THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

What Has Been Done and What is Yet to Do.

The Condition of the Appropriation Bills—The Important Legislation of the Session.

WASHINGTON, June 26, 1870.

Only seventeen working days, including the Fourth of July, of the session, now remain, and a large number of bills are still undisposed of, some of them important, and all of them of a character demanding action. It would be better, perhaps, that many of them should be defeated openly and squarely, so that their authors may understand that it will be useless to bring them in at another session. But the time is so short that many measures already on the stocks cannot be launched. The House is ahead of the Senate with the appropriation bills, and, indeed, with all the measures of prime importance. The only appropriation bill now pending in the House is the Sundry Civil Expense or Omnibus bill, which includes all the odds and ends not provided for in the regular appropriation bills. That, however, is set down as a special order for next Wednesday, and will be ready to go to the Senate on Thursday or Friday of next week.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill has passed both houses and is in a conference committee, which is trying hard, but thus far without success, to adjust the extravagant notions of the Senate with the economic ideas of the House. The Senate put amendments to this bill amounting to $2,000,000 more than was agreed upon by the House, making the sum total over $23,000,000. The main points of difference are the appropriations for the extension and improvements of the Capitol grounds and for a new building for the State Department. These two items reach in the neighborhood of $1,500,000.

The Army, the Navy, the River and Harbor and the Fortification Appropriation bills have passed the House and are pending in the Senate.

The Regular Pension bill has passed both houses, and is now in its second conference committee, the report of the first having been rejected by the House. The managers on the part of the House for the first conference were appointed on the second, a somewhat unusual circumstance. But in view of the fact that the House managers were outvoted by the managers on the part of the Senate, in conference, it is all right. The great point of difference about this bill is the manner of paying the pensioners, the House insisting upon a thorough reform and the Senate preferring the present system.

The Indian Appropriation bill has passed both houses, and is now back in the House, on the Speaker's table, loaded down with Senate amendments. Of course this bill will have to go to a conference committee, as is the custom every session; for the "Indian ring," which is strong in the Senate, is never satisfied with less than half as much more as the House appropriates for the Lo family and the swarms of Indian agents who live and grow fat by preying upon both the government and the Lo family.

The Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill has passed both houses, and is back in the House with a few amendments by way of increase, as usual put on by the Senate. It will probably go to a conference committee, in view of the fact that the Senate, on the motion of Mr. Sumner, has added one hundred thousand dollars to the secret service fund of the State Department, a point which the House Committee on Appropriations will scarcely concede. The estimates of the Secretary of State called for a hundred thousand dollars for this item, but the House cut it down to fifty thousand, and as it now stands it is a hundred and fifty thousand, or fifty more than the liberal estimates of the Department called for.

The Post Office Appropriation bill has gone through both houses, and is now back in the House with several amendments. This will also go to a conference committee.

The bill for the reorganization of the army has already passed both houses, gone through a committee of conference, and the conference report has been adopted by the House and is now pending in the Senate. It is supposed that there will be some difficulty in getting it adopted by the Senate, and it is whispered that the plan is to let it die there, though Senator Wilson, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, announces his intention to call it up and put it on its passage. The conference committee virtually agreed to the House bill, better known as Logan's bill, which was very materially amended by the Senate. Whether the latter body will take the House bill, after all, remains to be seen.

The Tax bill, with the Tariff attached, has passed the House and is now before the Senate. Of course this is one of the measures that must be passed, as on its passage depends, in a great measure, the success of the republican party at the approaching fall elections. In precisely what shape it will pass it is impossible at this stage to predict. It will contain, however, three prominent features; first, the reduction of the internal taxes to the extent of from thirty-five to forty-five millions; second, the reduction of the duties on imports to the extent of about twenty-three millions; and, third, the creation of the Internal Revenue Bureau into a separate department, under an officer who shall have a seat in the Cabinet. This bill, like many others, will, no doubt, eventually be settled in a conference committee.

Garfield's bill, to facilitate banking and to secure a more equitable distribution of the currency, has passed both houses, and is now in conference committee. Its fate is uncertain; for on this subject the House and Senate are widely divided, and neither body is a unit among themselves.

The Funding bill, as you are well aware, has passed the Senate, and is now before the House. This is one of the measures which the party leaders are anxious to pass for party effect. But there is such a wide divergence of views upon the part of the two houses and between the Secretary of the Treasury and Congress that it is thought by some that no funding bill will pass at this session.

