CONGRESS.

Adjournment of Both Houses Till January 10.

Sumner's New Bill for the Reconstruction of Virginia.

The Test Oath to be Exacted of Members of the Legislature.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS CORRESPONDENCE

Speech of Mr. Washburn on the Postal Telegraph System.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1869.

THE RECESS OF CONGRESS.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the House joint resolution for extending recess over the holidays from 22d instant until January 10. The subject was laid on the table until the expiration of the morning hour, when the joint resolution was concurred in by yeas 27, nays 22. The recess therefore extends till Monday, January 10.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

The bill for the payment of certain expenses of New York and the bill for the temporary appropriation of $200,000 to prosecute the work on the Des Moines rapids, Missouri river, were passed.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a bill to allow the organization of the militia of Georgia, which was referred.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill to carry out the Reconstruction acts in the State of Virginia and to secure equality before the law, which he gave notice he would move as a substitute for the bill reported by the committee. It alleges various irregularities and defects in the organization of the present Legislature, and declares the existing State government to be provisional only and in all respects subject to the authority of the United States. The bill directs the Military Commander of the First District to assemble within thirty days the persons elected as members of the Legislature, but none shall participate in its organization or business without taking the oath of July 2, 1862. Upon the ratification of the fifteenth amendment by the Legislature thus organized the State shall be admitted to representation in Congress upon the fundamental condition that the constitution of Virginia shall never be amended so as to deprive any citizen of the right to vote, hold office, sit upon juries, participate equally in the school fund, or to enjoy equal personal rights with all others under like circumstances. Amendments may, however, be made in regard to the time and place of residence of voters.

Mr. WILLIAMS, (rep.) of Oregon, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the Committee on Retrenchment to inquire into the expediency of providing for the classification of the clerks in the governmental departments; appointments to be made to the lowest class only, and promotions to be regular.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to consider the expediency of adding two to the number of lieutenant generals and reducing the number of major generals from five to three. He explained that his object was to do justice to two eminent generals, Thomas and Meade, whose great services to the country were universally recognized, the latter having gained at Gettysburg the decisive battle of the war.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., believed that a number of high military officials might without detriment be decreased.

Mr. THAYER, (rep.) of Neb., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing the Attorney General to furnish a copy of any opinion delivered by him relative to our national cemeteries in the late rebellious States, and upon the question whether it is necessary to obtain the consent of the Legislatures of States in which such cemeteries are located for their permanent continuance therein.

The House resolution relative to the death of George Peabody was concurred in.

The House resolution relating to the erection of an equestrian statue in bronze of General Grant was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

IMMIGRATION OF COOLIE LABORERS.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved to refer the bill to regulate the immigration of Chinese in the United States to the Committee on Commerce. He explained the object of the bill was to prevent, as far as practicable, the importation of coolies and dissolute Chinese women into the United States by voiding all contracts for their importation and prohibiting agreements by owners of vessels to transport persons from China, except with the persons themselves to be transported. It was the intention to protect the laborers of this country as far as practicable from the presence of that class of degenerated Chinese who were accustomed to subjection to another class of persons, and were compelled to work for wages upon which a free man would starve. He read from California papers extracts descriptive of scenes of brutality which regularly occur upon the arrival from China of ships laden with Chinese immigrants. This business of importation by contract had largely increased, and our government, he thought, had the power and should exercise it of protecting itself against the encroachments of the rapidly increasing tide of vice and degradation. The bill was only intended to prevent companies here from continuing a contract system with owners of coolies in China.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., said that a provision to prohibit the making of any contract in China for services to be performed in America, and the consequent prevention of free immigration of Chinese to the United States, would be unfair to a people with whom we had just entered into a treaty of amity and commerce. Such contracts were as binding as any other contracts. But why should the Chinese be excluded from the enjoyment of privileges open to all other nations? The right of individual immigration was preserved by the bill; but he objected to a wholesale discrimination against the population of China as incompatible with the spirit of the existing treaty.

Mr. WILLIAMS said there were parties in the United States who had made contracts with the Chinese houses in China to import hundreds of Chinese into this country as laborers, irrespective of the will of such persons. If a contract was made with an establishment in San Francisco to bring to the United States a certain number of Chinese, the understanding invariably was that the men contracted for would come, and that the establishment had sole power over them. It was the duty of the government to provide a remedy for or means of arresting the abuse of the coolie trade, which was rapidly growing, and in this there was nothing inconsistent with the treaty, regulations or spirit and genius of our institutions.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., said that many of the Chinese already here had been originally brought under labor contracts. This trade in the United States had not assumed the proportions attained by it in other countries; but there was reason for grave suspicions that undue influence had been used to import Chinese, and there ought to be, he thought, some police regulations on the subject. Under the police regulations of California these immigrants were taxed five dollars per head. He did not share the apprehension of our country's being overrun by these people, but considered their importation, when brought by force, a matter susceptible of regulation.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal., said he would go as far as the Senator from Oregon in excluding, not only from the ports of California but from all other ports, any class of persons whose presence was detrimental to our moral and physical advancement; and while the worst was true of many of those who had been imported from China, there were those among them distinguished for their industry and enterprise and who had materially assisted us in building our railroads in the West.

