WASHINGTON

The Sprague and Abbott Difficulty.

Each Belligerent Waiting for the Other to Come On.

HOSTILE MESSAGES IN PREPARATION.

SATISFACTION WARRANTED.

The Nominations Lying Over in the Senate.

HOW CARLISLE WAS DEFEATED.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1869.

Reported Resignation of Attorney General Hoar.

A rumor has been floating about to-night to the effect that Attorney General Hoar has tendered his resignation, and that it has been accepted and the position offered to a Western man. Inquiry in likely quarters fails to confirm the rumor. The probability is there is not one word of truth in it.

A Medley of Visitors at the White House.

President Grant was visited to-day by a large number of Senators and others. Among the visitors was the son of Brigham Young and his wife, one of Brigham Young's wives, and Miss Little, all of Utah. Besides these a delegation of the German Veteran Union called to pay their respects and present him with a card of invitation to a flag festival on the 17th of May. A delegation of Indians also called and were admitted to an interview. A delegation of colored men from Alexandria were at the Executive Mansion, and will probably have an interview with the President to-morrow.

Nominations Not Acted Upon by the Senate.

The following is an official list of the nominations which were not acted upon by the Senate:—

John H. Hutchinson, to be Minister Resident at the Hawaiian Islands; A. H. Markland, Third Assistant Postmaster General; James C. Foley, Secretary of Legation at Madrid; Digby V. Bell, Consul at Goderich; De B. Randolph Keim, Consul at Kin Kiang; Geo. W. Swift, Consul at Windsor; Frank M. Pixley, United States Attorney for California; John A. Prall, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Seventh district Kentucky; James P. Morse, Pension Agent at Portsmouth, N. C.; Alfred Newstadt, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Twelfth district, Illinois; Jonathan C. Wells, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Thirteenth district Illinois; William A. Davis, Register of Public Moneys at Stockton, Cal.; Addison Low, Supervising Inspector of Steamboats for the Second district; Joseph V. Schofield, Consul at Hadodadi; George A. Houghton, Supervising Inspector of Steamboats, Sixth district; Thomas McElrath, Appraiser of Merchandise for New York.

Postmasters—James Kelly, at New York; Robert A. Smith, Honesdale, Pa.; Jackson M. Rose, Abingdon, Va.; Charles P Wheeler, Eufaula, Ala.; Mrs. Adeline Livingston, Greenville, Ala.; Joseph Hall, Oconto, Wis.; John J. Hazerling, Greenburg, Ind.; Joseph Ferrier, Jeffersonville, Ind.; George M. Howlett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; John Surgafelt, Hollidaysburg, Pa.; Frederick Ball, Lagrange, Ga.; O. Z. Olin, Waukesha, Wis.; A. W. Caldwell, Rome, Ga.; James McKean, Mercer, Pa.; W. N. Morrison, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

A Bank President Sentenced to the Penitentiary.

Leonard Huyck, President of the late Merchants' National Bank of this city, who was convicted of a larceny of bonds to the amount of $13,000, was to-day called for sentence, and, on being asked if he had anything to say, stated that the bonds in question were given to him as collateral security. Exceptions having been taken by his counsel, the Court sentenced him to two years in the penitentiary at Albany, to take effect thirty days after the expiration of the next term of the Court in General Term.

The Indian Bureau.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Parker will enter upon his duties next Monday instead of the 1st of May, as originally intended. Appointments will soon be made of persons to take the place of the two Friends who were rejected last night by the Senate as Indian Agents.

The Congregational Church Difficulty Adjusted.

The troubles in the Congregational church have been amicably arranged. Dr. Boynton has resigned and about 125 members have taken letters to a new People's church, with free seats, of which Dr. Boynton will be pastor. The others remain in the present church building with General Howard. Satisfactory arrangements were made regarding the property.

Another Change in the Treasury Department.

James M. Davis, a fourth class clerk in the Treasury Department and private secretary to Messrs. Chase, Fessenden and McCulloch, was removed from office this morning.

Affixing and Cancelling Revenue Stamps.

Commissioner Delano has decided, with regard to affixing and cancelling revenue stamps, that in all cases where an adhesive stamp shall hereafter be used, except as may be otherwise provided, the person making and delivering or giving the instrument, matter or thing to be taxed, shall affix the stamp; that the entire surface of each stamp shall be exposed to view, and shall cancel the same by writing with ink upon each stamp or by some mechanical means as the Commissioner may hereafter require, in order that such cancelled stamp cannot again be used. The cancellation of stamps for spirits and tobacco will remain as heretofore prescribed. The Commissioner calls the attention of officers to the provisions of the act imposing a fine and punishment for using adhesive stamps which have already been used.

Weekly Report of Customs Receipts.

