WASHINGTON

THE CABINET DIFFICULTY.

Solution of the Problem of Mr. Stewart's Ineligibility.

HE WITHDRAWS FROM BUSINESS.

Donation of His Income to National and New York City Charities.

A Coach and Six Driven Through the Law of 1789.

REMOVAL OF SOLICITOR BINCKLEY

A Short Session Agreed Upon in a Caucus of Senators.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1869.

Mr. Stewart's Case—A Plot of Politicians to Control the Treasury—False Rumors of His Resignation and Mr. Boutwell's Appointment—General Excitement in Town.

It will be a godsend to all classes here and to the country at large when Mr. Stewart's case is decided. At present it is provocative of more botheration, soreness, contradiction and hard lying than any one matter that has developed itself here for at least a twelvemonth; and all this unpleasant result has been brought about not so much by the resurrected statute of 1789 as by the scheming of an unscrupulous political cabal, having for its aim the control of the Treasury Department. It seems pretty well established now that the rumor, started last night and industriously circulated this morning, about Mr. Stewart's intended withdrawal and Governor Boutwell's elevation to the Treasury was only a part of the work of this cabal. The object in view might not readily strike every one. It was simply this:—Mr. Stewart had authorized the statement that unless Congress should promptly repeal the disabling section he would certainly retire, not deeming it of sufficient importance to raise a contest over a matter which to him personally was of no great moment. The cabal then resolved to do something that would have a tendency to make Mr. Stewart believe President Grant desired him to resign and at the same time cause a delay in the action of the Senate to-day. Both these objects, they believed, would be accomplished by the circulation of a rumor that Mr. Stewart had resigned and Governor Boutwell was to be nominated in his place. The thing was agreed upon in secret conclave, and then the rumor was set afloat so that it might not only reach the ears of leading correspondents, but also be brought before Mr. Stewart himself.

The plot succeeded with many of the newspaper correspondents, but failed with Mr. Stewart. The latter had been in company with the President too much of the day and knew his feelings too well to be deceived in that way. But it is surprising how generally the story gained credence here to-day. Early in the forenoon it was all over town, in everybody's mouth, and talked of as a thing that was beyond question. In the departments, especially the Treasury, it was regarded as something about as fixed as that Grant was President. The clerks of the Treasury were so full of it that as a rule they could do no business—they wanted to talk about Stewart's resignation and about his successor. Some of them had seen the man who saw the other man who saw the letter of resignation. How could any one doubt after that? One clerk knew so much about it that he quoted a whole sentence in the letter and parts of other sentences. The clerks discussed not only Boutwell's fitness but the qualifications of a score of other persons deemed likely for the position in case Boutwell should not turn out to be the lucky man after all.

Rumors Thickening.

During the afternoon the thing got magnified to still larger proportions. Reports were circulated that Boutwell's name had not only been sent to the Senate but was actually confirmed. These reports set the Treasury clerks in a furor, and in an instant made them all profound admirers of Governor Boutwell. They discovered that they had all known from the start that Boutwell would be the man; that he was the most fit and proper person; that he was an eminent financier, and a man whose like the world had never seen before. Anybody who ventured to suggest that they had been misinformed was drowned in a torrent of contradictions, and any one who advised them to keep cool until they might be certain was told indeed that they knew their business and were not to be scared from honestly expressing their opinions as free American citizens. Many of these same outspoken clerks had been lauding to the sky others than Boutwell only a brief period before. Most of them, no doubt, to-morrow will be striving to cover their retreat from their boldness to-day by ingenious explanations if not downright denials.

The Senate Dubious.

But the Senate was the place where the greatest interest centred. The rumors had gathered an unusual throng there, and the galleries and lobbies were crowded. It was expected that a message would come from President Grant informing Senators of Mr. Stewart's withdrawal, and asking them to confirm Boutwell or some one else for the Treasury Department. The plan of the cabal was working famously, in one part of it at least. The public was humbugged, and even the illustrious Senate was in a fog about the matter. Many Senators believed the story about Stewart's resignation and were looking momentarily for General Porter's appearance with a message from the White House. But an hour went around, and no message. Something must be wrong, thought Senators. Half an hour more, and no message. There was a hitch certainly now; no message would come, and so Senator Grimes moved for an adjournment, which was carried. This threw the spectators into a fever. What could be up now, thought everybody. All attempts to fathom the movement proved fruitless. Senators appealed to by the spectators could throw no light upon it; all they knew was that they knew nothing whatever about it; they wanted information quite as much as anybody else. It was, therefore, no use to hang about the Senate, waiting for anything to turn up. The crowd left the Senate and the Capitol and scattered about.

