WASHINGTON

Reception of Army and Naval Officers by the President.

THE NOVA SCOTIA QUESTION

A Legislative Committee at the Capital Consulting on the Subject of Annexation.

Passage of the Public Credit Bill in the House.

The Resolution for a Joint Indian Committee Adopted.

PROBABLE EARLY ADJOURNMENT

The Standing Committees Not Yet Announced.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1869.

Cabinet Meeting.

A Cabinet meeting was held to-day at the Executive Mansion, there being present Messrs. Washburne, Cresswell, Cox, Borie, Hoar, Boutwell and Rawlins. Major General Schofield was also present.

Continued Rush of Visitors to the White House.

The rush of visitors to the White House was as great this morning as heretofore, but the crowd thinned out sooner than usual. The doors of the Executive Office having been opened and general admission of visitors to the President permitted. Among those who had private interviews were Senator Sherman, Governor Reed of Florida, ex-Senator Carlisle and several Representatives.

Distinguished Navy and Army Officers Call Upon the President.

At eleven o'clock this morning the officers of the navy stationed in and around Washington assembled at the Navy Department to the number of about sixty. They were attired in full uniform, and proceeded in a body to the office of Secretary Borie, where they were presented to him by Rear Admiral Dahlgren, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. The Secretary received them in a most cordial manner and impressed all very favorably by his affable demeanor. The presentation ceremonies lasted but a few moments, and when Secretary Borie had shaken hands and exchanged a few general remarks with most of them the entire party, headed by the Secretary, went in a body to the Executive Mansion, where they entered the East Room and waited a few moments to be presented to the President. After a short time President Grant, accompanied by General Dent, entered the East Room and was introduced to the officers by Vice Admiral Porter. They all shook him by the hand. Prominent among those present were Vice Admiral Porter, Rear Admirals Shubrick, Smith, Goldsborough, Dahlgren, Poor, Howard and Powell; Commodores Glissen, Smith, Boggs, Jenkins and Sands. Captains Reynolds, Patterson, Davenport, Nicholson, Jeffers, Davis, Morris, Weaver, Gillis, Johnson and Shirk. Of the marine corps there were present, Brigadier General Zeilin, and Majors Slack, Cash, Nicholson and Graham; Lieutenant Colonel Heywood and other marine officers.

While the naval officers were exchanging salutations in the East Room, the officers of the army, headed by ex-Secretary Schofield and General Sherman entered the White House, and were showed into the East Room. General Sherman approached the President, and the two shook hands warmly and and vigorously. He then introduced the officers in turn, all of whom were profuse in their gratulations. Among the distinguished officers present were Generals Emory, who since the present administration has been assigned to the command of this Department; Generals Harney, Meigs, Terry, Barnes, Thomas, Hardie, Heintzelman, Miller, Bell, Brooks, McFerran, Williams, Vincent, Pelouze and Adjutant General Townsend; Colonels, Murray, Campbell, Wallace, Stacey and a host of others. During the interview the Secretary of War, General Rawlins, entered the East Room and was instantly surrounded by an eager crowd of officers, both of the army and navy, who earnestly congratulated him upon his appointment to the War Office. A large number of officers, personally unknown to the new Secretary of War, were introduced. After a stay of probably an hour, during which hand shaking became general among all present, the interview terminated.

Virginia Loyal Leaguers Received by the President.

A delegation of the Loyal League of Alexandria, Va., comprising twenty-one members, and including several colored men, called on President Grant this afternoon, when the chairman read a short address expressive of their confidence in the President, and regretting that Virginia was not permitted to assist in his election, &c. After hearing the address the President responded that he was glad to meet them, and he hoped and believed that before the end of the year Virginia would be restored to self-government and represented in both houses of Congress. He hoped to see this accomplished before next New Year's day.

Reception of Irish Republicans by the President.

A delegation of about twenty members of the Irish Republican Association of the United States, headed by Major Haggerty, of New York, called on the President this afternoon to tender their congratulations and pledge to the President of the United States the support of the Irish Republicans of America of his administration. No speech making was indulged in.

The President's Business Hours.

The President has directed that hereafter members of Congress alone will be received between the hours of nine and eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Between eleven and twelve o'clock the doors will be open to the public. In the afternoon none will be admitted except members of the Cabinet and such as have appointments to meet the President.

The President's Views Upon Changes in Office.

A gentleman whose word is as good as a bond relates something of a short conversation that occurred between the President and an officious bureau officer a day or two since, which may serve to throw some light on the President's views in regard to changes in office. While speaking of the heads of bureaus and divisions and chief clerks of the government departments here, the volunteer counsellor asked:—

"What ought to be done, General, with those officers who have held their positions for the last eight years?"

"If they have discharged the duties of their offices for eight years," replied the President, "they should be continued in office eight years longer."