The bill amendatory of the Naturalization laws has passed the House and is pending in the Senate. This is of the class of measures of the fifteenth amendment to the constitution and the bill to enforce the same, and is regarded as important to the dominant party. Whether the Senate will have time to take it up and pass it cannot be decided at present.

The bill for the apportionment of members of Congress among the several States under the census of 1870 has been recommitted to the Judiciary Committee, after having passed both houses. It came back from the Senate with some amendments, in which the House refused to concur. The chances are that it will be introduced again and put through under a suspension of the rules, but its prospects of success this session are doubtful.

The following is a list of bills from the Senate on their first and second reading, now on the Speaker's table:—

An act to confirm entries of public land in certain cases in the State of Alabama.

Joint resolution to amend section ten of an act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of a southern branch of the Union Pacific Railway and Telegraph from Fort Riley, Kansas, to Fort Smith, Arkansas."

An act amendatory of "An act to protect the rights of actual settlers upon the public lands of the United States, and for other purposes," approved July 27, 1868.

Joint resolution instructing the President to negotiate with the Indians upon the Umatilla reservation, in Oregon.

An act to repeal an act entitled "An act to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States, where by the laws thereof their admission is prohibited," approved February 28, 1869.

An act prescribing an oath of office to be taken by persons who participated in the late rebellion, but who are not disqualified from holding office by the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States.

An act relating to records of the courts of the United States.

An act to prevent the counterfeiting of foreign trade marks protected by treaty stipulations.

An act for the disposal of the lands within the Fort Ridgely military reservation, Minnesota.

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to establish and to protect national cemeteries."

An act to amend an act entitled "An act for a grant of lands to the State of Kansas in alternate sections to aid in the construction of certain railroads and telegraphs in said State."

An act to regulate the foreign and coasting trade on the northern, northeastern and northwestern frontiers of the United States and for other purposes.

An act to renew certain grants of land to the State of Alabama.

An act amendatory of an act entitled "An act to further provide for giving effect to the various grants of public lands in the State of Nevada," approved June 8, 1868.

An act for the relief of Solomon R. Rowles.

An act to enable George D. Roberts, of Alameda county, California, to import certain machinery free of duty.

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to remove the charge of desertion from certain soldiers of the Second North Carolina Mounted Infantry," approved March 28, 1868.

Joint resolution concerning the pay of custom officers in North Carolina.

An act granting lands to the State of Wisconsin to aid in the construction of the Green Bay and Lake Pepin Railway.

An act to carry into effect the decree of the District Court of the United States for the Southern district of New York in the case of the British steamer Lanoan.

An act to establish certain post roads in the State of Alabama and for other purposes.

An act for the relief of the inhabitants of Salt Lake City, in the Territory of Utah.

An act to authorize the appointment of shipping commissioners by the judges of the several District courts of the United States to superintend the shipping and discharge of seamen engaged in merchant ships belonging to the United States, and for the further protection of seamen.

An act to provide for the disposition of useless military reservations.

An act for the relief of the Stockbridge and Munsee tribe of Indians, in the State of Wisconsin.

Joint resolution directing the Secretary of War to sell Bergen Heights Arsenal.

An act in relation to Circuit courts.

An act for the relief of Thomas Henderson.

An act to change the place of holding the courts of the United States for the Albemarle district of North Carolina.

Joint resolution to regulate the effect of a vote of the thanks of Congress upon promotion in the navy.

Joint resolution to authorize the restoration of Benjamin S. Richards to the active list of the navy.

An act to provide for the better security of life on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and for other purposes.

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to carry into effect provisions of the treaties between the United States, China, Japan, Siam, Persia and other countries, giving certain judicial powers to ministers and consuls and other functionaries of the United States in those countries, and for other purposes," approved June 22, 1860.

An act to provide for a building suited to the use of the Post Office, the land and revenue officers and the judicial officers of the United States in the city of Montgomery, Ala.

An act to repeal certain sections of acts passed by the Territorial Legislature of Wyoming.

Joint resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent to the Indiana Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends for a certain tract of land in the Shawnee reservation.

An act in relation to certain unsold lands in the counties of Porter and Lake, in the State of Indiana.

An act to amend a portion of a certain statute of the Territory of New Mexico.

Joint resolution for the sale of certain lands in Kansas.

An act to aid in the construction of the Omaha and Northwestern railroad and telegraph line from Omaha, via the mouth of the Niobrara river, to a point of junction with the Northern Pacific Railroad in Dacotah Territory.

An act in relation to fraudulent trade-marks upon foreign watches.

An act confirming and extending a patent right to Levi W. Pond and Eau Claire Lumber Company.