Mr. Stewart has Not Resigned.

Just about this time a new discovery was made. It was found that Stewart had not resigned, but, on the contrary, that he had made a proposal to overcome the difficulty in his way that struck everybody who heard of it with complete amazement. This proposition was nothing short of a transfer, during the term of his service as Secretary of the Treasury, of his entire interest in the profits of his immense business, the proceeds during such time to be devoted to charitable purposes in the city of New York. Six millions a year donated to the charities of New York! Only fancy it!

But before dwelling on this offer more fully at this point let me go back a little and explain what occurred earlier in the day. After breakfast in the morning Mr. Stewart and Judge Hilton went to the White House and had a long interview with the President. Mr. Stewart told the President that his resignation was at his disposal at any time, and that he must not allow himself to be embarrassed in the slightest degree by his friendship for him, Stewart, personally. The President responded that he earnestly desired Mr. Stewart's valuable assistance as Secretary of the Treasury, and that it pained him very much to discover that there was any difficulty in the way. He felt more troubled by the difficulty than by anything that had ever before occurred to him during his whole life. He, however, declined to allow Mr. Stewart to withdraw; for he believed the repeal could be effected without much serious opposition in both houses. He, therefore, asked Mr. Stewart not to abandon the matter yet, but to wait until some further light could be shed upon the probable action of the Senate to-day. Mr. Stewart replied that he did not desire to have the repeal pressed upon Congress, and would rather withdraw than occasion the slightest embarrassment to the President or Congress. The President urged again upon Mr. Stewart to let the matter remain in *statu quo* for the time being. Mr. Stewart and Judge Hilton thereupon left the White House and returned to the Ebbitt Hotel. Judge Hilton here took leave of Mr. Stewart and went down to the Capitol, accompanied by General Babcock, to learn the result of the caucus. From some of the Senators Judge Hilton learned that at the caucus no action was taken upon the subject of repealing the statute of 1789. It was talked about generally in the caucus, but action was postponed under the supposition that Mr. Stewart had resigned and that therefore nothing need be done about it until the truth of that statement should be assured. Senator Fenton informed the Senators that in his opinion there was not a particle of truth in the story of Stewart's resignation. On being asked, however, whether he could state that fact positively he declined to do so, and so the caucus adjourned without settling the question one way or the other. This explains the action of the Senate subsequently, in adjourning without a word being said concerning either Patterson's or Sherman's measures of repeal.

President Grant's Opinion of Mr. Stewart.

Judge Hilton, upon receiving this information, got into his carriage again, and was driven once more to the White House. He was admitted to the President without delay, and then and there had a most interesting talk. He told the President how the Senate had been induced, under a false impression, to postpone taking any action on the all important question. President Grant again expressed his deep regret at the delay, and repeated his expressions uttered at the first interview as to how much he was pained and embarrassed by the situation, and how earnestly he desired the services of Mr. Stewart in his Cabinet. It had been his purpose all along, he said, to invite Mr. Stewart to assume control of the Treasury Department, and if he should now be obliged by a legal difficulty to abandon his long cherished design he would feel that he himself and the country had sustained a great loss. The President then proceeded to unbosom himself completely on the subject of Mr. Stewart's appointment. During his many visits to New York, he said he had visited the establishments of Mr. Stewart, had noticed the wonderful regularity of everything, the order, system and smooth working of every department, and had been so profoundly impressed with the capacity of Mr. Stewart for the highest administrative duties that he had made up his mind Mr. Stewart was the very man needed for the Treasury Department. Mrs. Grant had also set her heart upon having Mrs. Stewart in Washington with her, and had frequently expressed a desire that Mr. Stewart should be offered some suitable post that would induce him and his estimable lady to remain in Washington. Should Mr. Stewart's appointment fail, therefore, it would be a double disappointment. He would not yet give it up, however. He felt confident the Senate and House would still repeal the disabling section, and stated that he had strong assurances from leading Senators and Representatives to support his belief.

A Noble Proposition by Mr. Stewart.

After a very long interview Judge Hilton took leave of the President and returned to his hotel. He found Mr. Stewart alone in his room and in a very thoughtful mood. "Judge," said Mr. Stewart, "a new idea has occurred to me since we parted. I have been thinking it over in my mind, and I think it is one that will obviate the difficulty." "Indeed," said Judge Hilton, smiling, "what is this new idea, then?" "It is this, Judge. I have been thinking of making an absolute transfer of the business of my establishments during the term I might serve as Secretary of the Treasury; the business to be turned over to three trustees—as, for instance, yourself, William B. Astor and James Brown—the proceeds to be devoted to the charities of New York city, in any way agreed upon by the trustees. What do you think of it, Judge?" Judge Hilton, who understands Mr. Stewart thoroughly, was not in the least surprised at the proposal. Any other man perhaps would have been amazed, but Judge Hilton was not, in the least. Instead, therefore, of uttering exclamations of wonder, the Judge, after mentally revolving the proposal, answered briefly, "By George, Mr. Stewart, I believe it can be done! Yes, sir, I think it can be done!"