The officious individual laughed pleasantly, looked at his watch, and said, "I see you are very busy, Mr. President, so I will not detain you."

An Early Adjournment of Congress Proposed.

The action of the House in passing Bingham's resolution to adjourn on the last Friday of the present month is not regarded as a final settlement of that matter. Should the Senate fail to pass the concurrent resolution on Monday next it is probable that it will be reconsidered in the House and a more remote date fixed.

Arrival of Lieutenant General Sheridan.

Lieutenant General Sheridan arrived here this morning. He was accompanied by his Acting Assistant Adjutant General and Aid-de-Camp, Brevet Lieutenant J. Schuyler Crosby, and by Brevet Major General Emory.

The arrival of the new Lieutenant General of the armies of the United States has occasioned considerable excitement in military circles. This afternoon the Lieutenant General called upon General Sherman and passed a short time in conversation, after which he called upon President Grant. The meeting of the now President and his distinguished lieutenant indicated the confidence which the one felt in the other. The interview was protracted and was confined to the recent Indian war and other questions of importance.

Secretary Boutwell.

Secretary Boutwell received his commission from the State Department during the Cabinet session this morning. He will enter formally upon his duties at the Treasury Department this afternoon. Mr. Boutwell was met upon his arrival at his office this morning by a number of anxious applicants for places, some of whom were ambitious to serve as collectors and assessors of internal revenue, as well as others who are willing to accept any position that can be obtained, ranging from the higher offices in the Treasury down to first class clerk.

Secretary Fish.

Secretary Fish is not expected to arrive here until Tuesday or Wednesday next.

Secretaries Rawlins and Boutwell Qualified.

Secretaries Boutwell and Rawlins qualified at the Cabinet meeting to-day. Chief Justice Cartter, of the Supreme Court of this District, administered the oath to the two gentlemen. Mr. Boutwell is very busily engaged at the Treasury Department in attending to official business.

Perplexity of the Speaker in Arranging the House Committees—Dissatisfaction with the Complexion of the Committee on Elections.

There was considerable disappointment among the members to-day at the failure of Speaker Blaine to announce the standing committees of the House. Mr. Blaine has had a great deal of difficulty in arranging the committees so as to give satisfaction all around. It is stated that he came to the capitol this morning with the list ready to announce, but upon showing it to some of the members so much dissatisfaction was expressed that he was forced to make changes and finally to postpone the announcement of the committees until Monday. The Committee on Elections was announced, at the urgent request of the numerous claimants and contestants for seats, so as to go immediately to work. The republican contestants and claimants are not at all satisfied with the composition of this committee. The republican members of the committee, with two exceptions, are new men, and the numerous republican contestants express some doubt of the ability of the committee to present their cases in the most favorable light. It is said that Butler is to be second on the Ways and Means. Schenck is not altogether pleased with this, as Butler and himself are in the habit of looking at things from a different standpoint, and seldom succeed in agreeing.

Office Hunters Becoming Restive and Discouraged.

The office seekers crowd the hotels this evening and speculate freely on their prospects for appointment. Every other man wants to be a collector or consul, and great is the perturbation among them as to their chances for nomination. General Isaac F. Quimby for marshal of the Northern district of New York is generally mentioned to-night. The natives of the District of Columbia are considerably agitated over the appointments in their midst. Colonel James O'Beirne, register of wills, will probably be retained. The other office holders feel nervous over their positions and will, very likely, go by the board. The Ministry to England is already conceded to Motley and the Russian mission to Curtin, of Pennsylvania, but the minor offices in the gift of President Grant, such as collectors, assessors and postmasters are all the talk with the host of office seekers that infest the hotels and boarding houses.

Rush for Offices in the Treasury Department.

The clerks of the appointment officer in the Treasury are now overwhelmed with work. A perfect avalanche of applications is pouring in at the rate of six applications for each office under the control of the Department.

Abuses in the Navy Department to be Remedied.

Secretary Borie has turned his attention to a number of loose matters that have been running on in that department for the especial benefit of certain select parties, and has about made up his mind to find a remedy for these "abuses." One of them, which, it is said, will come in for early attention, is the manner in which disbursements are made in Europe for our navy. For the last fifty years the banking house of Baring Brothers, in England, has been receiving deposits from this government intended for disbursement on account of our navy. An old law requires the Baring Brothers to acknowledge the receipt of money deposited with them sixty days after it is placed to their credit. They receive the money now within a fortnight after it leaves this country, so that they have the use of the money five or six weeks before they become responsible for it. For all moneys deposited with them the Barings pay interest at the rate of four per cent per annum, and for all moneys they pay over and above the amount on deposit they charge interest at the rate of five per cent per annum. A statement made out in the Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, shows that the United States government paid the Baring Brothers $115,000 for disbursing $3,000,000, and the amount paid them averages $100,000 every year. It is probable that a financial agent will be appointed from this country.

