WASHINGTON

Protection to American Shipping in Cuban Waters.

Release of Fenian Prisoners in England.

The Jeff Davis Case Dismissed in the Supreme Court.

Passage of the Indian Appropriation Bill in the Senate.

The Proposed Transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department Defeated.

The Repeal of the Tenure of Office Act Under Discussion.

Passage of the Army Appropriation Bill in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1869.

Protection of American Interests in Cuba.

The following correspondence has just taken place, viz.:—

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17, 1869.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State:—

SIR—As American citizens we ask special protection for vessels and other property on the south side of Cuba, in the harbors of Tunas, Trinidad and Cienfuegos. We own a large amount of property, afloat and on shore, in these parts, and if the Admiral is advised, by telegraph or otherwise, he will be able to protect American interests in the region now specially exposed to danger. The magnitude of our interests in Cuba is shown by the fact that our firm paid last year from its Cuba business nearly one-fourth of the duty collected at this port. Yours, very truly, SAMUEL & WILLIAM WELSH.

MR. SEWARD'S REPLY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1869.

MESSRS. SAMUEL & WILLIAM WELSH, Philadelphia:—

GENTLEMEN—I have received your letter of yesterday's date, in which, as citizens of the United States, you make a request for special protection for vessels and other property on the south side of the island of Cuba, in the harbors of Tunas, Trinidad and Cienfuegos. I appreciate the anxiety which you, in common with other merchants having large interests in Cuba, feel at the present time, and since the receipt of your letter I have conferred with the Secretary of the Navy, who informs me that at least one-half the vessels under command of Admiral Hoff are now in Cuban waters, and the Admiral has of late been fully and frequently instructed to be vigilant and active in extending every proper protection to American interests in the regions referred to which are supposed to be especially exposed to danger. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The Corcoran Claim—Attempt to Blackmail.

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia had the Corcoran claim again under investigation this morning, but arrived at no conclusion in reference to it. The first witness examined was a clerk in one of the departments, named Emery, who testified that he gave information to a correspondent of a certain newspaper that the commission appointed to examine the Corcoran claim had agreed to report in favor of it. It is said it was the publication of this intention that set the wits to work of several unscrupulous persons to trump up charges that might hinder the success of the claim. The coachman of Baron Stoeckl was examined, and testified that the witness Brener, who swore that Mr. Corcoran and Senator Bayard had expressed themselves at the Russian Minister's table anxious for the assassination of President Lincoln, was no waiter at all, but a footman, and consequently never had an opportunity of hearing the expressions he described. There was a long and frivolous examination of this witness as to what kind and color of vest and pantaloons Brener wore, and whether a Butler might not adapt himself to the apparel of a footman. General McFerren testified that he had reported in favor of allowing the claim because he had been furnished with the necessary evidence to warrant him in doing so. Senator Cameron denied that he had written, when Secretary of War, a letter to Mr. Corcoran stating that he should be paid for such property of his as the government held in its possession. Mr. Corcoran, however, produced the letter, and though not bearing the genuine signature of Mr. Cameron there was no question that it was issued from his department when Secretary of War. At the end of the proceedings Mr. Corcoran expressed the belief that the whole affair was got up to extort money from him, an impression that was endorsed by his counsel, Mr. Kennedy.

The Army Appropriation Bill—Defeat of Butler's Amendment.

General Butler's amendment to the Army Appropriation bill was defeated to-day by a large majority, and a substitute proposed by Mr. Blaine adopted. Some persons are disposed to regard this as another triumph for General Grant in the House. If it is a triumph it cannot be said to be complete. The proposition which it was known met the approval of Grant was that submitted by General Dodge, of Iowa, which left the reduction of the army to the discretion of the President. That was, really, what Grant wanted; but even the most enthusiastic Grant men in the House were hardly prepared to place such unprecedented power in the hands of the President.

The Recent Assault on General Duncan, of the Patent Office.

Several days ago Mr. Dempsey, of the firm of Dempsey & O'Toole, who attacked General Duncan, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, on account of something the latter reported disparaging to the former in the Department of the Interior stationery contracts with that firm, appeared before a magistrate, acknowledged his assault on Mr. Duncan and was fined five dollars. This action on the part of the magistrate was urged by Mr. Dempsey's counsel as a reason why the Criminal Court should not proceed against the defendant, but Judge Fisher overruled the plea, and after examination of witnesses fined Mr. Dempsey $200, with ten days' imprisonment in jail as a punishment for the assault on Mr. Duncan.

Arrangements of Presidential Electors for Attending the Inauguration Ceremonies.