The motion of Mr. Williams to refer the bill was then agreed to.

THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

On motion of Mr. HAMLIN, (rep.) of Me., the Senate took up the bill to promote and encourage the International Industrial Exhibition, to be held in Washington in 1871.

Several amendments were adopted, among others one changing the date of the exhibition to 1872.

Mr. STEWART, in order to determine the sense of the Senate, moved to refer the bill to the Committee on the District of Columbia. He did not think Washington to be a suitable place for a world's fair, principally because of the deficiency of railway facilities, for the idea of inviting the world to visit Washington over a single road was preposterous. If Washington was ever to be made a respectable city in magnitude Congress should speedily legislate with a view to that end, but at present the means essential to the success of a World's Exposition were not to be found at the national capital.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., said that unless the corporators could defray all the expenses of getting up the proposed exhibition it would be a bankrupt concern, and a large debt would be thrown upon somebody. He did not believe that any parties here or elsewhere would subscribe for three millions of dollars of stock with the expectation of profit, unless they hoped first to impose upon the government the real burden of the undertaking. He proposed several amendments, among others to make the corporators individually liable for debts incurred. At this time, he said, the South had not had time to recuperate from the effects of the war, and that when an international exhibition was held in our country all the States of the Union should have an opportunity to participate in it, and so make it an occasion of which we may be proud.

The amendments proposed, together with the whole subject, was then referred to the committee.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The Vice President laid before the Senate a communication from the President containing the correspondence called for by a resolution of the Senate relating to American claims against Great Britain.

On motion of Mr. Trumbull, at two o'clock the Senate went into executive session. After remaining in Executive session about seven hours the doors were opened and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1869.

AMENDMENT OF THE REVENUE LAWS.

Mr. STEVENSON (rep.), of Ohio, presented a petition of many citizens of Cincinnati for an amendment of the revenue laws so as to permit distillers of grapes, apples and peaches to use drop beer for distillation, setting forth that $1,000,000 of revenue, now lost to the government, might be secured by such a law.

BILLS REFERRED.

Bills were, by unanimous consent, introduced and referred as follows:—

By Mr. WELKER, (rep.) of Ohio—To abolish imprisonment for debt in the District of Columbia. Also to supply artificial limbs to discharged soldiers and sailors.

By Mr. SHELDON, (rep.) of La.—For the better organization of the United States Courts in Louisiana.

By Mr. BOYD, (rep.) of Mo.—Extending the time for the completion of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad.

By Mr. WASHBURN, (rep.) of Wis.—For the establishment of a collection district and port of entry at La Crosse, Wis.

By Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio—Proposing an amendment to the constitution.

THE HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. INGERSOLL in the chair, for general debate.

Mr. CULLOM, (rep.) of Ill., addressed the committee on the subject of the apportionment under the next census, desiring it to be carried out so as to apply to the next Congress, favoring the increase of Representatives to at least three hundred, and intimating that at no distant day there would be an amendment of the constitution to change the basis of representation in the Senate. He thought that the whole system of representation should be revised and that a system should be devised whereby all the people, minorities or majorities, should be represented.

Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., replied to the argument of Mr. Cullom. He said he had heard with some apprehension that that gentleman not only thought it right, but contemplated an attempt on the part of those who might have the power, right or not, to break up the original constitution of this government, compounded of the States and of the people of the whole nation. He did not understand the definition of his government to be entirely the government of the people as a mass. He understood it to have been an attempt to bring under one government the States and the people, and that the people were represented in this branch and the States in the other branch. The nation would have had no existence if the sentiment which the gentleman advocated in regard to the Senate had prevailed in 1789. It was a matter of history that of nothing were the States so jealous as their State existence, and that they came into the convention, which finally adopted this admirable system of government, on the pledge, not only that their State existence should be recognized and their equality recognized in the Senate of the United States, but that they should be protected against such change as might be suggested hereafter by any amotious State or ambitious section of the country, and as had been now suggested by the gentleman from Illinois. They had not only provided for the equality of the States in the other branch, but each State stipulated that it never should be changed without the consent of each of the States. He submitted to his friends who spoke of amending the constitution so as to obliterate that feature of the government by which the States were recognized in their State capacity in the other branch this clause in the constitution (article 5), and that no State without its consent shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate. There was a solemn stipulation, a constitutional provision, entered into deliberatively, and the history of the formation of the constitution disclosed that on this point it was that the whole success or failure of the convention depended, whether the States should be preserved in their corporate and State capacity beyond peradventure of ambitious power in any State that might thereafter develop in the power of any section, in combination under any power reserved or provided for in the constitution of the United States for its future amendment. The contemplated amendment suggested by the gentleman from Illinois would be a breach of the plighted faith of every State that had come into the Union under the constitution. The testimony of Madison and of all who had since written on the constitution was that without the provision he had read there never would have been a nation composed as this nation is, of States and people represented in the two branches, and realizing that beautiful figure of speech, "Distinct as the billows, yet one as the sea." The late war had been waged to put down the heresy of State sovereignty. Let it not, he prayed, mark also the decay of State rights.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