The Internal Revenue Department.

The current business of the Internal Revenue Department is at present conducted by Deputy Commissioner Harland, as Commissioner Delano will be engaged for some time to come in selecting men to fill vacancies. He has a number of nominations ready, which will be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury to-morrow.

Nova Scotia Pressing for Annexation to the United States.

Prominent gentlemen who have arrived here from Nova Scotia represent the feeling in that Province in favor of annexation to the United States as pervading almost the entire community and rapidly increasing in intensity. England declines to release the Province from the Dominion of Canada, into which it was drawn against the wishes and under the solemn protest of the people; and nine-tenths of the entire population openly declare for annexation to the United States in preference to confederation with Canada. The people are intensely in earnest on the subject, and some of the leading papers have come out strongly in favor of a separation from England and union with the American republic. It is stated that the members of the local Legislature, having failed to obtain a repeal of the act of Confederation, are about to come together and apply for a release from England; and at the same time send a delegation to Washington to ascertain what encouragement they can optain in their efforts to become a State in the Union. Robert J. Walker and other prominent gentlemen here have been consulted on the subject, and it is understood that Mr. Walker is preparing a pamphlet in support of the measure, in which the great advantages to both countries to grow out of a union will be presented. The people of New Brunswick, to the extent of one-half of the entire population, are also said to be in favor of annexation, and in both provinces very ably written pamphlets have recently been published and extensively circulated urging the measure. A railway from Maine has been extended into New Brunswick, and is to be continued into the heart of Nova Scotia. Three lines of steamers ply between those colonies and the New England States, connecting the commerce of the two peoples; and a permanent political union is represented to be the general desire on both sides of the boundary lines. The movement meets with general favor among members of Congress and prominent officials in Washington.

Supervisor Creecy, of Louisiana.

Supervisor Creecy, of the Louisiana Revenue district, has not resigned, as reported. He leaves Washington in a few days with instructions to vigorously prosecute the cases already commenced and rigidly enforce the laws.

Complimentary Supper to Ex-Congressman Driggs.

The Michigan friends of John F. Driggs, ex-member of Congress from that State, complimented him last night with a supper. A large number of ladies were present. Speeches were made by Governor Blair, Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, Mr. Driggs and others.

Sale of Liquor Stamps by Collectors.

Commissioner Delano has issued directions to the supervisors that hereafter any collector who shall sell liquor stamps after having received notice not to do so shall be considered to have given cause for his suspension. The law provides that the Collector shall issue the stamps in books to the gaugers, who shall put them on the casks and cancel them.

Dedication of the Gettysburg Monument.

Senator Morton, of Indiana, has accepted the invitation of the Board of Commissioners of the Gettysburg National Cemetery to deliver an address on the 1st of July next, on the occasion of the dedication of the monument, which will be completed by that time. An original poem will be delivered by Bayard Taylor, and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher will perform the duties of chaplain.

The Supreme Court.

In the United States Supreme Court to-day the following cases were considered:—

No. 397. Carpenter, plaintiff in error, vs. Williams and others, in error, to the Supreme Court of Missouri. A motion to dismiss was argued.

No. 105. Ridley vs. Sherbrooke, in error, to the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee. An application for a mandamus to compel the registration of the petitioner. Argument commenced.

THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

First Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1869.

INDIAN TREATIES AND LEGISLATION.

After the reading of the journal the Speaker announced the first business in order to be the consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, last Tuesday for the appointment of a joint select committee on Indian affairs, consisting of three Senators and six Members, to which shall be referred all matters relating to treaties with Indian tribes, payment of annuities, &c., with power to consider all questions arising under such treaties, and whether they may be abrogated, annulled or modified, &c., and to consider the expediency of determining by law what shall be the legal status of persons of Indian descent, and what course shall be taken that will better tend to their civilization, Christianization and ultimate citizenship.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., made an explanation of the resolution, in the course of which he stated there were 172 different acts to be consulted by any one desiring to find out all the legislation bearing on Indian Affairs, besides a large number of treaties that had been made, modified and altered, going back to 1784.

Mr. ALLISON, (rep.) of Iowa, opposed the resolution, as proposing a plan at variance with the principle of legislation, which required all subjects to be considered in the two Houses and in their respective committees separately.