The following were the customs receipts from April 12 to April 17, inclusive:—

At Boston	$338,938
At New York	2,395,095
At Philadelphia	184,097
At Baltimore	100,394
At San Francisco, from March 15 to March 20	134,124
Total	$3,152,648

THE EIGHT HOUR QUESTION.

Opinion of Attorney General Hoar on the Constitutionality of the Eight Hour Law—He Coincides with the Opinion of Mr. Evarts—Circular of the Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1869.

Attorney General Hoar, under date of April 21, 1869, in reply to a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, gives the following opinion:—

Hon. A. E. Borie, Secretary of the Navy:—

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d of April, 1869, in which you ask my opinion upon the true meaning and effect of the act of Congress approved June 25, 1868, which fixes the number of hours constituting a day's work of laborers, workmen and mechanics in the employment of the United States, taken in connection with the act of July 16, 1862, which provided that section eight of the act to further promote the efficiency of the Navy, approved December 21, 1861, be amended so as to read as follows:—"That the hours of labor and the rate of wages of employes in the navy yards shall conform, as nearly as is consistent with the public interests, with those of private establishments in the immediate vicinity of the respective yards, to be determined by the commandants of the navy yards, subject to the approval and revision of the Secretary of the Navy."

In reply I have the honor to state that the whole subject was fully considered in the opinion of my predecessor, Mr. Evarts, to the President, on the 25th of November, 1868, to which I beg leave to refer you, and from the conclusions of which I see no reason to differ. In my opinion the statute of June 25, 1868, has nothing to do with compensations to be paid to workmen in navy yards, and leaves that to be determined under the provisions of the act of July 16, 1862. The provision that eight hours shall constitute a day's labor has no tendency whatever to show whether the day's labor thus established shall be paid at a lower or higher rate than a day of ten hours labor or at the same rate. The rate of compensation is still left by the law to be determined under the rule prescribed by the statute of July 16, 1862, so as to conform as nearly as consistent with the public interest with those of private establishments in the immediate vicinity of the respective yards, to be determined by the commandants of navy yards, subject to the approval and revision of the Secretary of the Navy. If private establishments in the neighborhood employed their hands five hours a day only there obviously would be no justice in reducing the wages of those employed in navy yards for eight hours to the amount paid by the day in private establishments, and the law intended no such result. On the other hand, I find nothing in the statute which requires you to pay the same price for eight hours' labor which private establishments pay for ten or twelve hours. The amount of service rendered or quality of the work make the fewer hours in navy yards equivalent in value to the longer time fixed in private establishments, or for some other reason make it consistent with the public interests. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. R. HOAR, Attorney General.

In consequence of the above opinion the Secretary of the Navy sends the following circular letter to commandants of navy yards and stations:—

NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22, 1869.

SIR—The act of Congress approved June 25, 1868, constitutes eight hours a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics employed on behalf of the government. While thus establishing the length of a day's work Congress omitted to repeal the act of July 15, 1862, requiring the wages of employes in the navy yards to conform, as nearly as consistent with the public interest, with those of private establishments in the immediate vicinity of the yards. Until these laws are repealed the department must abide by them. The department has no authority to extend the hours of labor by making more than eight hours a day's work; but it has the right to employ mechanics, workmen and laborers on extra hours and to pay them pro rata for such extra labor. Where, therefore, a necessity exists for extra labor you are at liberty to exercise your discretion in the matter, so as to assist the working classes and at the same time to do justice to the government. Very respectfully, A. E. BORIE, Secretary of the Navy.

Senator Wilson's Opinion of the Eight Hour Law.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1869.

Senator Wilson has addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, dissenting from the official construction placed upon the Eight Hour law. He maintains, first, that the law was passed in answer to the numerous petitions of mechanics and workingmen employed in the government establishments; secondly, that it was the intention of Congress to fully meet their views; and, thirdly, the law was plain upon the subject. The letter will probably be published.

THE SPRAGUE EXCITEMENT.

The Great Sensation in Washington—Interviews With Senators Sprague and Abbott—Sprague Expecting a Communication from Mr. Abbott—Sprague Must Apologize or Fight—The Correspondence to Pass on Saturday.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1869.