The Presidential Electors now in Washington held a meeting at the National Hotel this afternoon for the purpose of arranging for attending in a body the forthcoming inaugural ceremonies. Electors were present from Massachusetts, Nebraska, Tennessee, Iowa, Arkansas and Indiana. J. F. Warnes, of Nebraska, presided. A committee of arrangements was appointed, and all the Electors intending to participate were requested to report immediately by telegraph or letter, and upon their arrival, to L. J. Barnes, chairman of said committee, at No. 425 F street, Washington.

Release of the Fenian Prisoners in Ireland.

Mr. Thornton, British Minister, this afternoon communicated to Secretary Seward the following despatch from the British government:—

Inform Mr. Seward that orders have been given for the release from further custody of Costello and Warren.

General Grant's Visitors.

The President elect continues to receive a large number of visitors between the hours of ten and twelve each morning, and to-day showed no abatement in the popular desire to call upon the future head of the nation. Among the visitors to-day were a number of Senators and one or two naval officers.

The Suffrage Amendment.

The House Judiciary Committee has determined to report against the Senate amendment to the joint resolution proposing a suffrage amendment to the constitution. This action on the part of the committee will, it is thought, be sustained by the House. The committee have agreed to insist upon the amendment originally adopted by the House, because they deem it a fair expression of the sentiments of the House on that subject, having passed by a two-thirds vote. There is no necessity for the joint resolution submitting the amendment going to the President for his signature. The friends of the measure propose to make an effort to get it through, in some shape, before the close of the session.

Prize Money for Farragut's Fleet.

The Fourth Auditor of the Treasury is overwhelmed with letters from claimants for prize money due them for the captures made by Farragut's fleet at New Orleans, and for the pirate Alabama, under the impression that the recent legislation on these matters by the House has provided for the payment of their claims. The reply returned to all such inquiries is that the bills in relation to these claims have only passed the House and have yet to be acted upon by the Senate. These bills were passed in the Senate to-day, and as soon as the distribution can be arranged according to the provisions made in the respective bills the money will be ready for payment, of which due notice will be given.

Proposed Subdivision of the State of Texas.

The following resolutions have been laid before the Senate from the Republican State Convention of Texas:—

Whereas the extent of territory of the State of Texas, the conflicting interests of the widely separated sections of the State and the disorganization so widely prevalent, render a division of the State essential to the proper well being of the people thereof and the establishment of law and order; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention the State of Texas ought to be subdivided into States of more convenient size.

Resolved, That the President of this convention is hereby directed to forward a copy of this preamble and resolutions to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the United States.

Resolved, That for the purpose of giving the Congress of the United States a correct report of the condition of the State, and to bring to the attention of that body all such matters relating to the condition of the State and the wants of her loyal people as may require the consideration and action of Congress, the convention shall proceed to elect by ballot for commissioners members of this convention, one of whom shall be a resident of that portion of Texas lying north of the thirty-second parallel of latitude, one a resident of that portion of the State lying east of the Trinity river and south of said thirty-second parallel, one a resident of that portion of the State lying between the Trinity and Colorado rivers and south of said thirty-second parallel, and one a resident of that portion of the State lying west of the Colorado river, and two commissioners from the State at large, who, being intimately acquainted with the wants of their respective sections of the State, shall proceed to Washington city to bring to the attention of the United States all such matters relating to the condition of this State and the wants of her loyal people as in the judgment of this Convention or of said commissioners require the consideration of Congress.

Cabinet Meeting.

All the members of the Cabinet were present at the regular Cabinet meeting to-day. The session was short.

The Northern Pacific Railroad.

The Senate to-day, without opposition, passed the House joint resolution authorizing the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to mortgage its road and property and to issue bonds to aid in the construction of its railroad and telegraph line from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean. This, its friends say, removes from the company the restriction in its charter, and will enable it, with its land grant, to enter upon the work of construction without delay.

Abolishment of the Passport System in France.

The following has just been issued from the State Department:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1869.

Information has been received at the Department of State that the exhibition of passports will be no longer exacted from citizens of the United States arriving, traveling or residing in France. The Department, however, recommends that citizens of the United States travelling abroad, especially those of foreign birth naturalized in this country, should provide themselves with passports, as they might be liable to serious inconvenience if unprovided with such authentic proof of their national character.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The Fate of the Tax Bill.

The engrossment of the Internal Revenue Tax bill was completed by the enrolling clerks of the House to-day and the bill sent to the Senate. As already stated in these despatches, there is not the slightest chance of the bill passing the Senate at this session. It is not expected that it will even be reported from the Finance Committee.