Mr. WASHBURN, (rep.) of Wis., made a speech in favor of the government undertaking the telegraph business of the country in conjunction with the postal service. He criticised the report made last session by the Post Office Committee against the proposed reform and analyzed and contradicted the statement submitted to that committee by the Western Union Telegraph Company. He referred to the success of the system in France, Switzerland and Belgium, and to the cheapness of telegrabic messages in those countries.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., chairman of the Post Office Committee, suggested that the comparison was not a fair one, as the population of Belgium was four hundred to the square mile and that of the United States ten to the square mile.

Mr. WASHBURN said he would refer to that before he got through. He announced his intention to ask the House to appoint a select committee to investigate the whole question of telegraphing and to determine what the cost would be of connecting the telegraph with the postal system and extending its usefulness to every section of the Union. He was satisfied that better lines than the Western Union lines could be built by the government at less than $10,000,000. In conclusion he said:—Now, Mr. Chairman, I know how difficult it is for me to reach the ear of the country in what I may have to say that is adverse to the interest of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Should there be any one here to speak in behalf of that monopoly you will find that every word will be instantly transmitted to the country on the wings of lightning, as was the lengthy report of the chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads last spring. I now demand that the agent of the Associated Press, who is allowed a seat with the reporters on the floor of this house, shall say in his despatch to-day that I claim to have shown that the United States is the only enlightened nation on the globe that has not taken charge of the telegraph system, and nearly all have made it an appendage to the Post Office; that in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland a despatch of twenty words can be sent at a uniform rate of one shilling to any part of the kingdom, a distance of over seven hundred miles; from one extreme of France to another, about six hundred miles, for one franc, or twenty cents; all over Belgium and Switzerland for half a franc, or ten cents; Denmark, 12½ cents; Prussia, from 12½ to 37½ cents; Sweden and Norway, any distance for thirty cents for a message of twenty words, and one cent for each additional word that a message may be made to contain; from Marseilles, in the south of France, to the north of Scotland, a distance of 1,400 miles, traversing two kingdoms and crossing the Straits of Dover by submarine cable, for fifty-five cents. Yet in the face of these facts the chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads has told this House and the country, in a solemn report, that telegraphing in this country is the cheapest and most reliable in the world. Yet he could not have failed to know that if he desired to send a despatch of twenty words to his home in Illinois, and was not favored with a "D. H." pass, he would have to pay $5; for a similar message to the home of the Missouri member or that committee $4 would be charged; the Michigan member, $2 80; the New Jersey member, $1 25; the Massachusetts member, $1 25; the Indiana member, $2 50; the Kentucky member, $2 50; the Nevada member, $9 25, and the Oregon member, $15 50, or $5 70 more than it would cost to send a message of ten words from Washington to Constantinople by the Atlantic Cable and Continental lines. Say further, that the purpose of my bill is to bring the telegraph within the reach of the humble as well as the highest, by connecting it with the post office and establishing a uniform rate of twenty cents for twenty words. Say, also, that the further purpose of my bill is to give press despatches to the entire press of the country at a less rate than now furnished to the favored few who compose the close corporation known as the Associated Press.

Mr. PETERS, (rep.) of Me., asked Mr. Washburn whether his proposition was to establish the telegraph system as extensively as the postal system was now established.

Mr. WASHBURN replied in the affirmative.

Mr. PETERS remarked that there were thirty or forty telegraph offices in Maine that did not pay expenses.

Mr. WASHBURN said he would introduce a bill to provide for the establishment of a telegraph office at every post office in the United States where the gross receipts amounted to a given sum, on which he had not yet determined. He believed that this country, in consequence of long distances, was much more favorable to the successful adoption of the system than Belgium or Switzerland.

Mr. FARNSWORTH wished to know whether Mr. Washburn proposed that the government should buy the existing lines.

Mr. WASHBURN replied that he did propose that the government should purchase them.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—At the appraised value?

Mr. WASHBURN—Precisely.