How Grant Received the Proposition.

he two thereupon set to work, rapidly maturing the plan, and after spending about half an hour thus their carriage was called for again. They put on their coats and hats, ran down stairs, jumped into the carriage and off again to the Executive Mansion. Another visit and so soon, called into President Grant's face an expression as nearly resembling astonishment as his calm features are susceptible of. When they entered he was sitting in his chair at the end of the long table, smoking a cigar. He got up to receive them, and after his visitors were seated resumed his own chair and cast towards them a curiously inquisitive look, as much as to say, "What in the world is to come now?" He was not long left in suspense. Mr. Stewart opened conversation. "Mr. President," said he, "I have come to make a proposal, which I hope will be acceptable and the same time relieve you of all embarrassment." The President here listened with some expression of solicitude. He expected, no doubt, Mr. Stewart was about to say, "I tender you my unconditional resignation." Mr. Stewart continued, and as he spoke Grant listened with deeper and deeper attention. Finally Mr. Stewart stated his proposal distinctly. President Grant took the cigar out of his mouth, let it drop on the floor, and looked strongly in Mr. Stewart's face without uttering a word. Mr. Stewart broke the silence by asking, "Is the proposal acceptable to you?"

PRESIDENT GRANT—"Acceptable! Of course it is. It is the most magnanimous thing I ever heard of in my whole life. Acceptable, of course; but I was only thinking whether I ought to allow you, sir, to make such a sacrifice for my sake."

Mr. STEWART—Never mind that, General. I have enough to live on for the rest of my life. It will be pleasure to me to do this. My affection for you and desire to serve my country, if I can, prompt me to do it; and if it is acceptable to you I will do so.

President GRANT—Of course it is acceptable; but you are sacrificing a great deal of money for me, and I am thinking that it is a question whether I ought to permit it.

Mr. STEWART—Don't mind that part of it, General. Providence has been very good to me. He has done more for me than I deserve, and I do this thing now very cheerfully. Do you think the plan will satisfy the legal difficulties, and meet with the approval of Congress?

President GRANT—I have no doubt it will.

Mr. STEWART—Then I shall take the necessary steps to do it.

Judge HILTON—I have advised Mr. Stewart that the plan he proposes will remove all legal obstructions, but I wish to consult with distinguished legal gentlemen on the subject. It is better, therefore, before doing anything further on the subject to consult with such distinguished lawyers and judges as may be in the city.

After some further conversation Mr. Stewart and Judge Hilton took leave of the President again. To complete the story, I have to add that the plan for the transfer was drawn, submitted to several distinguished judges and lawyers and approved. To a number of gentlemen who called upon him this evening about the matter, Mr. Stewart said:—"Gentlemen, I do this on account of my esteem for General Grant. He thinks I can serve him in the Cabinet. I will do my best to do so. I have no friends to reward, no enemies to punish, no children to provide for. I desire to serve my country only in this business."

To night Judges Hilton and Davis are occupied in drawing up the necessary legal documents, which will be ready for execution to-morrow.

Effect of the Proposition on the People.

To say that Stewart's magnificent proposal has astonished everybody here is but a feeble expression of the opinions expressed here. People say it throws into the shade completely Peabody and all other public benefactors.

Effect on the Senate

The appointment of the Cabinet is known to have been very distasteful to many of the republican leaders of Congress, who expected to have the forming of it by their own counsels. They have not been taken into General Grant's confidence, nor were they, as they say, consulted. They feel this slight keenly, but are not yet ready for open retaliation. Unwilling to go at once into opposition to Grant they judged it best to confirm the Cabinet immediately. To this class the discovery of the legal impediments to Mr. Stewart's acceptance was a God send as a cover for other and real objections. When Mr. Sherman offered his bill to modify the law of 1789. There was some hesitation as to which should be the first to object, but Sumner's impetuosity induced him to take the initiative. Since Saturday the whole body of republicans have been in a very disorganized condition on this subject, the more sensible and patriotic portion thinking it best to make the most of the Cabinet as it stood, the others ready to break the slate even at risk of a quarrel with the Administration. The magnificent offer of Mr. Stewart to surrender all the enormous profits of his business, a pecuniary sacrifice, such as no statesman ever before made in the service of his country, has given fresh strength to those who desire to have him in the Treasury. These Congressmen say that this proposition substantially relieves the matter from all difficulty. They affirm that it places his motives beyond question, and shows that his only aim in accepting this trust is a lofty and honorable ambition to accomplish a great public reform. These urge that the Cabinet shall stand as already arranged by General Grant, and will probably insist that so soon as Mr. Stewart shall execute the proposed assignment that he shall go on to qualify and administer the department.