Cost of Printing Congressional Debates.

The following is a comparative view of the statements accompanying the report of the Senate Committee on printing made to-day:—Cost of the *Daily Globe* for the Thirty-ninth Congress, $82,521; cost of the *Congressional Globe*, $209,178. Total, $291,699. Estimated cost of the same work under Messrs. Rivers and Bailey:—*Daily Globe*, $116,351; *Congressional Globe*, $273,104. Total, $389,455. Estimated cost under the proposal of Joseph T. Crowell:—*Daily*, $101,590; *Congressional*, $159,559. Total, $261,149. Estimated cost under the Congressional Printer:—*Daily*, $120,610; *Congressional*, $155,885. Total, $276,495.

Employment for Female Clerks.

General Jeffries, Register of the Treasury, has provided employment for the score or more of female employes of his bureau who have been so long idle by transferring them to the office of the Third Auditor, who now gives employment to sixty-eight women, borne on the rolls as belonging to the Register's office.

Personal.

Postmaster General Randall left for New York this evening, also County Clerk Loew.

Secretary Seward states that the report announcing that a leave of absence has been granted to Reverdy Johnson is an error. Minister Johnson has not yet applied for leave to return to the United States.

Report of the Majority of the Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads.

A majority of the Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads made a report to-day through Senator Stewart. They say:—

When it was determined, in committee, to report to the Senate a bill granting aid to the Northern Pacific and other railroads it was not understood the bill should be presented with a report. The majority of the committee would now be content to let the bill rest on its intrinsic merits, unaccompanied by an explanation of its provisions and a demonstration of its policy and necessity, were it not for the unexpected appearance, first in the newspaper press and afterwards in the Senate, of a most extraordinary paper entitled "Views of the Minority," a paper unsound in theory, unfair in its inferences and ungenerous and unjust in its imputations. To justify now the action of the majority of the committee they now report to the Senate the considerations which induced them to adopt the policy of aiding at the present time with government credit the construction of additional lines of trunk railway to the Pacific coast; and second, to vindicate the provisions of the bill which have been criticised by the minority of the committee in their published views. The majority present arguments and facts as a justification of their action in regard to the general railroad policy of the bill and a defence of its leading provisions. They assert that railroads—the highways of nations—are the measure of their civilization, and maintain that there is no object to which government can so profitably apply the expenditures of money as to the building of such highways. These should take precedence over any and all other objects of legislative endowment. The United States own the country between the Pacific and Lake Superior. The work of development is for the government. The population of the country is too thin and too poor to even undertake it. The work, moreover, is of such magnitude as to be wholly beyond the compass of private capital. It is of absolute necessity the government shall undertake it and help it through; and this it can do without the expenditure of a dollar in money or an increase of the public debt. In like manner, it is manifestly a public duty to utilize the enormous national capital that now lies idle. In the Southern region, between the western boundaries of Arkansas and the Pacific boundary of California, there is a vast national domain of corn, wheat, cotton and grass lands, too far from market to be profitably cultivated save for local consumption. Coal abounds in this region. New Mexico and Arizona are as rich in gold, silver, copper and lead as any other known portions of the world. This wealth is unavailable to the nation by reason of the cost of moving machinery and materials to it, or of moving the ores to machinery. The pasturage of the two great territories, pre-eminently fitted for fine wool sheep and cattle, which graze out the winter through, is lost to the country for want of cheap and easy access to it. The report then argues that a debtor government is bound to improve its assets; that the government is under obligations to give railroads to distant territories, that transcontinental railroads will give us what railways cannot give England or France, namely, increase of population by immigration, and that two additional trunk railways to the Pacific are necessary. A majority of the committee feel sure that the most experienced railroad operators in the United States will agree with them in saying that within a year after the Union Pacific is opened it will be unable to move the freight that will be crowded on it. They argue that a single line will be a monopoly. The South is entitled to a line. The Southern States have the same rights that the Middle or Northern States have. They have the right of access to the Pacific on their parallels of latitude; they have a right to their share of the transcontinental commerce between Asia and Europe. The North, too, is entitled to a Pacific railroad. The majority of the committee insist that additional lines are necessary to have uninterrupted communication. The Pacific railroads will settle the Indian question. The locomotive is the sole solution of it, as thereby the country will be gradually settled by taking the buffalo range out from under the savage and putting a vast stock and grain farm in its place. The railroads to the Pacific surely are a military necessity. The majority of the committee argue, in view of our commercial relations with China, Japan and India, which are being constantly extended, that it is incumbent upon the government to afford such sufficient channels of intercommunication as will secure the quickest and most certain transit to all points of our country, in view of this foreign trade, and to insure, as far as possible, the construction of additional roads at the earliest practicable period. The majority of the committee discuss at length the saving of treasure that two more roads would effect and how additional lines would otherwise pay the nation. The North Pacific Railroad will acquire for us the British Possessions; the South Pacific Railroad will annex Northern Mexico, and make the guarantee of the interest upon the roads' bonds perfectly safe. they answer the objection of untimeliness of present aid, and argue that so profitable are railroads that the Government could have afforded to build all the roads in the United States; and conclude by expressing the belief that the credit of the nation and the value of its securities will be enhanced and not diminished by our entering immediately upon the completion of our avowed policy of transcontinental railway extensions, and steadily pursuing it to the end.