Mr. ORTH, (rep.) of Ind., addressed the committee on the questions pertaining to the public debt and its permanent adjustment, national banks and currency, specie payments and the revision of the tariff and internal revenue—questions, he said, which engrossed public attention to a greater degree at this time than at any previous period. The taxes, he said, should be so adjusted by wise and prudent legislation that the burden will fall as lightly as may be on the laboring man, and that the wealth of the country will not receive undue exemptions. Enormous as was the national debt, the country had the ability to pay it, and of its willingness there remained not a doubt. Repudiation found no countenance or support in any locality, but was spurned and abhorred as an enemy of the country. The first step to be taken was to enforce rigid economy in all branches of the public service, and to see that not a dollar of the public revenue is stolen or diverted from its legitimate purpose. He believed that the army should be reduced from its present force of 35,000 men to 20,000, and that the expenses of the navy might also be much diminished. The public lands should be husbanded and made a source of revenue and to secure homes for actual settlers. As to the interest paid on the public debt, he believed that the rate of six per cent not only added directly to the burdens of the people, but had a most injurious effect upon business interests, by drawing to investment in the public bonds capital which would otherwise be invested in business. Congress should at the present session provide legislation for funding and consolidating the public debt at not over four per cent interest. As to the national banks, he favored the removal of the present limit to the amount of circulation and capital. In other words, the incorporation with the present banking system of the principles of free banking. This would allow withdrawal of the legal tender notes and their retirement would naturally and necessarily be followed by specie payments, as gold and silver would then be the only legal tenders. As to the tariffs, he argued that tariff laws should be enacted for the sake of revenue, and not for the sake of protection. The present tariff needed thorough revision and a very general reduction, while the free list should be very considerably enlarged. As to internal revenue, he thought that that was susceptible of still further reduction, and that the duties should be confined to spirits, fermented liquors, tobacco, sales, gross receipts, banking and stamps on conveyances. Such a policy as he advocated would stimulate agriculture, trade and commerce, build up American towns and cities, construct railroads and other works of internal improvement, and enable the people, under the providence of God, to enter upon a career of unexampled prosperity.

Mr. LOUGHRIDGE, (rep.) of Iowa, next addressed the Committee, urging the necessity of economy in all branches of the public service and indicating how very extensively and properly the present expenditures of the government can be diminished.

Mr. ELDRIDGE, (dem.) of Wis., referring to the remarks of Mr. Dawes this morning, said he had been very much refreshed by them. He little expected yesterday when he predicted the next advance of the House of Representatives would be made upon the Senate of the United States that that prediction would be so soon verified, but when he saw the gentleman from Massachusetts so suddenly coming to the rescue he had hopes that the States of the Union were not entirely to be ignored. When the the reconstruction measures were introduced by the republican party he felt no doubt that the day would come, and come soon, when those who were most ardent in their advocacy of the destruction of the States and of the rights of States would be heard to pray just as the gentleman from Massachusetts had been heard to pray to-day. He hoped that now the gentleman from Massachusetts had taken that position, the gentlemen on the other side, notwithstanding the ruin which they had brought on the country, would reconsider the course which they had pursued and come back to the position occupied by the fathers of the republic. The Union depended for its life on the maintenance of the rights of States. The Union had been uplifted and was upheld by the States. It had no existence except in the life of the States, and must fall when the States were destroyed. He hoped that the gentleman, from this time forward, would stand with those on the democratic side of the House in defence of the rights of the States. He knew that the pill was a bitter one, but it had to be taken. He had known, as well as he knew any fact from logical conclusions, and had so predicted yesterday, that the time was coming when the New England States would be on their knees begging that the original rights of the States secured by the constitution should be maintained.

Mr. HOAR, (rep.) of Mass., asked what there was in the history of the New England States that warranted the supposition that they would be on their knees asking for their rights?

Mr. ELDRIDGE replied that it was because New England had been foremost of all those who had attempted to rob the people of the Southern States of the rights of States.

Mr. DAWES, in reply to Mr. Eldridge, said that in no matter would he (Mr. Dawes) be found more scrupulous than in regard to the rights of States; but he begged the gentleman from Wisconsin to make the distinction—the failure to make which by his party had involved the country in the direst war—between State rights and State sovereignty. There was an obligation resting on Congress, under which he had cast his vote yesterday. That obligation was that the United States government should maintain in the State of Wisconsin and in the State of Massachusetts, no less than in the State of Georgia, if the occasion should arise, a republican form of government. It was not a power, he admitted, which should be exercised without due care; but it was a power as clear and as incumbent on the United States as any other power existing in the government. It was a question of fact whether the occasion existed for the exercise of it in relation to Georgia or would ever exist in relation to Wisconsin or Massachusetts. But Congress, on which the obligation rested the exercise of that power, was to judge of the occasion. For his own part he believed yesterday that the occasion existed for the exercise of that power in relation to Georgia, and the vote which he had given rested solely on that power in the constitution.