The extraordinary session of the Senate expired at an early hour this morning, with a sensation. On their way to their homes the Senators seemed to forget the contests over Sanford and Pile and Carlile, and to think only of Sprague and Abbott. The discussion ran upon the probable means of settling the "little onpleasantness" which had sprung up between the Senator from the Old North State and the Senator from "Little Rhody." Would Abbott box Sprague's ears and pull his nose, or would he challenge him to mortal combat, after the good old chivalric fashion? were the questions asked and speculated upon. The pluck of the two men was discussed with as much avidity by grave Senators as if they were professional pugilists and the expected mill was to come off to-morrow. When the sensation came off there were few persons around the Senate Chamber besides the clerks and doorkeepers and the newspapers correspondents. Like the Senators, they, too, had their opinions and speculations concerning what had occurred and what might follow. Each of the parties to the affair had, of course, their friends, and some went so far in their enthusiasm as to offer to bet. The great mass of the people were entirely ignorant of what had occurred until they opened the newspapers this morning. The news, however, spread rapidly, and during the entire day it has been the talk of the town. A thousand rumors were afloat of a collision having occurred between the belligerents. Some had it that Abbott had met Sprague in the street and had cowhided him; others that he had pulled his nose and boxed his ears and otherwise heaped indignities upon him; and others still that arrangements were in progress for a meeting on the historic ground at Bladensburg. Sprague's admirers circulated stories precisely the opposite, giving all the prowess to "Little Rhody," and annihilating Abbott, the rotund and muscular, as did David the gigantic Goliath. All these proved groundless, and the sun went down without any bloodshed.

INTERVIEW WITH SPRAGUE.

Your correspondent visited Senator Sprague in the afternoon, to ascertain how he took the matter and whether there were any preparations on foot for a settlement of the difficulty between himself and Mr. Abbott. The Senator remained at home all day, waiting, as he said, to receive any message that the Senator from North Carolina might have to communicate. He did not anticipate any, but if it came he did not want to be absent. Having left the Senate before Mr. Abbott made his little speech Sprague knew nothing of its import until he read it in the papers this morning. The only thing in it that he took exception to was the charge that he had "skulked out of the chamber." He says he had no intention to run away from whatever danger there might be in either Abbott or his friends. Before leaving the Senate Chamber Mr. Abbott had asked in executive session to have the doors opened for the purpose of allowing him to make a personal explanation. Sprague had inquired whether it related to him, and he was assured that it did not. Thinking that possibly it might be a fresh panegyric on General Burnside, in which he was not particularly interested, he left the chamber and went home.

"What would you have done, Mr. Senator, had you been present?" we inquired.

"Well," he replied, stretching himself at full length on the sofa, as if he were thinking up a speech, "I would have said, 'Mr. President, I did not couple any Senator's name with the phrase "puppy dog" when I used it; but if there are any here whom the skin fits they can put it on and wear it.' That," he continued, "would have been my only explanation."

MR. SPRAGUE PREPARED TO RENDER SATISFACTION.

"Suppose, Mr. Sprague, Senator Abbott had not been satisfied with this, and had demanded, as he said he would, satisfaction outside the Senate Chamber?"

"Well," he replied, "I would have said, 'Sir, you can have whatever satisfaction you want, either inside or outside the Senate Chamber.'"

UNFAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR SENATOR ANTHONY'S RE-ELECTION.

Leaving this subject temporarily Senator Sprague launched out upon his favorite theme—the politicians in the Senate and their attempt to ruin the business of the country.

"What do you think," I inquired, "of Anthony's chances of re-election to the Senate?"

"Panaw!" he exclaimed, with a contemptuous toss of his head and a snap of his fingers, "Anthony stands no more chance of getting back to the Senate from Rhode Island than you do, after his term is out. Why, do you know it took all that his owners and backers, Brown and Ives, could do, and all that I could do, to get him elected the last time? He has no hold upon the people of Rhode Island."

CAMERON AND CHAMPAGNE—SPRAGUE FORSWEARS BOTH.

Turning suddenly around, after a brief pause Mr. Sprague said:—"What do you think of Cameron? Is he a truthful, honest man?"

I replied that I knew nothing to the contrary, but that probably he knew more about Cameron than I did. Whereupon he said:—

"I used to meet him a good deal some time ago. He would come and take me down to his agricultural committee room, and set out champagne and ask me to drink. Finally I said to him, 'Cameron, you are a vicious old fellow. I am a young man and you are an old sinner, and you are always putting temptation in my way. Now I don't intend coming to your committee room any more.' Since that time I have had little to do with Cameron. I don't know what he intended to say yesterday, but I suppose he would have joined in the general attack upon me had he proceeded when he arose to speak."

ROSS, OF KANSAS, RUN BY OUTSIDE PARTIES.

Having finished Cameron, he next inquired my opinion of Senator Ross, and failing to get a satisfactory answer he proceeded to say:—"I think somebody runs Ross—some outside parties. That is the way with several Senators. For all that I think Ross is a pretty clever fellow, but he is not plucky, or else he would have made a better fight upon Grant the other day when he ascertained that all his friends were being turned out of office."

ABBOTT'S PLUCK QUESTIONABLE.

With a view to bringing him back to the main point of interest I said, "Mr. Senator, what do you think of Abbott?"

"Oh, well," he said, "he don't amount to much. He is one of those lawyers who have a great estimation of their own abilities. You see Abbott is a Yankee, and he is sharp enough to know that it would not do for him to go back to North Carolina after having been called a 'puppy dog' here in the Senate without some show at what they call chivalry in the South. Why, the very negroes down there would not speak to him. This is the way I account for his speech last night. I don't think he means any mischief, at least I have no fears or apprehensions on the subject."