Supreme Court.

In the Supreme Court to-day, in the case of The County of Douglas, plaintiff in error, vs. The State of Oregon, in error, to the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon, it was ordered by the Court that judgment of said Supreme Court in this cause be affirmed, with costs and interests per stipulation of counsel on file.

The United States, plaintiffs in error, against Jefferson Davis. Certificates of division in opinion between Chief Justice Chase and Judge Underwood, of the Circuit Court for the District of Virginia. On motion of Attorney General Evarts, it was ordered by the Court that these certificates of division be dismissed.

John S. Johnson, et al., appellants, vs. The United States. This cause was argued by Mr. Dorsheimer and Mr. Dick, of counsel for the appellants, and by Mr. Talbot for the appellees. This case involves 2,000 barrels of spirits, valued at $350,000, which were seized on the alleged ground of frauds.

Suits were entered at New York, Buffalo, Chicago and Dubuque.

Mr. P. Phillips called up the application for habeas corpus in behalf of Spangler and Arnold, prisoners at the Dry Tortugas. On the statement of the Attorney General that he was not ready to go on, the argument was adjourned to Friday next, the court directing attention to the effect of the act of 1867 on jurisdiction.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1869.

OMNIBUS RAILROAD BILL.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., from the majority of the Committee on the Pacific Railroad, submitted a report in opposition to the views of the minority on the omnibus railroad bill lately reported.

THE GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill to repeal the act fixing the headquarters of the General of the Army at Washington; requiring all orders of the President and Secretary of War to be issued by him, and, in case of his inability, by the next in rank, and providing that he shall not be released from command or assigned to duty elsewhere, except at his request, without the approval of the Senate, and that all contrary orders shall be null and void.

PRINTING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., from the Committee on Printing, made a report on the subject of reporting and printing the debates, and said he would ask the Senate to consider it to-morrow. He also made a report from the same committee upon the policy of continuing the publication by Congress of other public documents than those connected directly with or forming a part of Congressional proceedings.

THE PATENT LAWS.

Mr. FERRY, (rep.) of Conn., from the Committee on Patents, reported adversely the bill to repeal the sixteenth section of the act of March 2, 1861, relating to patents for inventions and discoveries previously patented abroad.

Mr. OSBORNE, (rep.) of Fla., from the same committee, reported against the petition of H. L. Emery, of New York, for the extension of the patent for the endless chain horse power.

DENVER AND RIO GRANDE RAILROAD.

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., introduced a bill granting the right of way and public lands in aid of the Denver, South Peak and Rio Grande Railroad. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill continuing the educational and collection departments of the Freedmen's Bureau until otherwise ordered by Congress, and also continuing the Freedmen's Hospitals at Washington, Richmond and other points until next July. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE OMNIBUS RAILROAD BILL.

On motion of Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., who stated that during the short remainder of the session the committee would not have time to act upon them, the Committee on Pacific Railroads were discharged from the further consideration of bills in aid of the following railroad enterprises, viz.:—The Southern Pacific, of Texas; the Union Pacific, southern branch; the Lawrence, Kansas and Gunymas; the Lake Superior and Sioux City; the Lake Superior and Puget Sound; the Idaho, Oregon and Puget Sound; the International Pacific, from Cairo to the Rio Grande; the Atlantic and California, thirty-second parallel line, and the Memphis, El Paso and Pacific, of Texas. Also from the further consideration of the House bills extending the time for the completion of the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad; the House joint resolution declaring the meaning of the acts relating to Pacific railroads, which direct the use of American iron in their construction—namely, that American iron must be used also in repairs and relaying the track; and the House joint resolution providing for the appointment of a board of commissioners to establish a tariff of prices for the transportation of freight and passengers on the Pacific railroads and branches.