Some further colloquy took place between Messrs. Eldridge and Davies, but it embraced a mere repetition of the views expressed in the foregoing.

Mr. SARGENT, (rep.), of Cal., addressed the committee on the subject of mining and mining laws in California, and on the policy of withholding public lands in that State from private entry by speculators.

Mr. KERR, (dem.) of Ind., submitted some remarks on the necessity of increasing the number of the federal courts in Indiana.

Mr. LAWRENCE, (rep.) of Ohio, submitted some remarks in support of his bill requiring pension agents to make out pension papers without fees or charges to pensioners. He said that it now cost the government annually $363,600 to pay pensions and audit accounts, and the 213,000 pensioners now on the rolls paid out of these pensions for fees and charges $274,650. They should be relieved of all this, and be paid in the county of their residence. The whole cost to the government ought not to exceed $100,000. In behalf of the solders and the people he would on all proper occasions urge these reforms in the House.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The committee rose and the following bills were introduced and referred:—

By Mr. STEVENSON—To amend the internal revenue laws by repealing the clause allowing street railroad companies to add the government tax to fares of passengers. Also to amend the same law by repealing the clause allowing gas companies to add the government tax to the contract price of gas furnished to customers.

By Mr. WASHBURN, of Wis.—To grant certain islands to the State of Wisconsin as swamp lands.

By Mr. McCORMICK, (rep.) of Arizona—Authorizing the construction of a wagon road in Arizona.

The House then, at half-past four o'clock, adjourned until the 10th of January.

A WAIF FROM THE ORIENT.

How a "Christian" Treated an Ottoman Beauty.

A Turkish Lady Deceived, Abandoned and Imprisoned in the "City of Churches"—She is Discharged on Habeas Corpus—A Shameful Outrage.

On the application of Mr. David B. Phillips a writ of habeas corpus was granted yesterday by Judge Troy, of Brooklyn, in the case of Miss Hentus Harootunia, who had been sent to the Penitentiary for the term of two months by Justice Lynch on a charge of malicious trespass. The lady, who is a native of Turkey, finely educated and highly accomplished, is about twenty-five years of age and very prepossessing, was brought into the Court of Sessions yesterday, when Mr. A. Bedrossina, who appeared on behalf of Mr. C. Oscanyan, the Turkish Consul, acted as interpreter for the lady and stated her case to the Court. From her story it would appear that she was the victim of the most despicable outrage. A year or so ago she says a man named C. H. Christian, a confectioner on Fulton avenue, formed her acquaintance in Turkey and induced her to elope with him to this country. She had considerable money at this time, amounting to something like £400 sterling, and on his promising to make her his wife as soon as they reached this country she gave her money to him, eloped from her home and followed him to America.

On reaching this country Christian established the confectionery store with the money he had obtained from her, but refused to marry her, and recently when she asked him for some money he acted very violently toward her. On the 5th inst. he had her arrested, taken before Justice Lynch and sent to the jail in Raymond street for ten days. On the day of her release she again returned to the house of her betrayer and rang the door bell. Christian appeared at the door, she says, and ordered her away. Having no home and not knowing where to go, she refused to leave the house, and he again caused her arrest. On this occasion he made a charge of trespass, and at his solicitation the Justice sentenced her to imprisonment in the Kings County Penitentiary, at Flatbush, for the term of two months. The attention of the Turkish Consul was called to the case, and, through him, the unfortunate woman was liberated from prison. Judge Troy looked upon her case as one deserving a great deal of sympathy, and called the attention of the District Attorney to it as one which it would be just and proper to submit to the Grand Jury. He said he had in several instances been compelled to release parties sent to prison by justices where no proper complaints had been made, and he thought it time now that the attention of the Grand Jury was called to it. The lady was promptly discharged.

ROME.

The Italian Situation Outside the Council.

Organization of the Hierarchical Assemblage—Its Parties, Policy and Struggling Democracy—Austrian Diplomacy and a "Reception" at the Ministry.

By mail from Europe we have the following special correspondence from Rome, dated on the 4th and 5th of December, illustrative of the social situation which exists in Italy outside the Holy City, and descriptive of the initiatory ceremonials for the organization of the Ecumenical Council. The communications are in continuation of the chain of our special narrative from the Eternal City, commenced immediately after the first arrival of the prelates. They are of a very interesting character, noting the state of parties and the incipient murmurings of democracy at the Vatican. The American diocese of Buffalo has, as will be seen, a double-headed delegation in Rome in the persons of its Catholic and Protestant bishops.

The Italians On the Moral Situation Outside the Council—"Looking After" the Specie and Jewels—Swearing the Bishops—Papal Infallibility, Its Advocates and Opponents—Attitude of the Mexican Bishops—Democracy Making Way—An American Protestant Prelate.

ROME, Dec. 5, 1869.