MR. SPRAGUE NO DUELIST, BUT WILL TAKE HIS OWN PART.

"Did you ever have anything to do with a duel, Mr. Senator?" I inquired.

"No," he answered. "I am not a fighting man, but if I am pushed they will make a great mistake if they suppose there is anything cowardly in me. Now, after all you heard yesterday of General Burnside, he is not as plucky a man as people suppose. I was with him in the field, and know it."

FIGHTING NOT THE WAY TO SETTLE THE QUESTION—THE PEOPLE SUSTAIN SPRAGUE.

"But I don't believe fighting is the way to settle these matters. The little affair in the Senate last night only shows that my speeches have stirred these fellows up. At first they attempted to poohpooh me, but they find now that the people are behind me, and that sort of thing won't do. Why, I get more letters now by every mail from the State of Indiana than Senator Morton does, and it is so from all the other States."

The reception of these letters has evidently tickled the Senator, for when he gets on that subject he talks with much satisfaction.

"These letters," he continued, "are not the ordinary sort of letters that Senators receive, begging for speeches or documents. They come from first class men; business men, who understand what I am after and who sympathise with the movement I have inaugurated."

I congratulated him on getting the Senate to allow him to print his letters in the *Globe*. He laughed heartily and said:—"That's just what I wanted. That is why I read them in so low a tone of voice. I knew they would soon get tired, and I was determined to go through with the entire list, if they had not given me leave to print them. You ought," he said, "to get the *Globe* and read those letters. They will occupy four or five copies of the *Globe*."

Promising that I would get the *Globe* and look at the letters, and expressing a hope that he would not be called upon to visit Bladensburg, I left the Senator from Rhode Island. As I came out I noticed a large number of persons sitting in the spacious parlors waiting to see the man who loomed up and become famous all of a sudden. The House was filled with visitors all day, I learned, and the Senator, who regards himself as the people's friend, if not the people's lawyer, saw all comers.

INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR ABBOTT.

Leaving Sprague's abode your correspondent next proceeded to the lodgings of the good looking, large chested and belligerent Abbott. Senator Abbott has his rooms on Thirteenth street, near F, in a comfortable looking house, where he receives his friends with something like the old Southern frankness and geniality. When your correspondent was ushered into the Senator's presence he found him ensconced in an easy chair placed by an open window commanding a view of all the passers on the street. His position suggested the idea of a general on the lookout, for he was so placed that he could easily ascertain who might be approaching his citadel. His countenance was serene and his manner showed not the least sign of apprehension. He looked as if he expected the lion of Rhody might come, but he did not care a —well, fig—whether he did or not. Close by the Senator and reclining in a rocking chair, perfectly at his ease, was a gentleman of color, who evidently enjoyed the friendship and esteem of Mr. Abbott. The colored gentleman enjoyed the glorious privilege of Senatorial condescension. Directly opposite Mr. Abbott was a spectacled gentleman named Martin, who was white.

"Walk in, Mr. ——," said the Senator; "take a seat, sir," motioning to a sofa.

"I find it is unnecessary to ask you one question, at all events," said your correspondent, inspecting the Senator closely to discover any wounds or marks of a recent combat.

"What is that, sir?" interrogated the Senator.

CORRESPONDENT—Whether you are still safe and sound, and in the land of the living.

SENATOR—(smiling)—Oh, I see your meaning. Yes, sir. I have not been entirely demolished yet.

CORRESPONDENT—The city has been full of startling stories to-day, Senator, and one of them credits yourself and Senator Sprague with a duel.

SENATOR—(laughing heartily)—Indeed, sir?

CORRESPONDENT—Yes, Senator; and what is more, you were shot all to pieces.

SENATOR—(laughing)—Well, sir, I'm glad to find myself put together again.

CORRESPONDENT—Then I am to understand there has been no collision as yet, Senator?

SPRAGUE MUST RETRACT THE OBJECTIONABLE WORDS OR BE PUBLICLY DISGRACED.

SENATOR—Precisely, sir. No collision has occurred, sir. But—(and here the Senator became serious)—this much I want understood by Senator Sprague and his friends—that he must make a retraction, as broad as the implication that I am a puppy, or a mongrel puppy, or whatever else it was he applied to me in his remarks yesterday. I am no duellist, as I said in my personal explanation last night, but I can suffer no man with impunity to call me a puppy dog. He must either retract, sir, or I will put upon him a public disgrace, which will follow him through life. I come from a State, sir, where people are not in the habit of pocketing insults. The people of my State would think very strangely of me were I to submit tamely to the affront of Mr. Sprague or any other man.

CORRESPONDENT—A good deal of the old chivalry is left in North Carolina yet, Senator?