PRINTING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES.

The Committee on Printing reported the following joint resolution:—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, &c., That the joint Committee on Public Printing is hereby authorized to contract on behalf of the general government with Joseph F. Crowell for the reporting and publication of the debates in Congress for the term of — years, on and from the 4th day of March, 1869, in accordance with the proposition submitted by him, provided that before the United States Senate shall be called upon to pay for any reporting or publication of the debates the accounts therefor shall be submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Printing, or to such other officer or officers as they may designate; and on their or his approbation thereof, as being in all respects according to the contract, it shall be paid for from the treasury of the United States after having passed the proper accounting officer thereof.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That in case the joint Committee on Public Printing are unable to conclude a contract with the said Crowell, or that he be unable to fulfil any contract that he may make, the joint Committee on Printing be authorized to have the debates reported and printed under the direction of the Congressional printer at the government printing office.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose aforesaid there be appropriated and paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated —— dollars.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, &c., That the Congressional printer is hereby authorized and directed, on and from the 4th day of March, 1869, to report and publish the debates in Congress, under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing.

SEC. 2. That for the purpose aforesaid there shall be appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated —— dollars.

PEONAGE IN NEW MEXICO.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of Kansas, introduced a bill to abolish and forever prohibit peonage in New Mexico.

SALE OF THE HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill for the sale of the Hot Springs reservation in Arkansas.

CAPTURES BY FARRAGUT'S FLEET.

Mr. GRIMES, (rep) of Iowa, called up the bill in relation to the captures made by Admiral Farragut's fleet in the Mississippi in 1862. In reply to a question by Mr. Trumbull he said that the bill did not give the officers or men of the fleet anything more than they would be entitled to under existing laws, but would have merely a technical effect. The bill was passed.

DESTRUCTION OF THE ALABAMA.

Mr. GRIMES then called up the bill to compensate the officers and crew of the Kearsarge for the destruction of the Alabama. It gives to Commander Winslow and his crew $100,000.

GOLD MEDAL FOR COMMANDER KIRKLAND.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, (rep.), of Mass., a bill was passed authorizing Commander Kirkland, of the navy, to accept a gold medal from the Emperor of France.

COURTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.), of Ill., from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported, with amendments, the bill determining the several terms and acts of the Circuit, District and Criminal courts of the District of Columbia to be terms and acts of the Supreme Court of the District. The amendments consist of additional sections providing for the appointment of an additional associate justice for said court; that whenever, at a session in general term held by four of its justices, the court shall be equally divided in opinion either party in the cause may demand a rehearing before the five justices; and that the powers now held by the Orphans' Court shall be exercised by the justices holding a special term of the Supreme Court for that purpose.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SCRIP.

Mr. POMEROY, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported, with an amendment, the bill amendatory of the act of July 27, 1868, relating to the location of Agricultural College scrip. As amended the bill provides, simply, that all such scrip shall be received from actual settlers in payment of preemption claims in the same manner as is now authorized by law in the case of military bounty land warrants.

RAILROAD LAND IN MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. POMEROY also reported adversely to the House bill to declare forfeited to the United States certain lands granted in aid of the construction of railroads in Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida.

REORGANIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Mr. TRUMBULL, called up the bill to reorganize the judicial system of the United States. (An abstract of the bill was published some days ago.) It fixes the number of judges of the United States Supreme Court at nine, and provides for the appointment of circuit judges to perform the circuit duties now performed by the judges of the Supreme Court, but requires that each of the latter shall do circuit duty for at least one term every two years.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., began a speech in opposition to the provision of the bill for circuit, but was interrupted by the expiration of the morning hour, which brought up the unfinished business.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. THUMBULL asked Mr. Morrill, in charge of the Appropriation bill, to consent to its temporary postponement, so that the bill to reorganize the judicial system might be disposed of, but

Mr. EDMUNDS objected, because he was pledged to see whether some action could not be had on the Tenure of Office act as soon as the Senate should have finished the consideration of the Appropriation bill.

THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL

was then taken up, and several additional amendments proposed by the Committee on Indian Affairs were adopted.

Mr. STEWART offered, as an additional section to the bill which lately passed the House, an amendment transferring the control of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, and made a brief speech in favor of the transfer.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., said that if this bill were to be attached to the Appropriation bill the effect would be to sink the latter for this occasion.

Mr. STEWART did not believe that his amendment would delay action at all upon the appropriation bill, because it was not a new and unconsidered proposition, but one which had been recommended by the President-elect and other high army officers, and had met the approval of the House.