An act granting lands and the right of way in Missouri and Arkansas to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line along or near the thirty-sixth parallel of north latitude, from the Mississippi river to the Arkansas river.

An act for the relief of John Tyler.

An act to change the place of holding the Courts of the United States for the Northern District of Mississippi.

An act authorizing the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company to connect its line with the Northern Pacific Railroad.

An act for the relief of pre-emption settlers in the State of Nebraska.

An act to define the intent of an act entitled "An act to allow deputy collectors of internal revenue acting as collectors the pay of collectors, and for other purposes," approved March 1, 1869.

An act to aid in the construction of the Oregon branch railroad.

An act to create a port of delivery at Du Luth, Minn.

An act to create a port of delivery at Vallejo, Cal.

An act granting a pension to Henry C. Weatherby.

An act to relinquish the interest of the United States in certain lands to the city and county of San Francisco.

An act granting lands to aid the construction of a railroad from the western boundary of Minnesota, at the junction of the Sioux Wood river with the Red River of the North, to the Winnipeg district of British America.

An act granting public lands in the State of Alabama to the Decatur and Aberdeen Railroad Company to aid in the construction of a railroad to be built from Decatur, Ala., to Aberdeen, Miss.

An act to establish an additional land district in the State of Kansas.

Joint resolution providing for the admission of photographs for exhibition free of duty.

Joint resolution for the benefit of Wilberforce University.

Joint resolution giving the consent of Congress to the reception of a certain bequest by the State of New Jersey under the will of the late Edwin A. Stevens.

Joint resolution for the relief of Captain John Faunce and other officers of the revenue cutter Harriet Lane.

Joint resolution to restore to the city of New Orleans the property heretofore occupied by the United States as a branch mint.

An act to provide for a building suited to the use of the Post office, the pension and revenue officers, and the judicial officers of the United States in the city of Trenton, New Jersey.

An act to amend an act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Oregon to aid in the construction of a military wagon road from Albany, Oregon, to the eastern boundary of said State."

An act to provide a government for the District of Columbia.

Joint resolution extending the time to construct a railroad from the Saint Croix river or lake to the west end of Lake Superior to Bayfield.

An act to carry into effect the two several decrees of the District Court of the United States for the district of Louisiana in the cases of British vessel Volant.

An act to carry into effect the decree of the District Court of the United States for the district of Louisiana in the case of the British brig Dashing Wave and her cargo.

An act to provide for changing the boundaries of land districts.

An act for the relief of Mrs. Margaret A. Lawrie.

An act to pay two companies of Oregon volunteers.

An act to settle the claim of the heirs of the late Colonel William Gates, of the United States Army.

An act to extend the time for presenting claims for additional bounties.

Joint resolution providing for the sale of certain lands in the State of Kansas ceded to the United States in trust by the Cherokee nation of Indians.

Joint resolution to pay expenses of delegations of Indians visiting the city of Washington.

An act amending an act entitled "An act to grant Pensions," approved July 14, 1862.

An act making a grant of land to aid in the construction of a railroad in the territory of Dacotah.

An act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from Lincoln, in the State of Nebraska, and Brownville, in the state of Nebraska, to Denver, Colorado Territory.

Joint resolution granting an American register to the British built bark Bussy.

Joint resolution authorizing water gauges to be established and observations to be made on the Mississippi river and its principal tributaries, with a view to obtaining information required for the protection of the alluvial lands against overflow and for the improvement of navigation.

An act authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Arkansas river, at Little Rock, Ark.

An act for the settlement of the account of Captain E. N. Buchanan, late commissary of subsistence of volunteers.

An act to appoint an appraiser of merchandise for the port of Mobile.

An act for the improvement of water communication between the Mississippi river and Lake Michigan, by the Wisconsin and Fox rivers.

An act to confirm the title of the heirs of Gervacio Nolan, deceased, to certain lands in the Territory of Colorado.

An act granting lands to aid in the construction of certain railroads in the State of Florida.

An act to reimburse the State of Kansas for moneys expended for the United States in enrolling, equipping and provisioning militia forces to aid in suppressing the rebellion.

An act granting a pension to John W. Salyers, a soldier of the war of 1812.

An act for the relief of Lucas, Dickinson and other counties in the state of Iowa.

An act to grant the right of way for the Alameda road through certain lands in California.

An act to grant land to the Sierra Iron Company.

REPORTS OF HOUSE COMMITTEES.

The following is a list of reports of House committees undisposed of. Among them, it will be noticed, are SIX contested election cases, liable to be called up at any time, as questions of privilege:—

Joint resolution for the relief of Thomas Haughey. Pending the question on its engrossment the morning hour expired.