SENATOR—Yes, sir. That kind of chivalry, at least, remains. In the town where I live I am known as one who is not in the habit of permitting anybody to insult him. They know me well there, and know that if any man calls me a hard name or otherwise affronts me that man has either to apologize or fight.

CORRESPONDENT—What is your town, Senator?

SENATOR—Wilmington. Mr. Martin, there (pointing to the white gentleman opposite) knows what the people in that town think about such matters. Why, sir, if I were to lie under this insult my people would turn me out of the State whenever I might show my face there.

CORRESPONDENT—Have you seen Sprague to-day, Senator?

SENATOR—No, sir; I have not. I have remained here most of the day, expecting that gentleman or some of his friends would send some message, but up to this moment have not received a line or a call. When I found Sprague had left the Senate I accused him of skulking away, and naturally thought he would take some notice of that expression to-day; but, as I said before, he has not.

CORRESPONDENT—You say you have received no message from him; but have you sent him any communication?

SENATOR—Not yet.

CORRESPONDENT—Do you intend to do so?

RETRACTION TO BE DEMANDED ON SATURDAY.

SENATOR—I do, sir. I shall wait patiently until to-morrow. Then, not having heard from him, I shall address him a short little note calling for retraction. If he makes a retraction, all right. I don't want to proceed any further. But if he declines, then I must see to it that other satisfaction is rendered me. You see the position he would have placed in me. He had the last say with the public, leaving me branded as a puppy, a mongrel puppy. I did not feel disposed to let the matter so rest. I felt justified in calling public attention to the remarks of Senator Sprague, and demanding a public retraction as broad and full as the imputation. That was my object in asking an opportunity for a public explanation. Had Sprague been present when the opportunity was offered last night I should have asked him aloud in the Senate whether he intended by his remarks to apply the term "puppy" to me. If he then answered "yes," I should have sat down quietly in my seat; for I never for a moment designed violating the rules of the Senate or committing any act that would have disgraced the body to which I have the honor to belong. I would have waited another opportunity outside the Senate to demand satisfaction of another kind.

CORRESPONDENT—Some people here say that you threatened to slap Sprague's face in case he should refuse to apologize. Is that true, Senator?

SENATOR—Not exactly. At least I did not say I would slap his face in the Senate. What I said was this—I believe it was to Senator Wilson—that if Sprague should refuse me either a retraction or satisfaction I would then slap his face or insult him in some other way that would make him show fight. I did not mean by that that I would slap him in the Senate, but outside, where we would not be hampered by rules and restraints like those that very properly prevail in all legislative and deliberative bodies. I believe I said the same thing to other Senators.

NO DOUBT WHO WAS THE PUFFY DOG.

CORRESPONDENT—I suppose you have no doubt that Mr. Sprague really intended to compare you to a puppy?

SENATOR—Doubt! I can see none, sir. Have you seen the *Globe*, sir? (Taking up a copy of that paper and looking over it.) You will see, sir, the way in which he uses the terms "mastiff" and "puppy dog" in his remarks as printed in the *Globe*. He says—(reading)—"In answer to the tirade of the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from North Carolina, I am reminded of another little illustration," and then he goes on to tell a story about chancing to visit a farmhouse and encountering a mastiff and a mongrel puppy dog—how the puppy dog bit at his heel, and then, frightened at his temerity, ran howling away, followed by his larger companion. If his comparison meant anything, certainly it was that Nye was a mastiff and I a puppy dog. What else could the man mean? It was bunglingly expressed, to be sure, but that was his misfortune, not his fault.

CORRESPONDENT—Don't you think the mastiff is the most odious in the comparison, Senator?

SENATOR—I have nothing to do with the mastiff, sir. The mastiff can take care of himself—(laughing)—I am the puppy dog—(smiling.)—and as such, have only to look after that little animal.

MR. MARTIN—Sprague certainly had no justification for using such terms.

NOT BEING A YANKEE, MR. ABBOTT SEEKS REDRESS.

SENATOR—Well, there need be no foll loll about it. It has simply come to this, that Mr. Sprague must either retract or do worse. If I was from New England perhaps, I would put up with such insults meekly; but not being from that peaceful region I shall take the liberty of settling the affair in another method.

CORRESPONDENT—Sumner took quite a prominent part, last night, in quelling the excitement?

SENATOR—Oh, yes, of course; and it was his interference that made me moderate my language. I was afraid he intended to make charges against me for violating the rules of the Senate, and therefore I explained that I was no duelist, but that I simply intended to demand a retraction in open Senate or satisfaction outside the Senate.

SPRAGUE AWARE THAT A RETRACTION WOULD BE DEMANDED.

CORRESPONDENT—Did Sprague know that you intended to make this demand beforehand?