Messrs. MORRILL and POMEROY objected to the Senator from Nevada attempting to influence the action of the Senate by citing the action of the House.

Mr. MORTONS (rep.) of Ind., said that, without expressing any opinion as to the merits of the amendment of the Senator from Nevada, he would vote against it, because he thought it ought not to be proposed in this place and at this time.

Mr. EDMUNDS thought it very appropriately offered as an additional section of the Indian appropriation bill, and said that although he had before voted against the proposed transfer he had since obtained further light on the subject, and would now vote for it.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., said that it was entirely in order to mention in the Senate the fact that the House had already acted upon the pending proposition, and also that he was himself in favor of the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Ind., was opposed to the transfer. He thought Indian agents generally just as honest as quartermasters or commissioners, and predicted that if the transfer were made as proposed the Indian Bureau, under the War Department, would cost six times as much as it does now.

Mr. SPRAGUE, (rep.) of R. I., took the same view. He believed that the radical defect was in the system of dealing with the Indians—a defect which could not be remedied by any administration of the system, however honest. The proposed transfer was wrong in principle. The business of the State Department or the Treasury Department might be transferred to the War Department with as much propriety as the business of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The amendment of Mr. Stewart was then rejected by a vote of 26 nays to 8 yeas, the yeas being Messrs. Anthony, Conkling, Edmunds, Grimes, Harris, Howe, Morgan and Stewart.

The Appropriation bill was then passed.

THE TENURE OF OFFICE BILL.

On motion of Mr. EDMUNDS, the bill to repeal the Tenure of Office act was then taken up, whereupon, at a quarter to eleven o'clock, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1869.

RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS.

Mr. KETCHAM, (rep.) of N. H., presented the resolutions of the Assembly of the State of New York, asking Congress to pension the surviving soldiers of the war of 1812.

Mr. VAN WYCK, (rep.) of N. Y., presented similar resolutions. Also the petition of a thousand citizens of Newburg, N. Y., in favor of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States so as to acknowledge Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler among nations and the Bible as of supreme authority.

Mr. O'NEIL, (rep.) of Pa., presented resolutions of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, praying Congress to secure to American shipping in Spanish ports an equalization of tonnage dues and port charges with those imposed on the shipping of the most favored nations.

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House then took up the amendments reported from the Committee of the Whole to the Army Appropriation bill. All the amendments reducing the ordinary appropriations were agreed to.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., having ten minutes allowed him, expressed his acknowledgments to Mr. Butler, of Mass., for the great information contained in his speech of Wednesday night, but still he preferred the amendment offered by Mr. Blaine to that offered by Mr. Butler. His faith in the capacity, integrity and purpose of General Grant equalled that so beautifully expressed by the gentleman from Massachusetts, and he was therefore indisposed to cast a vote to-day that would seem to imply a lack of confidence in General Grant. He, too, wanted the supernumerary officers of the army mustered out; but he wanted them to be the worthless officers, or those who may be summoned by death. He appealed to the republican party in Congress to show its trust and confidence in General Grant, and not to deprive him by crude legislation—by a patchwork bill—of the power to assure his great aspiration,—"Let us have peace." Leave to him, he said, the power to retain soldiers enough to make the carpet bagger's life safe in the wilds of Texas, and the life of the hardy pioneer on the plains as safe as it would be in his New England or Pennsylvania home.

Mr. BLAINE, (rep.) of Me., appealed to the House not to agree to the amendments striking out the item of $200,000 for military surveys, reducing the appropriations for the Rock Island Armory and Arsenal from $1,000,000 to $500,000, or to the amendment offered by Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, for the reduction of the army.

The Rock Island item provoked a rapid and heated discussion, such as it usually does provoke whenever the subject comes up. It was participated in by Messrs. Blaine, Price, Scofield, Phelps, Benton, Farnsworth and others.