Messrs. SCOFIELD, (rep.) of Pa., and JUDD, (rep.) of Ill., advocated the adoption of the resolution as the best means of securing proper legislation on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BUTLER replied to the objection made by Mr. Allison, and appealed to his course in the last Congress to show that he was sufficiently tenacious of the rights and privileges of the House and jealous of any encroachments on the part of the Senate. So long, however, as the Indians were treated as independent nations, and as the House had no jurisdiction on one theory of the law except to vote for appropriations to carry out such treaties, so long would the Executive, with the aid of the Senate, continue to make treaties with the Indians. Before the House could get any jurisdiction of the matter a law would have to be passed to put an end to such treaty making business. That law could only be got by the consent of the Senate and by an adjustment of the terms on which it should be made. It had been said that where the Indian tribes had given their land to the government, and where the government had agreed to pay annuities to them, such treaties must be enforced. He assented to that. The Indians must be paid that which they were promised; but where treaties had been made simply that Indian tribes should keep the peace; he believed that those treaties should be abrogated, and that the Indians should be treated as wards of the nation. No bargains should be made with them either by the nation or by individuals. The nation should govern them by a law as it governs all other denizens on the soil, whether citizens or not, according to just laws, but not according to treaties made in wigwams, or by what are facetiously called council fires. Therefore there should be a joint committee on the subject, so that it could be seen how far the Senate was willing to put its treaty-making power under the operation of law. He admitted that the treaties recently make on the Plains ought not to be carried out. The whole system should be changed.

Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., advocated the resolution, and in the course of his remarks characterized the conduct of the Senate in regard to Indian affairs as a corrupt, iniquitous system of legislation.

Mr. INGERSOLL, (rep.) of Ill., called the attention of the Speaker to this language as being rather unparliamentary.

The SPEAKER ruled that the language was inadmissible.

Mr. JULIAN said he would withdraw it in that shape and would put it in this shape; that such legislation seemed to him to be corrupt and iniquitous; whenever the House had demanded of the Senate decent legislation the Senate had refused utterly to listen to the proposition. If the gentleman from Massachusetts could convince the House that a joint committee, as proposed, through its missionary influence in the Senate would be the means of reclaiming that body from its practice, he should be very glad to have that joint committee; but he was afraid it would depend upon whether honest men in the Senate and in the House were to be got to do that duty.

After further discussion by Messrs. BUTLER and FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., the resolution was agreed to—Yeas 93, nays 47.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT BARDSTOWN, KY.

Mr. KNOTT, (dem.) of Ky., introduced a bill refunding the internal revenue tax assessed on a bequest made for the use of the Presbyterian church at Bardstown, Ky. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

Mr. BINGHAM, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a concurrent resolution for a final adjournment of this session the fourth Monday of March.

Mr. SCHOFIELD suggested the fixing of some other day than Monday, remarking that last year when this day was fixed the consequence was that the Sabbath had to be desecrated.

Mr. BINGHAM accordingly modified his resolution, so as to read, the last Friday in March (two weeks from to-day.)

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, suggested it was better not to pass that resolution at once, but keep the matter a few days longer in the control of the House.

Mr. INGERSOLL moved to lay the concurrent resolution on the table. Negatived.

The concurrent resolution was then adopted, by ayes 118 to nays 14.

INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA.

Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a joint resolution, authorizing the President to recognize the independence of Cuba whenever, in his opinion, a republican form of government shall have been in fact established. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ANNEXATION OF ST. DOMINGO.

Also a joint resolution, authorizing the President to open negotiations with the government and people of St. Domingo for the annexation of that republic to the United States. Referred to the same committee.

AMENDMENT OF THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

Mr. WARD, (rep.) of N. Y., offered a preamble and resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill on the subject of the naturalization laws so as to prevent frauds in naturalization and to secure the surrender of fraudulent naturalization papers already issued.

Mr. HOLMAN, (dem.) of Ind., moved to lay the resolution on the table. Negatived—yeas 46, nays 86. The resolution was then adopted.

FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS.

Mr. CHURCHILL, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a bill to define felonies and misdemeanors and to regulate peremptory challenges, being the bill reported by him last session from the Judiciary Committee and which was passed by the House, but was not acted upon by the Senate.

Mr. KERR, (dem.) of Ind., moved to lay the bill on the table and called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Mr. CHURCHILL thereupon withdrew the bill.

BOUNTIES FOR DRAFTED MEN.

Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa., introduced a bill to extend bounties to drafted men. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE PUBLIC CREDIT BILL.

Mr. SCHENCK introduced a bill to strengthen the public credit and relating to contracts for the payments of coin, being his bill of last session of that title as it had passed the two houses on the report of the committee of conference.

Mr. ALLISON moved to amend by striking out the second section of the bill, which legalizes gold contracts.

Mr. BURR, (dem.) of Ill., moved to lay the bill on the table. Negatived—yeas 53, nays 86.

The question was then taken on Mr. Allison's amendment striking out the second section and the amendment was agreed to—yeas 86, nays 57; so the second section was struck out.