The Opposition to Mr. Stewart Unabated.

The opponents of Mr. Stewart are by no means satisfied with his proposition, though they are not yet determined what course to pursue in the premises. They will oppose any material modification of the law of 1789 to reach the case of Mr. Stewart, and they argue that, though under this assignment he does not retain any interest in the profits of his immense business, he will still be interested and responsible for any possible loss. They contend that he is thus technically disqualified; and this last view is entertained by at least one Senator whose character is above a mere factious opposition.

Mr. Sherman's bill will hardly be presented in its present form, if at all, as its passage is very doubtful, and it is quite possible that no further attempt will be made to change the law. It has been suggested that the question is a proper one for the consideration of the new Attorney General. If good legal authority shall decide that Mr. Stewart may, after this assignment, go on and fill the office, General Grant may not consider it necessary to invite any expression from Congress on the subject.

The whole course of Mr. Stewart in this matter has elicited the warmest admiration of all candid men, and leading democrats join heartily in this tribute and the desire that the country may secure his services. A portion of the republican Senators still decline to say how they view this proposition of Mr. Stewart's, and it is quite likely they will watch and be governed by the opinion of the public.

Mr. Washburne in Charge of the State Department.

Secretary Washburne reached the State Department about eleven o'clock this morning, where he found a large number of visitors, including many members of Congress in waiting. He was for a short time in conference with Mr. Hunter, Assistant Secretary, and afterwards gave audience to as many of those who called to see him as could be received up to three o'clock. Among those first admitted were members of Congress, among whom were Generals Butler, Logan and Farnsworth; Judge Spalding, and Messrs. Ward, Eggleston, Lawrence, Cullom and Churchill, and afterwards came citizens and strangers, several of whom were ladies.

As yet no changes have been announced in the officers of the department. About twelve o'clock the official notification of the acceptance by Mr. Washburne as Secretary of State was forwarded to each member of the resident diplomatic corps, and invitations extended to them to call on him as early as convenient.

Arrival of Secretary Borie.

Adolphe Borie, the new Secretary of the Navy, arrived here this evening in company with George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia. Both gentlemen proceeded to the residence of President Grant, and remained in consultation with him for nearly four hours. Mr. Borie signified to the President his acceptance of the position of Secretary of the Navy. He has not decided when he will enter on the duties of his office, but it will be in a day or two.

Time for Cabinet Meetings.

Cabinet meetings will be held at twelve o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays. On these two days the President's office will not be thrown open to general visitors between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock.

Friends of John A. Griswold Trying to Get Him a Place in the Cabinet.

The friends of Mr. John A. Griswold, of New York, are anticipating a change in the Cabinet cast, and are urgently pressing him for Secretary of the Navy.

Hours for Official Calls at the White House.

The President will receive official calls at his office each day between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock, and after twelve no one will be admitted excepting Cabinet officers and those with whom special engagements have been made.

Republican Senatorial Caucus—A Congressional Session of Thirty Days' Duration—The Measures to be Considered.

The republican members of the Senate held a caucus this morning for the purpose of arranging the standing committees of the Senate for the session of the Forty-first Congress. Very little change was made in the chairmanships of the committees, as will be seen by the list agreed upon in open Senate. After this business had been disposed of the caucus took up the question of what business should be transacted at the present session, and also how long Congress should remain here. After a full discussion, the general tenor of which was that no legislation should be introduced except such as is absolutely necessary, a committee, composed of Senators Sherman, Trumbull, Edmunds, Stewart and Pool, was appointed to confer with a similar committee which it is expected will be appointed at a caucus of the republican members of the House to be held to-morrow. The Senate caucus committee held a meeting this afternoon immediately after the Senate adjourned, in the Finance Committee room. They could of course take no final action, but they agreed to urge upon the House committee the adoption of a proposition that the session shall not last over thirty days; that only necessary legislation shall be taken up—such as the Indian Appropriation bill, Mr. Schenck's bill to stengthen the public credit, the Supplementary Currency bill, the bill to prohibit the secret sales of gold by the Treasury Department, the bill to amend the judicial system of the United States, the bill to amend the naturalization laws, some measure to complete the reconstruction of Virginia, Mississippi, Texas and Georgia, and the needful legislation relative to taking the census. A strong effort will be made to confine the action of both houses to these subjects of legislation, but it remains to be seen whether or not the House will agree to it. It was intimated in the caucus that President Grant was in favor of a short session, and this seems to have considerable influence upon Senators. The Senate expects to be called in extra session after Congress adjourns to act on nominations. The session will probably continue three or four weeks after the House adjourns.