In the midst of the discussion on Rock Island Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., obtained the floor and made a final appeal to the House in favor of his amendment for the reduction of the army. He characterized the amendment offered by Mr. Blaine as a delusion. It only provided for consolidation as officers were reduced by death or court martial. There would not be by it a single dollar saved, a single servant cut off; but the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley), a new recruit, came here this morning and told the House that it must trust General Grant. The difficulty was that the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Maine did not trust General Grant. Under it he could not muster out a single officer. The only trust they would have to get rid of an officer would be in Almighty God to bring him to an end, for he would not resign. (Laughter.) The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelley) said that a large army was necessary in order to keep the peace; but if they name the policy the moral power of the election of General Grant would not keep the peace in Texas. An army scattered over that territory would be of no avail. There was not going to be any organized opposition to an army. It was going to be stealthy murder; not in the presence of soldiers, but behind their backs. Another fact was that one-fourth of all the United States soldiers in Texas were ex-Confederate soldiers, recruited from the Confederate army, and they were not to be relied upon in any question between their old brethren in arms and citizens of the United States. As to the argument that the army would decrease by natural depletion, he reminded the House that there was a school at West Point which turned out officers for the army as fast as officers died. The argument, also, had been made that members did not know anything of the subject, and that therefore they must turn the matter over to General Grant. In reply to that he would say the constitution puts it on the representatives of the people. Any gentleman who says he does not understand it had better learn or go home—he has no business here. It is his duty to understand it. We have no business to come here if we do not know how to do the duties which the constitution devolves upon us. The constitution sends us here to legislate, not to take the *ipse dixit* of any man. Here is a case of economy. Here is a saving of thirty millions of taxes. Let us see whether this talk of economy, this kicking of some poor claimants, this overthrowing of a small appropriation for some public work is to occupy our time while this great question is to have the go-by.

Mr. BLAINE made an earnest appeal to the House against the adoption of Mr. Butler's amendment. He hoped the House would not vote to deprive General Sherman of the chance to attain the rank of General of the Army; and that it would not deprive Generals Sheridan or Thomas of the chance to attain the grade of Lieutenant General; and that it would not render necessary the mustering out of Generals Meade or Hancock as Major Generals. That would be the effect of the adoption of the amendment. He admitted that there was much in the amendment that was meritorious, but there were provisions in it which he thought the House would not approve. The amendment which he (Mr. Blaine) had moved, just tied up the army so that there should be no appointments or promotions until Congress could take hold of the whole question; and by this means, under the administration of General Grant, the army could be very rapidly reduced. In conclusion, he asked consent to modify his amendment.

Mr. BUTLER objected.

Mr. BLAINE—I only want to perfect my amendment.

Mr. BUTLER—You cannot perfect anything that is bad all over.

Mr. BLAINE went on to say that under his plan the process of reduction would begin the moment the bill was approved. It was safe, prudent and wise to take this step, but it was difficult to go beyond it.

Mr. BOYER, (dem.) of Pa., asked unanimous consent to offer an amendment directing the Secretary of War to consolidate the quartermaster's department, the commissary department, and the pay department into one department, to be called the department of supply.

Mr. HOOPER, (rep.) of Mass., objected.

The Rock Island appropriation was still further debated, by Messrs. Logan and Pruyn in favor of it, and Mr. Maynard against it. Finally the debate ended, and the House proceeded to vote on the various amendments.

The amendment striking out the sum for military surveys was agreed to. The amendment reducing the Rock Island appropriation from $1,000,000 to $500,000 was disagreed to—yeas 79, nays 90—and the appropriation remains at $1,000,000.

The question was then taken on the substitute, offered last night by Mr. Blaine, for the conjoined amendments of Messrs. Dodge and Butler. The substitute was agreed to by a vote of 111 to 64. It is as follows:—

And be it further enacted, That until the military force is reduced to twenty regiments of infantry, five regiments of cavalry, and five regiments of artillery, no new commissions shall be issued in any regiment; and the Secretary of War is hereby directed to consolidate regiments as rapidly as the requirements of the public service and the reduction of the number of officers will permit, until the aforesaid minimum is reached.

And be it further enacted, That until otherwise directed by law there shall be no new appointments and no promotions in the Adjutant General's Department, in the Inspector General's Department, in the Pay Department, in the Quartermaster's Department, in the Ordnance Department, or in the Medical Department.

Mr. ELDRIDGE moved to lay the bill on the table. Negatived. The bill was then passed.

NEW YORK ELECTION FRAUDS.

Mr. BLAIR, (rep.) of Mich., from the Committee on New York Election Frauds, offered a resolution directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest and bring before the bar of the House two recusant witnesses, John H. Bell and David W. Reeve, of Orange county, N. Y.

Messrs. ROSS, (dem.) of Ill., and KERR, (dem.) of Ind., of the minority of the committee, objected; that the resolution was not authorized by the committee, or at least that they were not notified of any meeting of the committee at which the subject was to be considered.

Mr. BLAIR stated that he was authorized by a majority of the committee to report the resolution.

The SPEAKER put the question to the House whether the resolution should be received, and it was received and agreed to.

REDUCTION OF MARINE CORPS AND NAVY.