A bill supplementary to an act entitled "An act to provide a national currency, secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved June 3. Pending the question on its engrossment the morning hour expired.

A bill to authorize the building of a military and postal railway from Washington, D. C., to the city of New York. Pending the question on amendments reported to the House before the morning hour expired. March 10 the morning hour expired. March 16, not being actually engrossed, was left upon the Speaker's table.

Resolved, That the Hon. George W. Booker is entitled to retain his seat as a member of this Congress from the Fourth district of Virginia.

Resolved, That Joseph Segar is not entitled to a seat as a Representative of the State of Virginia, at large, in the Forty-first Congress of the United States.

A bill to establish a system of national education. Reported with amendment. Its further consideration postponed until the second Tuesday of December next, after the morning hour.

A bill to allow the school trustees in the State of Arkansas to enter land for school purposes under the Homestead law. Pending the question on its passage, the yeas and nays having been ordered, on motion of Mr. Julian the bill was left upon the Speaker's table.

A bill to confirm the title of the heirs of Gervacio Nolan, deceased, to certain lands in the Territory of Colorado. Pending the question on the engrossment of the bill, not being actually engrossed, was left upon the Speaker's table.

Resolved, That Adolph Bailey is not entitled to a seat as Representative in the Forty-first Congress from the Third district of Louisiana.

Resolved, That C. B. Darrall is entitled to a seat as Representative in the Forty-first Congress from the Third district of Louisiana.

Resolution allowing Committees on Revolutionary Claims and Revolutionary Pensions and War of 1812 clerks during the present session.

Resolved, That Benjamin Eggleston is not entitled to a seat in this House as a representative in the Forty-first Congress from the First district of Ohio.

Resolved, That Peter W. Strader is entitled to a seat in this House as a representative in the Forty-first Congress from the First district of Ohio.

Resolved, That George M. Adams was duly elected as a representative in the Forty-first Congress from the Eighth district of Kentucky, and is entitled to retain his seat as such.

Resolved, That Sidney M. Barnes, having contested the seat of Hon. George M. Adams as a representative to this House from the Eighth district of Kentucky in good faith and with probable cause, there shall be paid to him out of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives the sum of ——— dollars in full for his expenses in such contest.

Resolved, That Charles Whitlesey is not entitled to a seat as a member in the Forty-first Congress from the Seventh Congressional district of Virginia.

Resolved, That Louis McKenzie is entitled to a seat as a member of the Forty-first Congress from the Seventh Congressional district of Virginia.

The following is a list of resolutions and bills undisposed of and which have been laid over under the rules, debate arising on their passage:—

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules be instructed to report an amendment of the rules of the House to provide that after seats and desks have once been drawn for in any Congress no further drawing shall be in order during that Congress.

Mr. Judd moved that it be laid on the table. Pending which, the yeas and nays having been ordered thereon, the House adjourned.

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to prepare and bring in a bill forthwith to place the taxation of the income derived from United States bonds, by the holders thereof, upon the same ground that is now provided by the internal revenue acts for the payment of taxation of the income from railroad and other corporation bonds; that is, that a five per cent income tax shall be deducted from the interest on all government bonds paid by the United States to the holders thereof. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the laws granting exclusive privileges or encouragement to particular classes or professions are unequal, and consequently unjust, and in violation of the constitution, and that the protective tariff is of this class. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform this House whether in his judgment any further legislation of Congress is necessary to enable the Executive to secure a more perfect neutrality in any struggle between a European Power and its American colony whenever the latter is seeking in good faith by revolution to assert the right of self-government; to the end that the hospitality and privileges of the ports of the United States may not be extended to either party to the prejudice or exclusion of the other. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That a special committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker to investigate the causes that led to the unusual and extraordinary fluctuations in the gold market of the city of New York from the 21st to the 26th of September, 1869, and especially to inquire if the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, or any officer of the government, was in any manner interested in causing said fluctuation. That the said special committee be appointed immediately, report at its earliest convenience and be empowered to send for persons and papers. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of the Departments of State, Treasury, War, Navy, Interior, the Postmaster General and the Attorney General be directed to report to this House the number of carriages and horses and the amount of harness paid for out of the Treasury of the United States or out of the contingent funds of said departments, and used for the convenience and pleasure of said heads of departments and their families, stating the amounts paid out for each respectively; and also what carriages, horses and harness, property of the government of the United States, are used by the heads of their respective bureaus, and by what authority the property of the government has been so seized and appropriated; and that they also be directed to report, at the same time, their reasons for not stating in their reports of contingent expenses the nature and amount of expenditures for said carriages, horses, harness, forage, liveries and the wages paid to their coachmen, footmen and hostlers. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Whereas the right of free speech in a legislative assembly includes and comprehends an equality and full participation in the known and legitimate means of addressing such a body, without distinction of subject or persons on the part of all its members, and which inheres in the constituent through the representative; and whereas the existing rules of this House, either from their intrinsic inefficiency or because they are misunderstood or are not strictly enforced, do not furnish to all members an equal facility in obtaining the floor for the discussion of the great questions of public policy and the rights of the people presented for the deliberation and action of the House; and whereas also, while it is eminently just and proper that the members of a committee, upon reporting a bill to the House, should have a reasonable precedent right to debate such a bill, as being more thoroughly informed upon its subject matter and its facts, there is no fitness or justice in any special arrangement, private or otherwise, by which particular members outside of such committee shall be entitled to the floor in preference to and in exclusion of any or all other members; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules be, and they are hereby, instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of so amending the standing rules of the House or of reporting such additional ones as will secure to all the members the equal means of addressing the House. Laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the president and committee on address of the Working Men's Labor Union, now met in Washington, on business of the association, be requested by this House to procure, by some member of their association, the delivery of an address on the principles and objects of their association in the hall of this house, on some evening in the present week, to be determined by the Speaker of the House, and that this House will take part in any ceremonies to be observed at that time. Debate arising thereon, laid overunder the rule.