Caucus of Republican Members of the House.

The republican members of the House will hold a caucus to-morrow evening for consultation as to the business of the session and to decide how long the session ought to continue. It is expected that a committee will be appointed similar to that appointed to-day by the Senate caucus, so that both houses may be brought together in a representative conference with a view to securing an interchange of views as to whether a long or a short session is advisable, and also the character of legislation to be taken up.

The House Committees on Elections and Appropriations:

Speaker Blaine will to-morrow announce the Committee on Elections and the Committee on Appropriations. The others will not be made public until Wednesday or Thursday. The object of announcing these two committees is to allow them to go immediately to work, the one on the contested election cases before the House, and the other on the Indian Appropriation bill, which failed at the last Congress. It is understood that Halbert E. Paine, of Wisconsin, will be the chairman of the Committee on Elections, and Henry L. Dawes, of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Change of the Army Headquarters.

General Sherman will give up the building used at present as the headquarters of the army, and take possession of rooms in the War Department at the earliest practicable time. Preparations are now being made in the War Department building to provide room for himself and the officers of his staff.

Invasion of the White House by Methodist Clergymen.

The members of the Baltimore annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, numbering 300, and headed by their presiding officer, Bishop Clarke, proceeded to the Executive Mansion this afternoon, about three o'clock, for the purpose of paying their respects to President Grant. After entering the mansion they proceeded to the East Room and arranged themselves in a semicircle. General Grant, on being informed of their arrival, shortly made his appearance and advanced towards where Bishop Clarke was standing, who, after shaking hands with the President, said:—

President GRANT—As presiding officer of the Baltimore Methodist Convention, I am delegated to express to you their profound respect for the Chief Magistrate of the nation, and to assure you of their earnest wishes for the future welfare of the choice of the American people, who have bestowed upon you the highest position in their gift.

To these remarks General Grant merely replied, "Thank you." The visitors were then introduced to him by Bishop Clarke, who, having finished this ceremony, turned to the President and said, "It's a good thing you haven't to shake hands with all the ministers of the Methodist church in the United States or you would become tired." To this the President made no answer, but looked anxiously as though desirous of finding a break in the crowd of divines through which he could make off and attend to the more important business awaiting his attention up stairs. Unfortunately there was no opening, and with seeming resignation he remained at the side of the Bishop. A gentleman remarked, "Perhaps, General, you may have to shake hands with all the Methodist ministers before your term of office runs out." "Well," replied General Grant, smilingly, "I hope I may have strength to endure it." A general titter followed this remark, and the President, after bidding good-bye to the Bishop, passed through a door leading to his office, and the crowd immediately dispersed. About half a dozen ladies accompanied the members, and they were also introduced to the President, who received them with apparently more cordiality than he did their male companions, and with an air of politeness worthy of a distinguished soldier.

Paymaster General Brice Restored to His Duties.

The President has revoked the order directing Assistant Paymaster General Nathan Brown to assume charge of the Pay Department, Paymaster General Brice having been restored, and he is ordered to resume his former duties.

Interesting to Office Seekers.

The number of office seekers is on the increase. Hundreds of them were at the Capitol to-day. Cards were continually sent into the Senate Chamber by some of them to call republican members from their seats, and when that body adjourned the applicants for places rushed into the Chamber to press their business on the attention of Senators. Apart from such processing efforts are being made by subordinates in the various departments to procure bureau and other higher positions in anticipation of removals.

The applications for positions under government received at the Executive Office are already overwhelming. In all cases, it may be stated, they must be made to the Cabinet officer in charge of the department in which office is solicited. The President will not consider any such applications until they have passed through the head of the department to which they pertain.

The Navy Department.

Secretary Borie has not yet made his appearance at the Navy Department.

The Denver Pacific Railroad Land Grant Bill.

The report that the bill providing for the grant of lands to the Denver Pacific Railroad was not signed by the President is a mistake. It is now a law.

Solicitor Binckley, of the Internal Revenue Bureau, Dismissed by the President.

The following is a copy of correspondence which has recently taken place:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6, 1869.