One of those incidents which cause over nervous visitors some anxiety, and which is peculiarly Italian, took place recently, a few miles outside of the Porta Pia. A party of gentlemen started on a hunting expedition early in the morning—three A. M.—and when about five miles from Rome were commanded "to halt, to stand and hand over" their gold, bank notes, watches, rings, &c. Signor Sinimbergh, a jolly vender of tea, pepper, mustard and sugar, and whose shop is contiguous to the Pantheon, couldn't see it, and made tracks for Rome. His fast steed travelled fast, but the bullet of the brigand travelled faster; the ball struck him a little below the right scapula. He saved his scudi, but lost a good deal of blood. When he arrived at the Porta Pia he almost fainted, but being a man of strong constitution he has not suffered much. At present he is confined to his house, but is not in any danger. The companions of Signor Sinimbergh have been robbed of everything and the gendarmes are not in high esteem just now. This little incident has caused no small amount of excitement, but the authorities have taken measures that no such daring act shall take place again.

But who are the highwaymen? This question has been discussed and the ragged *Pifferari* are credited with the outrage. This class of minstrels are at present making Rome melodious, if a pipe and a sheepskin fashioned like a Scotch bagpipe can do so. But long before fashionable Rome has washed its face or left its cosey pillow these musical monsters blow away, and, Heaven knows, they make noise enough to wake up the drowsiest of *forestieri* or Roman. Every petty village in the States of the Church has sent in its musician; some blow a pipe, others the Scotch bagpipes, and the major part the hurdy-gurdy. A wag has stated that they have come to greet the opening of the Council. They do greet English and Americans against their will; but there are many things here that one must endure, and the music aforesaid is not the least. That they serenade by day and rob by night is generally believed, at least the poor fellows have the credit for robbing the companions of the fat grocer near the Pantheon, and wounding that excellent gentleman and citizen of glorious, odorous Rome.

The 1st of December all the patriarchs, archbishops and bishops assembled at an early hour in the Vatican and took an oath in the presence of the Pope that they shall not divulge, &c., any of the secrets of the Council. On the 3d inst. all the stenographers did the same in the presence of their respective bishops.

The discussion that the late pastoral of Bishop Dupanloup caused has not exactly terminated. The Jesuits are very reticent and careful about saying anything about the matter, as they know Monseigneur Dupanloup is a warm friend of the Pope and the ablest bishop in France or in Europe. But French bishops are not, as a class, very friendly with Italian or English ones. The former—the Italians—are in favor of the personal infallibility dogma as a personal compliment to Pius IX.; the ablest of the latter, Archbishop Manning, is not only in favor of it, but has written a pamphlet in support of his views and is using his influence with his brother bishops from England, but there are few of them inclined to oppose the dogma. The Germans don't look at the matter as the French nor as the English do. They think that at present it is very inopportune to present any such question; their solid common sense will have great weight in the Council; they love the Church and its Pontiff better than the French and as much as the most zealous of English ultramontanes, but they have a great and learned people to please, and it is too late in the nineteenth century to introduce dogmas that are really of no use to morals or religion, but solely as personal compliments to a good man, and the work of the Jesuits who desire to keep, as they are, at the head of the affairs of Rome and on the right side of the author of the Immaculate Conception dogma.

The German hierarchy have another cause of complaint, and one that will eventually cause trouble if there be any semblance of dictation. When the Augsburg *Gazette* made the startling announcement that there were many other questions to be presented in the Council that were not communicated to them they felt naturally surprised. You know that when the Pope sent the invitation to the bishops to come to Rome he enclosed to each one some questions which he stated would be presented to the Council, and admonished his venerable brothers to study the same; but he did not hint a word about other subjects, and was silent on the personal infallibility and the question of a free Church in a free State. The other questions were submitted to commissions that were manipulated by the Jesuits. The whole was arranged as secretly as possible, but some one communicated the above facts to the Augsburg *Gazette*, and the Germans were not pleased; the French came out against the personal infallibility; the Jesuits have been checkmated, have admitted they have been betrayed. The excitement caused by the announcement in the *Gazette* has been of the most important nature; but the wary friends of the question that has caused so much excitement are too shrewd not to appear indifferent to the opinions of any one; they know well how to create an excitement; they are adepts in getting out of dilemmas, but the present aspect of the great question that every member of the order has at heart is not very promising.

The bishops from Mexico are down on the members of the Society of Jesus. When the Council convenes they will ask that the education of the youth of Mexico be taken out of their hands and that the regular clergy and friars be subject to and entirely dependent on the bishop of the diocese. This will open a lively debate, because there are many other bishops who dislike to have mitred abbots and heads of orders dividing the honors of the diocese. Many of the bishops dislike to initiate any such reforms, but if such a question once comes before the Council there will be many in favor of it that, at present, are almost indifferent to it.