The bill was then passed. The following are its provisions:—

Be it enacted, &c., That in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the government to discharge all just obligations to the public creditor and to settle conflicting questions and interpretations of the laws by which said obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligations has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold or silver; but none of said interest-bearing obligations not already due shall be redeemed or paid before maturity, unless at such time as United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holders or unless at such time as bonds of the United States bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed can be sold at par in coin; and the United States shall also solemnly pledge its faith to make a provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of United States notes in coin.

The title of the bill was amended so as to make it read "An act to strengthen the public credit of the United States."

Mr. BUTLER suggested that he did not think the bill did strengthen the public credit.

The vote on the passage of the bill was yeas 97, nays 47, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Ambler, Ames, Armstrong, Arnell, Asper, Axtell, Bailey, Banks, Beaman, Benjamin, Bennett, Bingham, Blair, Boles, Boyd, Buffinton, Burdett, Cessna, Churchill, Cobb, Cook, Conger, Cowles, Cullom, Dawes, Donley, Duval, Dyer, Farnsworth, Ferriss, Ferry, Finckelburg, Fisher, Fitch, Gillilan, Hale, Hawley, Heaton, Hoar, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Jenckes, Jones of N. C., Judd, Julian, Kelsey, Ketcham, Knapp, Laflin, Lash, Lawrence of Ohio, Lynch, Maynard, McCrary, McGrew, Mercer, Moore of Ill., Moore of N. J., Morrill of Me., Negley, O'Neill, Packard, Paine, Palmer, Phelps, Poland, Pomeroy, Prosser, Roots, Sanford, Sargent, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Sheldon, Smith of Ohio, Smith of Vt., Smythe of Iowa, Stokes, Stoughton, Strickland, Tanner, Tellman, Twichell, Upson, Van Horn, Ward, Washburn of Wis., Washburn of Mass., Welker, Wheeler, Whittemore, Wilkinson, Willard, Williams and Winans—97.

NAYS—Messrs. Archer, Beatty, Beck, Biggs, Bird, Burr, Butler of Mass., Butler of Tenn., Cobb, Coburn, Dewese, Dickinson, Eldridge, Getz, Golladay, Hawkins, Holman, Hopkins, Johnson, Jones of Ky., Kerr, Knott, Krebs, Marshall, Mayham, McCormick, McNeely, Moffett, Mungen, Niblack, Orth, Reading, Reeves, Rice, Shanks, Smith Stevenson, Styles, Stone, Stradee, Sweeney, Taffe, Trimble, Tyner, Van Trump, Wilson of Ohio, Winchester and Woodward—48.

APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS.

The SPEAKER announced the Committee on Elections, as follows:—Messrs. Paine, of Wisconsin; Churchill, of New York; Heaton, of North Carolina; Cessna, of Pennsylvania; Butler, of Tennessee; Stevenson, of Ohio; Burdett, of Missouri; Burr, of Illinois, and Randall, of Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER stated that he would announce all the standing committees on Monday next.

RESIGNATION OF MR. BOUTWELL.

The SPEAKER presented the resignation, as Representative, of Mr. Boutwell, of Massachesetts, now Secretary of the Treasury.

The House, then, at a quarter past three, adjourned until Monday next.

ANTI-EXCISE MEETING IN BROOKLYN.

Resolutions and Speeches by Gerrit Smith, Rev. Dr. Cuyler and Rev. George Lansing Taylor—Repeal or Modification of the Present Law Strenuously Opposed.

A mass meeting of the citizens of Brooklyn, without political or religious distinction, was held last night at the Academy of Music for the purpose of entering a protest against the proposed repeal or modification of the Metropolitan Excise law as at present existing, and for the expression of views generally on the subject. The Academy of Music was pretty well filled, and a large proportion of the audience were ladies. The Twenty-third Regiment band discoursed some choice music during the evening.

At eight o'clock Mr. A. A. ROBBINS, chairman of the committee which had the organization of the meeting in hand, called the assemblage to order and nominated Judge Dikeman as chairman.

REMARKS OF REV. DR. CUYLER.