SIR:—John M. Binckley was appointed Solicitor in August. On the 2d day of the following month I requested his removal upon the ground that he was a wilful perjurer or so weak and credulous as to make him the convenient tool of corrupt and malicious men. Not having changed my opinion of him since that time, I have assigned him to no duty whatever, and for the last five months I do not know that he has ever ostensibly done a single hour's labor for the government. Meanwhile I have repeatedly urged his removal, and he has repeatedly drawn his monthly salary at the rate of $4,000 per annum. Mr. Binckley is notoriously unqualified for his place. I do not know that he ever claims to be a lawyer. Certain it is he never undertook to practice, and his employment as Solicitor of Internal Revenue is a farce. I do not believe he would be continued under the present administration. The acting Secretary of the Treasury, unadvised by you, may hesitate, perhaps, to change the officers of the department, in anticipation of the early appointment and qualification of its permanent Secretary. I respectfully recommend, therefore, that you request him to dismiss Mr. Binckley immediately. I am, very respectfully,
E. A. ROLLINS, Commissioner.

To the PRESIDENT.

[Endorsement.]

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 8, 1869.

Respectfully referred to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Treasury:—The services of Mr. John M. Binckley, Solicitor of Internal Revenue, will be no longer required by the government.

By order of THE PRESIDENT.
HORACE PORTER, Brevet Brigadier General, Secretary.

Upon this letter the following endorsement was made:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 8, 1869.

JOHN M. BINCKLEY, Solicitor of Internal Revenue:—

SIR—I am requested by the President to inform you that your services as Solicitor of Internal Revenue are no longer required by the government. You are therefore removed from the office. Very respectfully,
J. HARTLEY,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

Cases Before the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court delivered no opinions to-day, as had been expected. The following causes were taken up and argued:—

No. 101.—Stanbery vs. The United States.—Appeal from the Court of Claims, that Court having refused judgment in favor of the petitioners for services rendered as special commissioner for the government.

No. 102.—Gibson vs. Chanteau et al.—Controversy concerning certain lands in St. Louis. Case still on argument.

Bills Relative to the Currency Become Laws.

Many inquiries have been made of the Comptroller of the Currency whether the bills relative to the certification of checks and abolishing the quarterly reports, and requiring the Comptroller of the Currency to call for five reports annually from the national banks on the same day, have become laws. On inquiry it is ascertained that they have.

WASHINGTON ON INAUGURATION DAY.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1869.

Your regular correspondents have doubtless apprised you of all that has been going on here to-day, but I thought I would drop you a line, just to express to you the intense interest manifested in the exciting scenes. The sight, as a mere spectacle, is very different from what we have both witnessed in the Old World—scarcely any of the pageantry or show that abounds there upon all such occasions, but, what was far better, it seemed as if the heart of the nation was beating through these simple and more unpretending ceremonies.

It is astonishing how freely everybody seemed to breathe, as if our troubles were at an end—only here and there a solitary exception of some stolid devotee of the old *regime*, who, like the Bourbons, appeared to have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. To me the most striking incident of the day was the appearance of the colored soldiers, as furnishing the strongest evidence of the wonderful change we have gone through. Everybody seemed to hail their appearance, and I am sure no one more cordially than myself, notwithstanding what you know of my former prejudices. Connected with their appearance was one of the prominent actors of the scenes of to-day, exemplifying how surely

Time at last makes all things even.

It seems as but yesterday when, in the first year of the rebellion, General Cameron, who was then Secretary of War, left the department, in consequence of his recommendation to employ colored troops. He was almost alone in his estimate of the magnitude of the contest upon which we were just entering, grasping the subject in its fullest proportions. The most advanced of all the statesmen who were his compeers were far behind him. He saw the advantage of liberating the slaves and employing them promptly, while it took years to convince his countrymen of the necessity. It was a proud recollection to him, doubtless, to-day, when seated in the Senate Chamber alongside of the great chieftain who led the armies, including the colored troops, to our final triumph, and who was able to make these people so available in securing our success, that he had taken his course so early and earnestly in the right direction.

After the inauguration ceremonies I sat by General Cameron's side. As we watched the procession that escorted General Grant to the White House to enter upon the duties the performance of which will doubtless lead to the final pacification of our country, and listened with the deepest interest to his utterances in relation to his early efforts to give such a direction to the war as would certainly lead to the abolition and overthrow of slavery, is it any wonder that he was gratified with such a scene as this? You would have been interested, as I was, if you could have heard him exclaim, "This is a most interesting sight to me. Only seven years since I recommended the emancipation and employment of negroes as soldiers, and in consequence of which I left the Cabinet, being too far in advance of my associates. Now, to see a body of those soldiers joining in the inauguration ceremonies, and escorting the President to the White House, is a gratification beyond all power of expression; and as I stood beside the President on the platform and heard him announce in bold, unmistakable terms that these people should all have the ballot, the change seemed almost too marvellous for belief. It is the most gratifying scene of my life, and it is enough to have lived to witness it."