There is a tribe of democracy cropping out once and awhile among the fathers. One of them indignantly remarked the other day that bishops of the Church are not treated as they should be; that they have to go and bow before and dance attendance upon cardinals who have no sees, not even a parish church, and who are nothing but mere local functionaries; while venerable men who have dioceses larger than Rome and all the States of the Church put together, after long journeys by sea and land, fatigued and jaded, are hardly taken notice of. Bishops, it is true, are not of much account in Rome and very few like to come here. They are as plenty just now upon the Corso as shoulder straps were in Pennsylvania avenue during the American war. Men who are honored by the best of their fellow citizens, irrespective of creed, at home, don't like to be treated as nobodies in Rome; but the discipline of the Church is so complete they must bear it as philosophically as they can.

Bishop Coxe, of Buffalo, is here. It would be a joke if he sent in his claim for a seat in the Council.

A Double Episcopal Delegation from Buffalo—Right Rev. Dr. Coxe and His Studies—An Austrian Diplomatic Reception—The Dress Question and "Swallow Tailed" Coats—Presenting Credentials and How They Were Carried—The Council Hall Guard.

ROME, Dec. 4, 1869.

It is not often that the Eternal City can boast of having two bishops of Buffalo at the same time within her venerable walls. But such is the case at the present moment, as Monsignor Ryan, the Catholic bisnop of the diocese, has arrived to take his seat at the Ecumenical Council, and the Rev. Cleveland Coxe, Protestant Episcopalian bishop of Buffalo, has been here since Sunday, reviving his recollections of Rome, before proceeding to Paris on his way home. The Pope's exhortation to Protestants to consider the error of their ways and return to the "true Church" on the occasion of the Council, has excited some rejoinders from Protestant individuals as well as communities. Among the former the letter of the Rev. Dr. Coxe to Pius IX. is one of the most remarkable, and I have already informed your readers of the severe terms in which it has been criticised by the *Civilta Cattolica* and the *Correspondance de Rome*. Bishop Ryan will, of course, be presented to his Holiness, together with his colleagues of the Council, but it is superfluous to observe that Bishop Coxe will, of course, not be presented. In fact, he is to leave Rome to-morrow for Marseilles, after a stay of only three clear days in the city, being anxious to resume his duties at home as soon as possible. Mr. Coxe came from Naples, where he left his family; he dined with Mr. Hooker on Monday, and has devoted his mornings to visiting the most interesting churches in the city and to studying the evidences of early Christianity in the catacombs, such observations being of great value to a writer so versed in ecclesiastical history as he is.

The Austrian Ambassador's restrictive regulations with respect to the costume to be worn by gentlemen attending his public reception prevented many American travelers now in Rome from enjoying the brilliant spectacle which the Palazzo di Venezia offered on the occasion; but they did not deter some gentlemen from putting the question to the test at the entrance, and I am happy to say that no visitors, even in plain evening dress, were refused admittance. It is now clearly stated by the members of the Austrian Legation that there was no intention on the part of his Excellency to derogate from the old traditional splendors of public receptions, with palace gates open to all comers, but merely a wish to avoid the appearance in his rooms of couriers and *laquais de place*, in black coats and white ties, as happened last winter at the French Embassy, at the Marquis de Benneville's public reception. Every application for exceptional permissions to appear in plain dress was immediately granted. Mr. Hooker, late Secretary of the United States Legation, procured special invitations for American gentlemen and ladies wishing to be present, and the British Consul convoyed, by the Ambassador's authorization, a long string of carriages containing visitors who had no uniforms with them or never wore any, and had no wish to assume an Elizabethan costume and a rapier to do honor to Count Trautmansdorff. Then the whole corps of German artists were specially invited by the Ambassador, and they certainly would have been able to get up dresses picturesque enough for the festival; but they were admitted in plain evening garb. After all, there was no lack of costumes in the gorgeous suit of apartments opened on the occasion, for besides the usual ecclesiastical, diplomatic and military uniforms furnished by the upper circles in Rome, there were overwhelming numbers of bishops from all parts of the world, wearing garments of all kinds of cuts and colors, and speaking a variety of languages that would have delighted that great polyglot professor, Cardinal Mezzofanti.

I hope your readers will not imagine that I am dwelling too long upon trifles. Such trifles become affairs of state in Rome, and people who come to see all they can are seriously agitated at the prospect of being excluded from any grand spectacle, so that

"Hoc nuge in seria ducunt mala."