Rev. Dr. CUYLER, having read a list of the vice presidents and secretaries, said that although his name appeared on the list of those who were to speak there that night, yet having taken part and spoken at all the public demonstrations in Brooklyn on behalf of the Excise law, and having uttered his views on that important question so fully, he felt it would be rather more satisfactory to him that evening to give way to those whom they had not heard so often and who would be able to throw new light upon that great, important civic and moral question. It had gone out to this community that this most admirable and excellent law was in danger of being so tampered with as to render it absolutely useless and impracticable. It had been proposed so to manipulate it as to take away all its efficacy, and for fear, by unwise counsels, our Legislature might be led to such an unwise procedure that meeting had been called that night. If they would bear in mind simply three facts they would understand why the meeting had been called. Under the operation of the Metropolitan Excise law during the thirty-one months of its existence 2,419 dram shops, many of them of the lowest and most pernicious description, had been entirely closed, wiped out of existence. It had also protected their Sabbaths, so that, although there had been some liquor bought on Saturdays to be drank on Sundays, he found, in looking over the police reports, that there had been on an average only fifty arrests for drunkenness on the Sabbath, in comparison with 114 on any Tuesday of the preceding weeks. It showed that, whereas in former years the Lord's Day was a day of most general drunkenness and debauchery, it was now a day that there was less drunkenness than any other. The third fact was that whereas, under the old dispensation, the liquor sellers paid no license worth speaking of, they had now got it so that four millions of money were collected in the thirty-one months. (Applause.) This money was appropriated to sustain the Inebriate Asylum of Kings county, the State Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton and other things. These facts, proving the excellent working of the law, needed every one of them to start with alarm and dread at the bear mention of changing it in any vital particular.

The secretary, Mr. John N. Stearns, then read the following preamble and resolutions, which were received with applause:—

Whereas the liquor traffic is the fruitful source of crime, pauperism, immorality and death, bringing burdens of danger, taxation and demoralization; whereas the Excise law has been greatly instrumental in diminishing crime, arrests and drunkenness, has given us peace and good order in our city and quiet Sabbaths; therefore

Resolved, That we earnestly and emphatically protest against any modification or repeal of the law, and regard the attempt to reduce the fees for license as only an effort to defeat the operations of the law.

Resolved, That hereafter we will vote for no man who favors the removal of restrictive clauses of this law and with no party who would open our Sabbaths once more to rum desecration.

REMARKS OF REV. MR. TAYLOR.

Rev. GEORGE LANSING TAYLOR next addressed the meeting. As a delegate of the Kings county Central Temperance Association it had been his lot to appear twice within the last month before a committee to which the matter under discussion was entrusted at Albany, and he would relate to the meeting what was the state of affairs there. The skirmisher had a little risk in gaining the favor of the enemy, but if he was well supported and had a good solid column to support him he could advance with some hopes of doing his work successfully. The speaker then recapitulated the main points in the excise law and asked what were the attacks on that law for? There was certainly nothing in it to which any fair minded citizen—to say nothing of civilization and Christianity—could object. The attacks on it were just as various and numerous as the good points in the law. There was not a good point in the law that was not the subject of systematic assault. The modifications suggested would only close the liquor shops thirty hours in the week, instead of sixty hours now. He then reviewed the modifications demanded, such as the lowering of the rate of license, the going away with summary arrests and the reward to the informer, and urged the utter fallacy of such arguments to repeal or change the law now in force. The revenue derived from the liquor law had paid $900,000 last year to the sinking fund. It paid $201,900 to the Inebriate Asylum of Brooklyn, while during the last year the number of liquor shops increased rather than diminished. They increased to the number of 456 in this Metropolitan District, with all this terrible despotism, as they called it, upon the liquor dealers. (Applause.) This taxation lay upon the liquor dealers like a straw upon the scaly back of a leviathan. Out of these facts they knew that the financial success of the law was one of the plainest, most palpable, most irresistible arguments in its favor. But

What thief e'er felt the halter draw
With good op nion of the law?

(Applause and laughter.) He was never more surprised as when he met at Albany General Sigel (that man who on the battlefield at Bull Run shook his fist in an officer's face and said if he did a certain thing again he would put a pistol bullet through him); he said he was never more surprised as when Sigel appeared as a violator of the Sabbath and expressed his desire to introduce his own national customs into this country and do away with the national Sabbath. If the German and the Frenchman and the Irishman were to bring their national customs to this country why not the Royal King of the Africans bring his national customs here, too? (Applause.) Oh, we must set up the cry of "American customs for America"—(applause)—and we must nail that sentiment to our masthead and keep it there, and keep it flying over all the generations of our children to come, "American conscience, American liberty, American customs for America." (Applause). The speaker concluded by asking the audience to contribute towards a collection to pay the expenses of the meeting.

REMARKS OF GERRIT SMITH.

Mr. GERRIT SMITH was the next speaker. He commenced by asking, "Shall the sword devour us ever? Shall the sword devour us ever?" Well might the friends of temperance exclaim, "Shall alcohol devour us ever? Shall alcohol devour us ever?" Having eloquently delineated the miseries of the drunkard he proceeded to speak of the tactics they should observe to gain the achievement of which they were in pursuit. They could set the example of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks and refuse to vote for any man for any political office who was in favor of licensing the dram-shop. There were a class who called themselves temperate drinkers, and these were the most self-complacent men in the world. They were what might be called in Latin phraseology the "*in medio tutissimus ibis*" class, and those were the men from whom drunkards were recruited. The speaker spoke at length on the morality of the liquor law and the incalculable blessings it was destined to shed on the community at large, and predicted the dawning of the day when total prohibition would be in full force.

