of the officers, who gathered around him and kept the balls from him. The day was retrieved by a body of troops under the Baron de Triumpho, who forced the passage of the stream, at a distance from the main forces, and by making a flank attack enabled the attacking column in front to establish itself on the other side and develop.

The letters from Buenos Ayres attach much weight to the fact of Varella having started up the Parana within a few hours after Admiral Davis' return to Buenos Ayres; and it is said that in consequence of Admiral Davis' communications that member of the Argentine government had gone to see the Argentine General Gelly y Obes, at Palmas.

Another supposed mission has created speculation. A transport was suddenly ordered off from Rio for Rio Grande do Sul, with despatches, it is confidentially said, to the Visconde de Porto Alegre, requesting him to assume either the chief or second command of the forces in compaign. Osorio being temporarily, at least, disabled, Marshal Argolo and another general wounded, and various officers of eminence killed, there is a scarcity of men possessing the confidence of the army as commanders of divisions and army corps; hence there is color for the belief that Porto Alegre is called on to re-enter into the campaign.

On Sunday morning about sick o'clock a fire broke out in the Custom House. Notice was given to the fire engine station of the city, but it was two hours before the engines from it arrived, in consequence of the need to send a course of despatches from each officer to his superior to ask orders. Even when some fire engines had arrived, and a large number of persons were assembled to aid in putting out the fire all were kept idle for a considerable time because none of the officials would take the responsibility of bursting open the doors, inasmuch as the "Senhor guardian of the keys was not there to open the doors, and the Custom House regulation forbade any one to enter unless the Senhor guardian of the keys was present to open the doors and permit his entrance." So the crowd and the engines waited outside until the Senhor guardian of the keys could be hunted up, wherever he might happen to be, and meantime the fire waited for nobody; and as even the watchmen, who should have been on duty inside, were anywhere but where they ought to have been the conflagration grew from a small matter to one threatening a terrible catastrophe should it reach the spirit stores.

Finally the curses and appeals of the parties owning goods in the Custom House prevailed over the official fear of responsibility. A door was burst by order of a foreign merchant and the Captain of the Port smashed in another. Engines from the foreign men-of-war were on hand and work began in earnest. As for the fire engines belonging to the Custom House, they were out of order and useless. A steam fire engine came down at ten o'clock, but it also was out of order and could not be got to duty before noon. The Inspector of the Custom House was at Petropolis for the day. He was telegraphed for; no use, the telegraph was also out of order.

The fire commenced in the store containing the fancy and valuable goods, landed a week before from the French packet, which were totally destroyed, along with the goods in two other burned up sheds. However, by the aid given from all sides the fire was kept confined to the three stores, and by one P. M. the danger of its spreading was virtually over.

The loss is supposed to amount to about $250,000, part of which was insured in various English and Brazilian insurance offices. The total amount of goods at present in the Custom House is estimated at $4,000,000 to $5,000,000.

The Emperor came down about eleven o'clock. Some persons set to work to cheer him, but he flared up and told them that it was no holiday festival they were at, but a day of national misfortune, and there was something else to be done than to be vivaing like a lot of children. He was also on hand all the next day, rather in the way of the work most of the time, it must be admitted, but the intention was good, and that is much.

The fire has temporarily stopped business and no exchange has been opened by the banks. Gold has rallied to 150 and sovereigns are 13$300.

CONNECTICUT.

New Haven.

FINED.—Yesterday, two men named James Butler and Edward Langford were brought up before the City Court charged with pedling without having obtained a city license. One was engaged in selling a patent medicine or preparation, and the other in selling clothes racks. The Court fined them each the costs of the prosecution.

PAROCHIAL GIFTS.—Tuesday evening last the members of the parish of the Church of the Ascension, numbering about 200 persons, paid a surprise visit to the rector, Rev. Mr. Andrews, at his residence, No. 96 York street, and presented him with a beautiful surplice and a handsome writing desk. A lady of the church made the presentation speech, and the rector feelingly replied. A Roman Catholic lady gave Mrs. Andrews a large loaf of cake elaborately ornamented.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS.—Since the terrible disaster at Danbury, caused by the breaking away of a dam, the citizens of Westville have thought it best to have an examination made of the dams of the Fairhaven Water Company, located on the West Rock range back of the village. Last spring one of the dams gave way in part, but was afterwards repaired. Through the action of the citizens an engineer has been employed to make a thorough examination of the dams and report as to their condition.

POLITICAL RUMORS.—In the democratic party there is going on just now quite a lively struggle for the nominations yet to be made, since securing a nomination is pretty certain to be followed by an election. For Congressional honors there is a fierce contest going on. Within the last few days prediction in regard to the result has changed. Formerly it was thought that James F. Babcock, Collector of the Port, would be the successful aspirant, but of late John L. Kendrick, of Waterbury, has been at work most assiduously all over the district, and rumor now accords to him the chances of success. The voice that comes from the power behind the throne also agrees with this. Mr. Chas. L. Chaplain, of New Haven, is still at work, but with feeble results. Mr. A. W. Phelps, the workingmen's candidate, has withdrawn from the field, and now seeks to go to the State Senate, which place also Mayor L. W. Sperry is desirous of securing. He will probably obtain it. For mayoralty honors Dr. Robertson is spoken of, while Alderman Chapman and Colonel Cahill are urged by their friends. The old City Clerk, William Downes, is threatened with displacement by Lieutenant James L. Hayes.