SENATOR—I was informed that he had heard of my intention, but don't know who told him. You see it came up first while we were in executive session. I rose and stated that I desired an opportunity to make a personal explanation about the remarks of Sprague early in the day. Sprague thereupon jumped up and exclaimed that if he was to be attacked again he wanted to give notice that he would talk all night. His object in saying this I understood to be to give me a warning that he would occupy the whole time of the Senate in talking till the hour of adjournment, so as to prevent me from having a chance to make any personal explanation.

HE SHALL HEAR FROM ME IN THE MORNING.

CORRESPONDENT—They say Sprague went away after this?

SENATOR—Yes, sir; he got up and went away, and then I found myself in a curious fix. I felt it incumbent on me to demand an explanation, but found Sprague not present to give one. What could I do? I could only speak as I did subsequently, when the Senate doors were thrown open to the public. That enabled me to place myself right before the public and left it to Sprague to take the next step. I said he skulked away. It is his place to notice that; but if he don't he will hear from me in the morning, as I said before. It is not a pleasant thing to be called a puppy. The other day I saw by your paper he called another Senator a "mutton head" and two or three others "pukes." (Here the Senator smiled.) What can he mean by such conduct?

NOT VERY HARD ON SPRAGUE.

I don't think I said anything particularly ill of him to call forth such extreme epithets. The worst I said in any speech during the day was that the criticism of Burnside came from one who never appeared upon the field but in one engagement and who retired from that field with no more than common credit. That was not very hard upon Sprague.

A SLY HIT AT A CARPET-BAGGER.

I suppose, however, he had something else against me, for he came to me one day with a piece of paper and lead pencil in his hand and coolly asked me what State I was from. This was about the time he was going about hunting up the names of the lawyers of the Senate. I looked at him when he asked me the question and answered by saying, "What State are you from yourself? Are you from Nebraska or Nevada or Kansas?" He looked up at me and said, "Really, Senator, I don't know which is your State." I replied, "Nor do I, sir, really know which is your State. I think, now, you had better go some place else and look up the information you are in search of." Sprague thereupon left me.

A PUT UP JOB AND AN IMPARTIAL PRESIDING OFFICER.

CORRESPONDENT—That really happened, Senator?

SENATOR—Certainly, sir. As to my speech which gave him so much offence I prepared it with much care, and showed it beforehand to Senator Anthony. You know the whole thing was put up. It was arranged that Nye should speak first, then Chandler, then Morton, then Brownlow and then myself in defence of Burnside, but Sprague got the floor, and would have spoiled the arrangement only that Anthony understood the programme and recognized me.

After some further conversation your correspondent took leave of the Senator, with the request that should anything further happen during the night he might be posted. The Senator smiled knowingly.

CARLISLE'S REJECTION—STRANGE ACTION OF SENATOR SUMNER—KELLY AND THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

John S. Carlisle, nominated Minister to Sweden, was confirmed at one time last night without a division. An effort was afterwards made to reconsider the vote by which he was confirmed, but it failed. It is stated, however, by Carlisle's friends that later in the night and an hour before adjournment, which took place at about two o'clock A. M., Senator Sumner, by personal appeals to Senators, assuring them that all he wanted was an aye and no vote on Carlisle's confirmation, succeeded by a majority of one in securing a reconsideration of the vote confirming him, some of Mr. Carlisle's best friends voting for it, under the impression that Senator Sumner was dealing fairly in the matter and they would have the opportunity of recording their votes in Carlisle's favor; but after the reconsideration, Senator Sumner, by resorting to what is known as filibustering, prevented another vote, and the Senate adjourned without disposing of this and much other important business before it. Carlisle claims that the President will appoint him Minister to Sweden notwithstanding the unfavorable action of the Senate. The failure of the Senate to confirm the nomination of Mr. Kelly, Postmaster at New York, will not necessitate his immediate appointment to that place by the President, as it is ascertained that his commission does not expire yet for nearly a year.

RUMORS OF BELLIGERENT INTENTIONS OF BOTH SENATORS.

TEN O'CLOCK P. M.

The latest about the Sprague-Abbott unpleasantness is that the North Carolina Senator is "on the lay" for the lion of Rhody, who is at the theatre listening to the English opera. Abbott, it is said, will wait till the opera is over and walk into Sprague as he sallies from the theatre. Those who pretend to know say that Abbott has a trusty friend with him with all the requisites for a deadly encounter, should Sprague consent to accept a challenge to fight according to the chivalrous code. Should he decline, then Abbott will proceed to pull the Senatorial proboscis of Rhode Island and make it yield forth claret. On the other side, it is declared there are ample preparations. Sprague is represented as having his weapons and friend in readiness, the friend being General Halstead, better and more familiarly known as "Pet Halstead." Should this programme be carried out what a deal of spice is ahead this blessed night! But "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft aglee," and Abbott's plan may be spoiled, if indeed he has any such in prospect.

OBITUARY.