Rev. Mr. Boole, of Williamsburg, next made some remarks and the meeting broke up after having endorsed the sentiments expressed by acclamation.

CITY POLITICS.

Union Republican General Committee.

The Union Republican General Committee met last evening at its headquarters, corner of Twenty-second street and Broadway, John V. Gridley acting as chairman, and Messrs. A. H. Keech and John Quackenbush as secretaries. After the usual routine business, Mr. Sinclair Tousey moved a resolution advising the adoption of the fifteenth amendment to the constitution, which was unanimously adopted. The secretary then read a letter from Mr. Ellery, the chairman of the Committee on Contested Seats, saying that in consequence of a death in his family he was unable to furnish any report. Ex-Judge Quackenbush moved that the committee should be instructed to be ready to report at the next monthly meeting, and as an amendment Mr. Charles S. Spencer proposed that the report should be made at a meeting to be held on Friday of next week. These motions led to considerable discussion, and on the yeas and nays being taken it was declared that Mr. Quackenbush's motion was carried. On motion of Mr. Sinclair Tousey a resolution expressing the confidence of the committee in the gentlemen appointed to positions in the Cabinet was unanimously adopted. The proposition to change the date of the charter election to that of the State election was next discussed, but no action was taken. The Committee adjourned to meet the first Thursday in April.

THE FEVER SHIP.

Coroner's Inquest in the Case of John O. Southard—The Whereabouts of the Captain and Mate.

The further examination into the alleged horrors connected with this case are so far confirmatory of the allegations already made respecting the cruelty practised by the captain and officers of the emigrant ship James Foster, Jr., and of the sufferings endured by the crew and passengers, particulars of which have already appeared in the HERALD. We give to-day the proceedings before the Staten Island authorities.

Dr. James Harcourt, Coroner, commenced an inquisition yesterday in the case of John O. Southard, who died on the night of the 11th inst. at the Seamen's Retreat, Staten Island. The jury were duly empanelled and sworn, and viewed the body, and adjourned until Monday next, to take testimony and hear the report of the physicians who are to make the post mortem. The testimony as far as advanced shows that the most unheard of and brutal violence has been used towards the sailors of the ship on the part of the captain and officers. Several complaints have already been made before Justice Garrett, of Edgewater, and four persons are now confined in Richmond county jail on warrants issued by said justice. Captain Holbrook, of the Metropolitan Police, stationed on the island, with his men, has used every exertion to arrest the guilty parties, and although refused information at the office of the owner of the ship finally succeeded in finding the whereabouts of the captain and officers of the ship. The officer sent on this errand, on his return reported the captain and mate confined by sickness, whereupon, at the request of Captain Holbrook, Dr. John Feeney, of the Seaman's Retreat, visited the captain and mate at their homes, in the city of Brooklyn, and found them down with ship fever, and so low they could not be removed to Richmond county.

The following is the ante-mortem examination of John O. Southard, taken before Justice Garrett:—

Richmond County, ss.—John O. Southard, being duly sworn, says he was one of the crew of the ship James Foster, Jr., on her late voyage from Liverpool to this port; that during said voyage he was inhumanly beaten and ill-treated by Joseph Murphy, third mate of said ship; that said Murphy was directed by Armstrong, the captain, and by Armstrong, chief mate, a brother of the captain, to beat deponent with belaying pins, and did so beat him; and from said treatment he is now suffering. JOHN O. SOUTHARD.

Sworn before me this 8th day of March, 1869. THOS. GARRETT, Police Justice.

The following cases are now pending in the Police Court at Edgewater in this connection:—William McKenna vs. Joseph Murphy, third mate, and John O. Southard vs. The Same; William McKenna vs. the Boatswain; Joseph Emory vs. James Glynn, carpenter; J. H. Byrne vs. Felix Solerliske, second steward. The last mentioned was arrested yesterday and identified as one of those who practised the ill usage complained of by the passengers. He rejoices in the alias of Walsh and the soubriquet of "Cockney."

THE ROYAL INSURANCE BOND ROBBERY.

A "Pal" of Noble on the Stand—How $230,000 was Stolen.

Dan Noble, one of the men who made the robbery of bonds from the Royal Insurance Company, of this city, has been for the last few days on trial in Elmira, and one of his associates in the robbery has been induced to testify against him.