Resolved, That while paper constitutes the currency of the country, the benefits and profits of providing such a currency ought to accrue to the whole people of the United States; and to this end, and to equalize as far as may be the currency, the notes issued by the national banks ought to be withdrawn and a corresponding amount of United States notes, legal tender money, issued in lieu thereof and applied toward the liquidation of the national debt; and the Committee on Banking and Currency is instructed to report a bill to carry into effect the principles above expressed.

Resolved, That this House disapproves of the policy of the Secretary of the Treasury in purchasing five-twenty bonds at a premium, the right of the United States to pay such bonds in United States notes, lawful money, being clear and unquestioned. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Committee on Banking and Currency be and are hereby directed to report to this House House bill No. 436, authorizing an additional issue of legal tender notes to the amount of $44,000,000, &c., within six days. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the special committee to whom was referred a bill providing for the establishment of a postal telegraph be directed to inquire into the whole subject of telegraphing in the United States and to send for person and papers. Debate, arising thereon laid over under the rule.

Whereas the business interests of the country are suffering derangement and incalculable loss by reason of the possible fluctuation in the quantity and the value of the national currency; and whereas there can be no durable prosperity under a system of legislation which permits one class, one community, or one State, to exercise corporate financial privileges denied to other classes, other communities, or other States, of like necessities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Banking and Currency be instructed to report at the earliest day practicable a general law authorizing the establishment of national banks, unrestricted in aggregate number and aggregate circulation, based upon such an issue of United States bonds as shall induce the largest possible reduction in the rate of interest on the national stocks thus used, securing to the people of the several States uniformity of rights in the number of banks authorized to be established and volume of currency to be issued, but providing nevertheless that the aggregate issue of United States bonds shall not be increased by reason of an increase in the volume of currency under the proposed general law for the establishment of free national banks. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the special committee to which was referred the Postal Telegraph bill be instructed to inquire into the subject of telegraphing in the United States and be authorized to send for persons and to examine witnesses. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau be and he is hereby directed to furnish this House at an early day with a full and detailed statement of all moneys drawn from any fund at his control as Commissioner, and turned over to or expended on account of Howard University and the Freedmen's Hospital in the District of Columbia, whether for land, buildings and building materials, rendering a separate account of each, both for the university and the hospital, with the names of persons or firms to which these payments were made, and all moneys paid on account of the tuition of the first, hospital fees, and what amount of School or other government bonds, if any, to any corporate association or associations he has purchased, and what use or disposition has been made of the same or any of them; and that in addition the Commissioner be and he is hereby directed to furnish this House with copies of all contracts and accompanying specifications for the erection of the buildings on the University grounds, and upon the premises occupied by the Freedmen's Hospital. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this House that our present system of taxation is exorbitant and needlessly burdensome, and that a reduction of taxation is demanded, both of tariff and internal taxes, to the lowest amount consistent with raising revenue sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the government, to discharge the interest of the national debt and to maintain the national credit; and that a tariff for revenue, when duties properly collected, must necessarily afford all the advantage to which any interest is entitled. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Joint resolution in regard to the use of the Bible in the public schools of the country. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means be and they are hereby instructed to report forthwith a bill levying a tax of at least ten per cent on the interest of the bonds of the United States, which tax shall be deducted from said interest by the disbursing officer of the United States before payment thereof to the holder, in the same manner as is now provided by the internal revenue acts for the payment of taxation of the income from railroad and other corporation bonds. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Whereas many complaints of the inutility of the Tice meters, of the excessive amount charged for them and of partiality shown in compelling persons to adopt them have been made by distillers, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of this House be and is hereby authorized and directed to appoint a committee, to be composed of five members of the House, with power to send for persons and papers, whose duty it shall be to inquire into and report as soon as practicable into the practical working of these meters, and whether or not, it is advisable to repeal so much of the acts of March 2, 1867, and July 20, 1868, as gives to the Secretary of the Treasury or the Commissioner of Internal Revenue authority to adopt any meters or weighing instruments to ascertain the quantity or quality of distilled spirits that may be produced from any substance; and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is hereby instructed to lay before said committee all facts in his possession concerning said meters, and will report the actual cost of the meters and the price at which they have been sold, the number bought, and the number attached to distilleries, and the number now in successful operation; and he will further report if some distillery have been compelled to pay for these meters while others have not been so compelled, and if the manufacturer has been paid for meters he did not proceed to attach, and if any difference in the amount of money deposited or paid for meters has been made where the distillery for which the applications were made are of the same capacity; and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is instructed to suspend the attachment or the use of any meter until further action by this House. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Whereas, heretofore, on the 26th day of January, A. D. 1870, this House adopted unanimously the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to furnish to this House, at his earliest convenience, a full and detailed statement of the amount of accruing interest which the government of the United States has been compelled to pay in discharge of its guarantee on the bonds issued by the government to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and their respective branches and auxiliary roads; also the amount of interest, if any, paid by said Railroads on said bonds; also the amount of government freight in tons, and the gross amount of charges thereon, transported by the government over said roads and their respective branches as aforesaid since said roads have been opened for transportation, and the rate of charge per ton per mile which said roads have charged the government for transporting such freight as aforesaid; also, the rate per mile of fare *per capita* which said roads have charged the government for the transportation of troops over said roads and their branches; also, to give the reasons, if any, why the amount of government bonds so issued to said companies as aforesaid have been withdrawn from the official semi-detailed statements of the public debt of the country; also, if the means of such information are within the department, to furnish a full and complete list of all the stockholders in said Union and Central Pacific Railroad Companies; the amount of stock held in trust by third persons, the names of such trustees, and the names of the persons for whose benefit such stock is so held in trust; the amount of stock held by each stockholder whether in trust or otherwise; the amount each stockholder has paid upon his stock, and the balance yet due and unpaid thereon;" and whereas the Secretary of the Treasury has failed to reply to said resolution, and the information therein desired by the House has not been obtained; and whereas in the event of the possibility that said resolution has in some way escaped the notice of the head of the said department, or has been lost or mislaid; therefore