Mr. PIKE, (rep.) of Me., from the Committee of Conference on the bill to amend certain acts in relation to the Navy and Marine Corps, made a report. The most important provision to which the committee agree is that fixing the strength of the Marine Corps as follows:—One brigadier general, commandant; one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, three majors, one adjutant and inspector, one quartermaster, one paymaster, one assistant quartermaster, seventeen captains, twenty-four first lieutenants, twenty-four second lieutenants, one sergeant major, one quartermaster sergeant, one drum major, one principal musician, 167 sergeants, 165 corporals, thirty musicians, fifty drummers, fifty fifers, 1,800 privates. It provides, however, that no commission of any officer now in the Marine Corps shall be vacated, but that no appointment shall be made in any of the grades until the number is reduced below that authorized.

In reference to the navy, the report provides for the abolition of the grade of third assistant engineers, but that no commission to that grade of any officer wounded in battle shall be vacated, and it allows such officer to be examined for promotion. It also provides that no promotion to the grade of commodore on the active list shall be made till the number in such grade shall have been reduced below fifteen; of lieutenant commanders till the number shall be reduced below eighty. As the number of lieutenant commanders is reduced the number of lieutenants is to be increased till the number of lieutenants on the active list shall be 280. It fixes the number of masters and ensigns at 100 in each grade. Ensigns are to be storage officers, unless assigned to duty as watch and division officers. It does not vacate any of their commissions. It fixes the number of surgeons at seventy-five, of passed assistant surgeons at fifty, of assistant surgeons at twenty-five; paymasters, fifty; passed assistant paymasters, twenty-six; assistant paymasters, twenty-five; but does not vacate any commissions now held. It continues the office of Solicitor and Naval Judge Advocate General until the 13th of June, 1869.

Mr. PIKE explained the report.

Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., opposed it as containing the same vicious principles of reduction by absorption which he had been contending against in connection with the army.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, in allusion to Mr. Butler, said it occurred to him that the failure to effect reform arose sometimes from the fact that an attempt was made in so extreme a manner—in so harsh a manner—that the very object sought for was defeated. He proposed to take the form of reduction proposed in the report.

Mr. ROBINSON, (dem.) of N. Y., advocated the report, and spoke in commendation of the Marine Corps.

Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn., suggested the stopping of the accretion of naval officers from the Academy, and recommended that the cadets when they had completed their education should be allowed to return to civil life. He wished some such provision made, and therefore he would vote against the report, so as to have another committee of conference.

A discussion arose as to the relative pay of naval and army officers between Messrs. Garfield, Pike, Logan and others, in the course of which Mr. Logan spoke of one commodore receiving $900,000 in prize money.

Mr. PIKE asked him the name of that officer.

Mr. LOGAN said that the gentleman as chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs ought to know.

Mr. PIKE said he did not know, and he expressed his belief that no one commodore had received as much as one hundred thousand dollars, and that the majority of the commodores had not received as much as one thousand dollars. What they did receive they received under the prize laws, and no one, not even the gentleman from Massachusetts, proposed to repeal the prize laws.

After further discussion the report of the Conference Committee was agreed to without division.

The House at half-past four took a recess until half-past seven, the evening session to be devoted to the discussion of appropriation bills exclusively.

Evening Session.

The House resumed its session at half-past seven. Mr. BOUTWELL in the chair as Speaker *pro tem.*

ARREST OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN CUBA.

Mr. KELLEY offered a resolution directing the Secretary of State to take immediate measures to ascertain the cause of the arrest and incarceration, by order of the Captain General of Cuba, of Emilio Cabada, a citizen of the United States. Adopted.

EXPENSE OF THE FUNERAL OF THADDEUS STEVENS.

On motion of Mr. BUTLER, of Mass., the expense of removing the remains of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens from Washington to his house in Pennsylvania were ordered to be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

REPORT OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. CHURCHILL, (rep.) of N. Y., from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to define felonies and misdemeanors, and to regulate peremptory challenges. Passed.

The bill provides that all offences against the United States, punishable by death or by imprisonment for not less than five years, unless otherwise expressly provided, be taken and deemed to be felonious; all others to be taken as misdemeanors unless otherwise expressly provided. On trials the punishment whereof is death the United States and defendant are each to be entitled to twenty peremptory challenges; where the punishment is imprisonment for not less than five years to ten peremptory challenges, and in all other cases to five peremptory challenges. When two or more persons are on trial together they shall join in their peremptory challenges.

POST OFFICE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House then, on motion of Mr. BEAMAN, (