Brevet Brigadier General Miles D. McAlester, United States Army.

A despatch from Buffalo reports the sudden death in that city on yesterday morning of Brevet Brigadier General Miles D. McAlester, Major in the Engineer Corps of the United States Army. The deceased officer was a comparatively young man. He was born in this State and entered the military academy at West Point on the 1st of July, 1852, graduating third in his class on the same date of 1856, when he was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in the corps of engineers. A few months later he was promoted to a second lieutenancy, serving in Florida, on the Board of Engineers for the Atlantic Coast Defences, and in the construction and repairs of the fortifications of New York harbor. On May 2, 1861, he was appointed a first lieutenant, and until March of the following year aided in the construction of the defences of Washington. He was then ordered to the field as Chief Engineer of the Third Army corps, in the Army of the Potomac. While holding this position he participated in the seige of Yorktown and battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Oak Grove and Malvern Hill. For gallant and meritorious conduct in the Virginia Peninsular campaign he was brevetted major and lieutenant colonel on the 1st of July, 1862. He was subsequently engaged in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and on the 3d of March, 1863, was commissioned a captain in the Engineer Corps. During the campaign which resulted in the capture of Mobile he greatly distinguished himself, receiving two brevets, one of colonel and the other of brigadier general, "for gallant and meritorious services." In March of 1867 he was commissioned a major in the Engineer Corps, which rank he held at the time of his death. General McAlester was one of the ablest engineers in the army and his loss will be greatly felt.

HORSE NOTES.

The owners of fast trotting horses who contemplate entering them for the various purses offered must bear in mind that the Prospect Park Fair Grounds' purses close to-night, at No. 135 Montague street, Brooklyn. Fifteen thousand dollars is the amount to be put up for competition by the managers, and cannot fail to draw a large number of interested parties. The number of trotting horses is so great at present, and their owners are so anxious to win some of the tempting high prizes offered, that every purse will undoubtedly be largely filled. The more the merrier, as the Prospect Park Fair track is so commodious as to accommodate all comers pleasantly. Some misapprehension seems yet to exist relative to the exclusion of drivers from the above Park. The association excludes no one from their grounds who has horses entered for purses. The rule of exclusion only applies to those who make no entries. This principle cannot be found fault with. The accommodations for horses are unexceptionable. The purses offered are as follows:—$500 for horses that never beat 2:45; $1,500 for double teams; $2,000 for all horses, providing Lady Thorn and Mountain Boy enter; $500 for horses that never beat 2:37; $1,500 for all saddle horses; $3,000 for horses that never beat 2:29; $1,000 for horses that never beat 2:31, and $5,000 for all horses except Lady Thorn and Mountain Boy. Time made at fairs will be considered a record.

The purses for the Fashion Course will close at the corner of Broadway and Houston street on Monday night, 26th inst.

While examining the trotting horses at the various stables at the Fashion Course on the opening day of the trotting season we were more than usually impressed by the fine appearance of Mr. Erastus Corning's brown gelding George Palmer. This horse has improved greatly in appearance since last season, being more muscular and bloodlike. He will no doubt be entered in all the leading events of the year. He trotted a great number of races in first class company last summer, with a fair share of success, and gradually improved in speed so much during the season that he made a heat in Boston in less than 2:22, and in all probability will do better this summer if called upon. George Palmer has taken possession of the stable formerly occupied by Dexter, which has been enlarged, renovated and fitted up elegantly for his accommodation.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

ALBANY, April 23, 1869.

BILLS PASSED.

Enabling the International Bridge Company to consolidate with any Canadian company; relating to the Jordon Academy; the New York county tax levy; continuing Fifth avenue, Brooklyn, to Atlantic avenue; to amend the charter of Brooklyn; to amend the charter of the Great Western Insurance Company; also the charter of Firemen's Trust Insurance Company; relative to the Brooklyn Club; to define and amend the law relative to abandoned canals.

THE BROADWAY SURFACE RAILROAD BILL.

Mr. O'DONNELL moved to take from the table the Broadway Surface Railroad bill, which was carried, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Bradley, Campbell, Chapman, Crowley, Folger, Hale, Hubbard, Humphrey, Kennedy, Morgan, Morris, Murphy, Nichols, Nicks, O'Donnell, Parker, Stanford, Thayer, Van Patten and Williams—20.

NAYS—Messrs. Banks, Cauldwell, Creamer, Edwards, Genet, Graham, Mattoon, Pierce and Tweed—9.

Mr. HUMPHREY moved to recommit, with instructions to amend the bill, so that the company shall pay $2,500,000 into the city treasury in five annual payments.

Mr. CREAMER moved to lay the bill on the table until the 4th day of July next. Carried by a vote of 22 to 7, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Banks, Bradley, Cauldwell, Chapman, Creamer, Crowley, Edwards, Graham, Hale, Hubbard, Kennedy, Mattoon, Morgan, Murphy, Nichols, O'Donnell, Palmer, Parker, Pierce, Stanford, Thayer and Williams—22.