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish this House as soon as practicable with a tabular exhibit of the name, rank and brevet rank of each officer of the army now on duty in the city of Washington, showing the office or bureau in which they are employed, and stating specifically the duties in which they are respectively engaged, the monthly compensation of each, as paid by any officer of the Pay Department, the Quartermaster's Department, the Subsistence Department, or by any other officer of the military or civil service of the government; also with a tabular exhibit of the name, nominal occupation, specific employment and present compensation of all other persons employed in the War Department and in each of its bureaus, specifying the law by which their employment is authorized; and if any are employed without authority of law, by what authority and how long they have been so employed, and by what authority or upon what principle their rate of compensation has been fixed, and out of what appropriation they have been paid. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Whereas the Corporation of the city of New York disbursed in the year 1861 nearly one million dollars, under the direction of the Union Defence Committee, of which Hon. Hamilton Fish and Hon. John A. Dix were respectively chairman, for the relief of troops which were used by the general government in its war for the maintenance of the Union; and whereas no portion of this sum has been refunded, therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Appropriations be directed to include in any appropriation bill not yet reported any amount which may be found due said Corporation of the city of New York on said account, after a proper examination by the Treasury Department or by the committee into the subject. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to report back the following bill, offered 28th February by Mr. Cox—namely, a bill constituting eight hours a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics in the employ of the government of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the passage of this act eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics who may now be employed, or may hereafter be employed, by any officer or agent of the United States, or by any person or persons contracting with any officer or agent of the United States.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That any officer or agent of the United States who shall evade or attempt to evade any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on sufficient proof thereof shall be removed from office and place by the President of the United States, and any person or persons contracting with any officer or agent of the United States who shall evade or attempt to evade any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a violation of the same, and on conviction thereof in any United States Court shall forfeit such contract, and in addition thereto shall be fined not more than $10,000 or less than $1,000.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the act entitled "An act constituting eight hours a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics employed by or on behalf of the government of the United States," approved June 25, 1868, is hereby repealed. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Postmaster General be requested to furnish to this House any information in his possession respecting the practical operation, efficiency, cost and reliability of the transmission of mail matter in England by means of pneumatic tubes, and to state whether, in his opinion, such a method can be successfully applied to the mail service between the main distributing offices in this country. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this House enclose a copy of this resolution, with the original, as heretofore adopted, to the Secretary of the Treasury, respectfully suggesting to him that said original resolution still remains unanswered. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall, at noon, on the 10th day of May, 1870, declare the two houses of Congress adjourned *sine die*. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Whereas the Secretary of the Treasury estimates the customs receipts of the government for the next fiscal year at $135,000,000, the internal revenue receipts at $175,000,000 and the excess of total receipts over expenditures at $102,000,000; and whereas the public welfare demands such prompt reduction of the burdens of taxation as shall be consistent with the maintenance of public credit; and whereas it is both impracticable and inexpedient to make a general readjustment of the tariff during the present session of Congress; therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, the tariff bill now pending in the Committee of the Whole ought to be indefinitely postponed. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to cause an inquiry to be made for the information of Congress relative to the state of trade between the United States and the several dependencies of Great Britain in North America, and that the Secretary is hereby authorized to designate a suitable person to make such inquiry, who may be paid not more than ten dollars per day while employed in such service, with an allowance of ten cents per mile for defraying the expenses of necessary travel. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the President of the United States is requested to cause to be communicated to this House a statement of all moneys paid into the treasury on account of all property seized and sold for taxes due to the United States under and by virtue of an act of Congress of June 7, 1863, entitled "An act to collect taxes in insurrectionary districts and for other purposes," including also a statement of the title of each case, the name of the owner of the property sold, the purchaser of the same at the tax sale and the names of the officers by whom the deeds were made, the proceeds of sale in each case may have been paid into the treasury and the amount actually paid in in each and every case. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

Resolved, That the honor and good faith of this government are bound to the payment of loyal citizens of the South for property of every description taken from them for the use of the army, navy or government. Debate arising thereon, laid over under the rule.

LITERATURE.

Criticisms of New Books.

ELOCUTION: THE SOURCES AND ELEMENTS OF ITS POWER. By J. H. McIlvaine. New York: Charles Scribner.

There are few works on elocution which we have seen so thoroughly satisfactory as this. The author, who is Professor of Belle Lettres in Princeton College, has been for the past ten years "a systematic student and teacher of the art of elocution," and this book contains "the notes and criticisms which gradually accumulated" upon his hands in successive courses of instruction and training. The peculiar features of his work are clearly stated in the preface by the Professor himself, and to the following points the attention of teachers and students is requested:—"First, nearly one-half of the work consists in the exhibition of the intellectual, moral, æsthetical and physical sources of power in delivery, which, it is believed, have never before been treated of as included in the art of elocution. Second, the second part contains several chapters on Phonology, especially under the heads of articulation, accent and pronunciation, new views are advanced, which it is hoped may have an interest for phonologists, students of the English language, and all who desire to pronounce it correctly, independently of the relation of these chapters to the principal object of the work. Third, the whole matter of the work has been carefully analyzed or generalized under principal and subordinate heads, in order to facilitate the comprehension of particulars and to aid the memory in recitation." There is everything in the work to praise and little to condemn. Professor McIlvaine evidently devoted much thought and labor to its production—something he admits in his preface. We doubt, too, if he could have been better employed. He has given to the public one of the very best of works on elocution, which, as a text book for our schools and colleges and a book for public speakers and students of the English language, will be found invaluable.

QUEEN HORTENSE. A Life Picture of the Napoleonic Era. An Historical Novel. By L. Mühlbach. Translated from the German by Chapman Coleman. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

THE HISTORY OF QUEEN HORTENSE. By John S. C. Abbott. New York: Harper & Brothers.