We are entering upon a new career, with every assurance that it will be a most successful and brilliant one.

THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1869.

On motion of Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., the reading of the journal was dispensed with.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., rose to a personal explanation and contradicted the statement which appeared in the New York *World* of Saturday that in the executive session for the consideration of the Cabinet nominations he (Mr. Howe) had asked "Who is Borie?" and on being told that he was a Philadelphian had added, resignedly, "Well, let him pass; the League Island job will, of course, be all the safer." The fact was, that he had not said this or anything else on that occasion, and although he ought, perhaps, to feel grateful for the kindness of newspaper correspondents in occasionally inventing speeches for him he could not be thankful for silly or insane ones like these because he could make enough of such himself. (Laughter.)

Mr. CAMERON, (rep.) of Pa., also denied that he had made the remarks attributed to him in the same paper. He eulogized Mr. Borie and said he was so used to being unjustly treated by the newspapers that he was never surprised at anything they said about him except when they happened inadvertently to praise him.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following are the standing committees:—

On Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Sumner, chairman; Fessenden, Cameron, Harlan, Morton, Patterson and Casserly.

On Commerce.—Messrs. Chandler, chairman; Corbett, Kellogg, Spencer, Conkling, Buckingham and Vickers.

On Finance.—Messrs. Sherman, chairman; Williams, Cattell, Morrill, Warner, Fenton and Bayard.

On Manufactures.—Messrs. Morton, chairman; Yates, Robertson, Boreman and McDonald.

On Agriculture.—Messrs. Cameron, chairman; Robertson, Tipton, Gilbert and McCreery.

On Appropriations.—Messrs. Fessenden, chairman; Grimes, Wilson, Cole, Sprague, Sawyer and Stockton.

On Military Affairs.—Messrs. Wilson, chairman; Howard, Cameron, Morton, Thayer, Abbott, Schurz.

On Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Grimes, chairman; Anthony, Cragin, Nye, Drake, Scott and Stockton.

On the Judiciary.—Messrs. Trumbull, chairman; Stewart, Edmunds, Conkling, Rice, Carpenter and Thurman.

On Post Offices and Post Roads.—Messrs. Ramsey, chairman; Pomeroy, McDonald, Harlan, Cole, Gilbert, Thurman.

On Public Lands.—Messrs. Pomeroy, chairman; Williams, Tipton, Osborn, Warner, Sprague, Casserly.

On Private Land Claims.—Messrs. Williams, chairman; Ferry, Sawyer, Kellogg and Bayard.

On Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Harlan, chairman; Ross, Corbett, Thayer, Buckingham, Pool and Davis.

On Pensions.—Messrs. Edmunds, chairman; Tipton, Spencer, Pratt, Brownlow, Schurz and McCreery.

On Revolutionary Claims.—Messrs. Yates, chairman; Pool, Fowler, Brownlow and Saulsbury.

On Claims.—Messrs. Howe, chairman; Willey, Scott, Sprague, Robertson, Pratt and Davis.

District of Columbia.—Messrs. Hamlin, chairman; Patterson, Sumner, Rice, Harris, Pratt and Vickers.

On Patents.—Messrs. Willey, chairman; Ferry, Carpenter, Osborn, Morton.

On Public Buildings and Grounds.—Messrs. Morrill, chairman; Trumbull, Ferry, Cole, Stockton.

On Territories.—Messrs. Nye, chairman; Cragin, McDonald, Schurz, Howard, Boreman and McCreery.

On the Pacific Railroad.—Messrs. Howard, chairman; Sherman, Ramsey, Stewart, Wilson, Harlan, Drake, Rice, Abbott, Fenton and Scott.

On Mines and Mining.—Messrs. Stewart, chairman; Chandler, Anthony, Yates, Ross, Saulsbury and Fowler.

On the Revision of the Laws of the United States.—Messrs. Conkling, chairman; Sumner, Carpenter, Pool and Bayard.

To Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate.—Messrs. Cragin, chairman; Edmunds and Davis.

On Printing.—Messrs. Anthony, chairman; Harris and Casserly.

On the Library.—Messrs. Cattell, chairman; Howe and Fessenden.

On Enrolled Bills.—Messrs. Thayer, chairman; Patterson and Abbott.

On Engrossed Bills.—Messrs. Ross, chairman; Buckingham and Norton.

On Education.—Messrs. Drake, chairman; Morrill, Pomroy, Sawyer and Corbett.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., introduced a bill to create an additional land district in Dacotah.

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., introduced a bill to grant a right of way to the Midland and Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes.