To give some idea of the pomp still maintained here by the representatives of the great Catholic Powers—France, Spain and Austria—on public occasions it will suffice to describe the train with which Count Trautmansdorff proceeded to the Vatican to present his credentials on the morning of the 29th in public form, having already presented them in private form, be it observed, exactly a year ago. First came a detachment of dragoons, then, in gaudy liveries, the servants of the Ambassador's suite, on foot, followed by the Ambassador's own servants, also on foot, carrying his official cushions and umbrella. In the first carriage was the Counsellor of Legation and an attache, with the credential letters from his Apostolic Majesty of Austria. In the second the Ambassador, with Monsignor Nardi, Auditor of the Rota Tribunal for Austria, sitting opposite him; two chasseurs and the dean of the servants walked by the carriage doors. In the third carriage came three counsellors of the Legation, Counts Blome, Revertera and Zaluski. In the fourth two chamberlains and one secretary of the Embassy; in the fifth three counts and one baron, attaches to the Embassy; in the sixth the noble officers of the antechamber; in the seventh and eighth the officers of the Ambassador's household. All these carriages were escorted by dragoons. Five ecclesiastical equipages followed—those of the Austrian Cardinal Schwartzenberg, De Silvestris, Rauscher and Hohenlohe, and Monsignor Nardi. Another detachment of dragoons closed the pageant.

If the cordiality of relations existing between the Courts of Rome and Vienna were in proportion to the splendor of these diplomatic actions his Holiness would probably have received Count Trautmansdorff more cordially than he did.

The service of honor organized by the Order of Malta for mounting guard in the Ecumenical Council Hall during the whole period of its session consists of the following *personnel*:—Four knights from the Priory of Bohemia, two from that of Venice, two the Priory of Rome, two from that of Naples, two from Westphalia and two from Silesia. There will be also about ten knights habitually resident in the palatial convent of the Order in Rome and a few devotional knights from various parts of Europe.

"SINE DIE."

The Council of Female Utopians in Session—Their Future Meetings to be Held in Utopia—Pathos Too Deep for Words, and Therefore Inexpressible.

Some eighteen or twenty of the forlorn and faithful even unto death met yesterday afternoon in Packard's building. Mrs. Wilbur called the meeting to order with the remark that they had not expected to meet at all, and should transact no business, which assurance was altogether superfluous—the association having never transacted any business except talking. The orators and oratresses of the occasion looked crestfallen and hung their heads as if something fearful had happened, the said personages having been engaged for a whole week in altogether useless rumination. Murmurs of discontent, loud and prolonged, went up from all parts of the room, or rather from all parts where anybody was seated.

"I can't stand this," sighed one. "Talk, why talk is the last solace of a broken heart," moaned a second. "Oh, my lost lecture!" shrieked a third, and "What is the world coming to?" questioned a fourth—a query to which the empty desks, once occupied by the faithful, responded, or seemed to respond, "Not to the meetings of the Suffrage Association, certainly."

The grave Madame President, or Vice President—for Madame President (she of the gray and glorious frizzle) was not present—listened with a pathetic expression of countenance, which was almost tears in and of itself.

"Sisters," she murmured at length, in softest accents, "let the lovers of suffrage join the Oneida Community; for, behold, have they not lately endorsed its peculiar principles?"

Then, "I have a husband," and "I have a husband," and "I have a husband, too," was buzzed from lips unused to speak respectfully of husbands, "and he might get a divorce, you know, and the walls of Balaclutha would be left desolate."

"Let him get a divorce," bristled the sauciest of the faithful. "Can't I smile upon the judge and get a decree for alimony?"

"I hain't got no husband and don't want none," grimly interposed the vestal of the association. "Husbands is nuisances; I want a fight," and, with an exhibition of far more aptitude for pugilism than correct English, which has been voted altogether superfluous by special resolution, the vestal took an attitude unquestionably menacing. "Husbands is good for nothing but to pay bills, and I never permits any bills to be presented. I fights 'em off."

The vestal relapsed into an attitude of musing pensiveness, having been safely delivered of the preceding oration; but still discontent reigned rampant.

The fair president looked sad, not to say vexed, at the pugnacious remarks of the belligerent vestal, who talks no more, but fights, and, order having been restored, the resolution manufacturer ventured to begin the drawing of a resolution voting and decreeing and directing that the members of the association should join the Oneida Community in a body.

"I've got a husband," objected one. "I want a husband," objected another, "and I'm not going to have one of them Oneidas either."

"Ah, shameless creature," cried out the ancient and pugnacious vestal of the association. "Ah, shameless creetur', after all I've taught ye, to speak right out in meeting in this way. I tell ye, that's no way to get one; I've tried and I know!" and again the vestal compressed her lips and looked the impersonation of a Jupiter in petticoats. Presently, however, an expression of benignity crept over her iron features and her lips moved ecstatically. The few who were near enough might have heard her murmur, "I'll try a new dodge—a brilliant bloar; why haven't I thought of it all these years? I'll have one yet, without goin' to the Oneidas after him."

As the venerable spinster murmured "all these years," an expression of unutterable pathos and patience suffused her aged countenance as if the recollections of other and sweeter days