If in the after life people are permitted to pursue the avocations which they followed on earth, all the spirits of the crowned heads in Europe will be made to flee before Madame L. Mühlbach, while the inhabitants of the other world, from Adam to the latest arrival, will not be long in hearing the history of the Bonaparte family from Mr. Abbott. The verbosity of both these writers is remarkable. The authoress candidly styles her works "novels" (and very tiresome some of them are, too), to which she has the advantage of Mr. Abbott, who writes romances and calls them histories. However, in the case of the books before us it matters little to what branch of literature they belong. Both are interesting; both purport to give a history of the life of Queen Hortense. Madame Mühlbach confines herself to lauding Hortense and saying a good word for Josephine and the Emperor Alexander. Mr. Abbott lauds everybody related to or in any way connected with the Bonaparte family, and winds up with a first class puff of Napoleon III. and the Empress Eugénie. What is singular in these two volumes is the fact that they agree in nothing at all. Each tells a different story. It is almost comical to read a chapter of one work and then a chapter of the other. Thus, however, history is made.

A very pleasant, sensible book, is one entitled "Life at Home; or, The Family and Its Members." (New York: Samuel R. Wells.) It discusses in separate chapters such subjects as "The Family Relation," "Husbands and Wives," "Husbands," "Wives," "Parents," "Children," "Brothers and Sisters," "Employers and Employed" and "The Altar in the House." There is much in the work to be commended. It takes high moral ground and contains advice which, if heeded, cannot fail to make life at home happier to many than it now is.

STEPS OF BELIEF is the title of a collection of lectures delivered last winter in Boston by James Freeman Clarke and published now by the American Unitarian Association. It claims to maintain rational Christianity against atheism, free religion and Romanism." The argument is full of force, and the volume through out will amply repay perusal.

The last work on religious subjects which we have to-day is a little volume entitled "Rocks and Shoals," and containing six lectures to young men by Rev. George H. Hepworth, of this city. The reputation of this clergyman for eloquence and logical argument is sufficient recommendation for his work. All we can add in praise of them is that we have no doubt of young men deriving much benefit from their perusal. The book is neatly published by the American Unitarian Association.

Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have published "Ivy Leaves," a little volume of poetry by Mary Ellen Atkinson. The muse of the fair authoress is not without merit, but there is great room for improvement. The writer should bear in mind that it is a very difficult task to imitate Tennyson's style, and that Tennyson himself sometimes wearies the reader. However, there are some poems in the collection of more than mediocre merit, which we shall leave the reader to discover without our aid.

"A REPLY TO JOHN STUART MILL ON THE SUBJECTION OF WOMAN" is the title of a book published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia. It seems to us that the author is hardly capable of carrying on a controversy with so skilled a logician as Mr. Mill; but he argues on the side of the question which we believe the correct one, and his ideas are not without force and pertinence. Indeed, there are some parts which are vigorous and convincing, and these make the book no mean addition to the literature of the "woman question."

Leaving theology and social philosophy we reenter the realms of fiction and find in "The Vicar of Bullhampton" (New York: Harper & Brothers) a novel worthy of Anthony Trollope, the author. It is one of the best of his works. As a domestic story it is entertainingly told, the characters are admirably drawn and the plot is skillfully laid and carried out. Mr. Trollope is essentially the romancer of the aristocratic classes. Not that he deals in nothing but nobles and palaces, but that his characters are always refined and elevated, and even when he describes individuals of the lower classes his delicate pen enshrouds them in a veil of respectability which may impair their excellence as pictures, but which certainly makes them all the more agreeable to the reader.

Messrs. Lee & Shepard, of Boston, have recently published "The Young Shipbuilders of Elm Island," by Rev. Elijah Kellogg. This book is an addition to the well known "Elm Island Stories" and is fully equal in merit to any of its predecessors. Mr. Kellogg is one of the best writers of stories for children that we have in this country, and we are glad to note the success which has attended the present series of his works.

THE COUNTESS OF RUDOLSTADT (Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros.), the sequel to George Sand's "Consuelo," has recently been published. It is not the equal in merit to the last named work, but it is nevertheless a wonderful production. It treats of almost every subject connected with social life which can be named. Its tone is pure, the style classical, and, as a mere novel, it is intensely interesting.

TROUBLE ON THE FRONTIER BETWEEN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND CANADA.—A Concord (N. H.) despatch to the Boston *Journal* of the 26th inst. says:—There is reported to be a serious insurrection and riot existing among the Irishmen on the New Hampshire Canadian frontier. A despatch from Lancaster, asking for arms and ammunition, was received here for Adjutant General Head this forenoon. In his absence the Chief Clerk, Captain John M. Haines, immediately attended to the matter, and a supply of rifles and ammunition are now on their way to Lancaster. The sending so far for arms is considered presumptive proof that the affair is a serious one. Another report states that the military in the northern part of the State have been called out and