James Griffin, the fellow criminal, after giving an account of how he became acquainted with Dan Noble, says that he, Noble and Knapp, having found out something about the box containing the bonds, went into the office of the company. Knapp engaged the attention of the officers while Griffin went to the vault and got the box. Noble had discovered the box, and when the witness brought it out expressed his wonder at its having been got. He (witness) said, "Let me take the box, for it's better for me to be arrested than you, for you can help me." I took the box and we got into the cars near the Astor House. Went to Noble's house and Tierny's room. Noble, Knapp and I counted and found about $230,000 in bonds. We sorted the papers out, sealed up the papers and sent them away. Then there was some talk about escaping, and after some dispute it was agreed that witness and Knapp should go to Canada. Tierny, one of the gang, sold $5,000 of the bonds, and the proceeds were divided. Knapp and Griffin got to Canada and received a message that Captains Jourdan and Young were following them, which was true; but through some defect in the law after being arrested they were discharged. They then heard that Noble was arrested, and though the proof must fall on this charge, there was something on which he could be convicted; witness offered to give up the bonds to serve him; Tierny suggested that if the bonds were given up McDonald would be liberated; witness wanted $75,000 to $100,000; finally there came a quarrel between the parties as to the division of the bonds; Griffin got $25,000, but was altogether dissatisfied with it, but Noble told him that he (Noble) had got but $7,000 out of it; meanwhile the witness had been employing a man of the name of Baker, and found that this Baker had been in communication with Noble on his own account; Griffin then thought he was being beat and sent to the company that he was willing to make a clean breast of it.

Mr. McDonald and Mr. George Pratt identified the bonds produced as some of those stolen with the box.

Charles Baker was then sworn, and testified to a previous acquaintance with Noble, and that Noble had sent for him from St. Catharines to Elmira, and there given him a message for Griffin (under the name of Williams); Baker returned to St. Catharines and saw Griffin and Griffin sent by him six $1,000 bonds to Noble; witness saw Baker and told him Williams sent him; that he had brought the bonds; Noble said the b——r had cut the last coupon off; Griffin had told witness if he saw Tierny to get some money from him; Noble took the bonds and subsequently said to witness he wanted him to take the bonds back; said they had cost him $100 to have them carried in New York, and he should keep one of them to make parties good for the box and some other things; witness took the bonds; he told witness if Williams wanted that bond to send on so much money and he could have it; he told witness to kind o' watch Williams; witness was not in the employ of Noble; he went to St. Catharines again and remained till July; he took the messsage and returned the bonds to Williams, who swore tremendously about Noble; Griffin had related to him the particulars of this robbery; next saw Noble in July in Elmira; when witness came back in July Noble asked him what Williams said in relation to the bonds he had kept; witness told him about his swearing and ripping and rearing; Noble said let him kick; if he comes here he will get five years; witness told Noble, Williams had told him all about the robbery; Williams said Noble would not have a cent if it hadn't been for him (Williams); told Dan that Williams claimed he had beat him out of money that he couldn't account for; Williams told him Noble stood on the outside when the robbery was committed, so that he could see Williams through a glass door; Mr. Noble told witness he was sorry he ever gave one of them a cent, for he could have whipped them with their own money; something was said shortly after that about the division of the bonds, and that Williams talked at the time of shooting some one; Noble said he gave them $50,000 each; said Williams was dissatisfied, but went off with them apparently satisfied.

Baker was in Elmira when Noble was arrested. A sign was passed between them to show that fact. The witness gave a great deal of evidence as to an arrest in Hornellsville for grand larceny, on which he had given bail. He testified that in regard to that he and Noble had had a quarrel, Noble desiring to get him away, and Baker offering to go if he would make his bail good; the matter going on into a bitter recrimination by Noble against him for making certain affidavits. A *nolle prosequi* was subsequently entered in that prosecution.

On his cross-examination Baker testified that he was under an arrest on a false charge made by Griffin of passing a $100 bill; he supposed the object of the charge was to keep him for this trial and hold it over him *in terrorem;* he came on originally to be a witness for Noble to contradict Griffin; has been pursued by Grimn since, probably to compel him to give testimony; he had made an affidavit drawn by Grimn's lawyer; if Noble had relieved him of his bail he would have been out of the way; but Noble wanted him to talk in the presence of a third person, and he had thought it wise or prudent to do so; he had been in jail three or four times, possible five, but not more.

Robert Watts, a detective, gave some testimony as to the arrest of Noble, and admitted that he had received $100 from either him or Mr. Barker, of New York, which one he could not remember, and to passing over thirty dollars, which they claimed they had spent in a spree.

Ralph E. Barker, the other detective who arrested him, gave a similar account, and that he took $200 from Noble at the time of the arrest, of which the prisoner asked him to give $100 to Knapp for his wife, which witness did; thirty dollars was paid back to the prisoner in the Tombs, and the balance was seized by the Sheriff.

Myron H. Foster, of Elmira, proved a sale of a house to Noble February 13, 1867, the deed being made out