Mr. ABBOTT, (rep.) of N. C., introduced a bill for the relief of individuals in North Carolina.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill to prohibit secret sales or purchases of gold on account of the government. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. MORTON introduced a joint resolution requiring parties asking to be relieved from political disabilities to make application to Congress over their own signatures, setting forth the grounds upon which they sue for such relief. Laid on the table.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a bill supplementary to the act of 1864, to provide a national currency, &c. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a bill to provide for the better security of the lives of passengers on vessels propelled by steam. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., moved to proceed to the consideration of the bill granting a pension of $5,000 annually to Mrs. Lincoln, widow of the late President.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., thought the matter should go to a committee. If Mrs. Lincoln was in affluence, as he had heard stated, then it would be manifestly unjust to single her out for a pension, to the exclusion of other equally deserving and more needy widows; but if, on the contrary, she was in a destitute condition and should have a pension, that fact could be best ascertained by a committee. He therefore moved to refer it to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. SUMNER opposed the motion. He had no reason to suppose that the Pension Committee would deal with the bill more wisely than its predecessor had done, and he saw nothing in the proposition that needed investigation by a committee. He hoped, therefore, that the bill would be voted upon without reference and without debate.

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., wanted to have the bill sent to the Committee on Pensions for investigation.

The motion to refer was then carried by a vote of 31 to 27.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., offered a concurrent resolution for the appointment of a special committee of four Senators and four Representatives, to which should be referred all applications for the removal of political disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment of the constitution. Agreed to.

Mr. MORTON introduced a joint resolution to refund to the States the interest and discount on money borrowed to equip, transport and supply troops for the service of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. CONKLING, the bills previously introduced and laid on the table were referred to appropriate committees.

On Motion of Mr. SUMNER, the bill for the further security of equal rights in the District of Columbia, which was passed at the last session but killed by a pocket veto, was again taken up and passed.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill relating to the Freedmen's Hospital. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. ROSS, (rep.) of Kan., introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to pay certain certificates issued for fortification purposes in Lawrence, Kansas. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also a bill to encourage the growth of forest trees. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Also a bill authorizing the appointment of a commissioner for the settlement of the claims of citizens of Kansas. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Also a bill authorizing the appointment of commissioners to examine the claims of citizens of certain counties in Kansas for spoliations committed in the Quantrell raid in August, 1863. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

ELECTION OF CHAPLAIN.

On motion the Senate then proceeded to the election of a Chaplain.

Mr. SUMNER nominated the Rev. William Witherington.

Mr. CAMERON nominated the Rev. Dr. Newman.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., nominated the Rev. Dr. Gray.

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., nominated the Rev. Dr. Chester.

Mr. MCCREERY, (dem.) of Ky., nominated the Rev. William Logan Morse.

Mr. VICKERS, (dem.) of Md., nominated the Rev. L. W. Bates.

Each nominee was eulogized by the Senator who presented his name.

Mr. Vickers vouched for Dr. Bates.

Mr. YATES, (rep.) of Ill., seconded the nomination of Mr. Chester; he had great admiration for Dr. Newman, who was unsurpassed as a political preacher, but as he thought there was enough politics in the Senate without political prayers, he would vote for the humble and pious Mr. Chester, although he would prefer to all others, if he could be had, the Rev. Dr. Eddy, of Chicago.

On the second ballot the Rev. Dr. Newman was elected, having received 35 of the 61 ballots cast.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) Kansas, introduced a bill for the further security of equal rights in the District of Columbia.

Several Senators suggested that the bill had already been passed this morning.

Mr. POMEROY explained that although his bill had the same title as the bill passed it referred to other rights, Mr. Sumner's bill being to strike out the word "white" from the charters of Washington and Georgetown, while his was to strike out the word "male." (Laughter.)

The bill was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Mr. ROBERTSON, (rep.) of S. C., introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES, (rep.) of Iowa, the Senate, at half-past one o'clock, adjourned.

REPORTS REGARDING THE CABINET.

BOSTON, March 8, 1869.

The *Evening Transcript* publishes the following Washington despatch:—"Late last night Secretary Stewart determined to withdraw, and President Grant sent for Governor Boutwell and offered him the Treasury Department and he accepted it. Judge Hoar will not therefore go in the Cabinet."

PHILADELPHIA, March 8, 1869.

A despatch to the *Telegraph* says that in conversation with Mr. Blaine the President replied, that as Speaker of the House, and under the circumstances, he had a right to know. He would therefore be frank and say to him that Mr. Stewart had concluded to resign; that the Massachusetts delegation would withdraw Mr. Hoar, at the latter's request, and that he would appoint ex-Governor Boutwell as Secretary of the Treasury.

BOARD OF