NAYS—Messrs. Campbell, Folger, Genet, Humphrey, Nicks, Tweed and Van Patten—7.

A VETO SUSTAINED.

On motion of Mr. HALE the Governor's veto of the Plattsburg and Whitehall Railroad bill was called from the table.

The question, "Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's objections?" was discussed at length. Messrs. Hale, Murphy and Beach favored overriding the veto, and Messrs. Nichols, Creamer, Morris and Hubbard opposed it.

The question on passing the bill over the Governor's veto was lost. The vote is as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Beach, Cauldwell, Genet, Hale, Morgan, Murphy, Nicks, Stanford, Thayer, Van Patten—10.

NAYS—Messrs. Bradley, Campbell, Chapman, Creamer, Crowley, Edwards, Folger, Graham, Hubbard, Humphrey, Kennedy, Mattoon, Morris, Nichols, Norton, O'Donnell, Palmer, Parker, Pierce, Tweed, Williams—21.

BILLS REPORTED.

Incorporating the Williamsburg Safe Deposit Company; to amend the charter of the Commercial Warehouse Company of New York; relative to Bushwick avenue, Brooklyn; relative to the Wallabout improvement; incorporating the Sixth Avenue Savings Bank of New York; relative to fire limits in Brooklyn.

BILLS ORDERED TO THIRD READING.

Incorporating the Stuyvesant Savings Bank of New York; incorporating the Franklin Library Society of Brooklyn; incorporating the village of McGrawville; establishing an asylum for orphan and illegitimate children of German origin; incorporating the American Trust Company of New York; incorporating the Oriental Savings Bank of New York.

ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, April 23, 1869.

Mr. MOSELEY presented a minority report in the case of McLeod vs. Halpin, favoring the incumbent (Halpin).

BILLS PASSED AND LOST.

To facilitate the construction of railroads in the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus and Wyoming; to incorporate the Brooklyn Baptist Union; to incorporate the Dime Savings Bank of Suffern; to incorporate the New York and Williamsburg Bridge Company—74 to 31. The bill regulating brokers' business was killed.

On motion of Mr. HITCHMAN the bill to widen Broadway, between Thirty-fourth and Fifty-ninth streets, was reconsidered. On motion of Mr. KIERNAN the bill was amended so that no property east of Fourth avenue, and, on motion of Mr. BURNS, none south of Fourteenth street, shall be assessed for the same. The bill was then passed. Incorporating the Excelsior Savings Bank of New York; for the appointment of commissioners to lay out roads in Kings county; to close that portion of the Jamaica plank road lying in the city of Brooklyn; incorporating the Great Neck Dock Company.

BILLS REPORTED.

Incorporating the Veterans of the Ninth regiment; adversely to appropriating Reservoir square for armories for the Seventh and Seventy-first regiments. Mr. Murphy dissented and presented a favorable report thereon, which was ordered to be printed.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

Mr. HIGEMAN called up the report in the Halpin and McLeod contested seat case.

Mr. KIERNAN moved to lay it on the table, which was lost—52 to 61.

Mr. N. B. SMITH moved the adoption of the majority report.

Mr. HUSTED moved the previous question.

Mr. HITCHMAN appealed from the decision of the Chair recognizing Mr. Husted.

The Chair was sustained—65 to 2. The question was then on the adoption of the majority report.

The majority report giving the seat to McLeod was adopted.

Afternoon Session.

Mr. Alexander McLeod took the constitutional oath of office.

The bill regulating judicial sales of real estate in Brooklyn was lost.

BILLS PASSED.

Relative to ferries—Compelling boats to run every hour after midnight; incorporating the Veteran Corps of the Washington Gray cavalry; to discontinue Port McDougall street, Brooklyn; to authorize the Comptroller of Brooklyn to issue registered bonds; to amend the Metropolitan Police law; relative to the inspection of steam boilers; to amend the charter of the Insurers' Indemnity Company of New York; to authorize the removal of the Mutual Savings Bank of Brooklyn; for laying out the Eastern Boulevard at Westchester; for an additional almshouse at Brooklyn; relative to the Court of Oyer and Terminer of New York; relative to the publication of legal notices, by a vote of 69 to 15.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. FLAGG (concurrent)—That the Army of the Potomac flags, now in the Bureau of Military Statistics, be loaned for use on the 5th and 6th of July next at the celebration in New York. Adopted.

By Mr. CHASE (concurrent)—That the State constitution be so amended that the commissioners of the canal fund borrow not exceeding $10,000,000 for the improvement of the canals under the direction of the Legislature. Also that such amendment be referred to the Legislature chosen at the next general election.

CANAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. CHASE also presented a unanimous report of the