WASHINGTON.

Ben Butler's Self-Adjusting Currency Bill.

Buncombe Bill for Revenue Reform Passed in the House.

Speech of Senator Fenton on Custom House Reform.

Another Raid by Land Grabbers on the Public Domain.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1871.

General Butler's Self-Adjusting Currency Bill.

The bill introduced by General Butler in the House to-day to make the volume of the currency self-adjusting, according to the wants of the people, provides for the preparation of bonds of the United States of the denominations of $100 and upwards, bearing interest at the rate of 3 65-100 per cent per annum, said bonds to clearly express the right of the United States to change said rate of interest after notice by the Secretary of the Treasury shall have been given and be conspicuously posted in the offices of the Assistant Treasurers of the United States for one year prior to such change; said bonds, when prepared, shall be lodged with the Assistant Treasurers in amounts proportioned to the business of their respective offices, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, and shall be charged to the Assistant Treasurer on the books of the Treasurer of the United States. It shall be the duty of any Assistant Treasurer to countersign, date and deliver said bonds in sums of $100 or any multiple thereof, to any person who may pay, therefore, their par value in legal tender notes of the United States. When any person shall demand of any Assistant Treasurer redemption of any of said bonds it shall be the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to pay in legal tender notes, which the Secretary of the Treasury shall furnish to him for that purpose, the principal of said bonds, with the accrued interest thereon, and to cancel and forward the bonds thus redeemed to Washington forthwith in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

Senator Morton's Bill for the Suppression of Southern Outrages.

The joint committee of the Senate and House republican caucus charged with preparing a bill for the better protection of life and property in the South met this morning, at ten o'clock, in the room of the Committee on Reconstruction. Senator Morton, of Indiana, chairman of the Senate caucus, presided. After a brief interchange of views the committee proceeded to discuss the features of a bill to be presented to the two houses which would meet the emergency alleged to exist at the South. Senator Conkling, of New York, expressed some doubts as to the propriety of conferring power on the President to use the army and navy to enforce the laws in States where they were obstructed. Senator Morton and General Butler argued that under the fourteenth amendment the President had ample power to protect life and property in all the States. All that was required was appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this amendment. The committee spent nearly two hours in consultation without coming to any agreement. They adjourned with the understanding that another meeting would be held in the evening.

At eight o'clock the committee assembled in Senator Morton's rooms, all the members being present except Judge Mercur, of Pennsylvania. In the meantime Senator Morton had drafted a bill, which he laid before the committee. The bill is quite lengthy, and contains numerous details connected with its execution. The main idea of it is that all offences against the fourteenth amendment to the constitution are declared to be offences against the United States. This brings the operations of the Ku Klux against life and property at the South under the jurisdiction of the United States courts. Should the courts be unable to enforce the law the President of the United States is authorized to employ the military and naval forces of the government to carry the orders of the courts into execution. Under the present condition of affairs the perpetrators of outrages against life and property can only be punished by the State courts, and the President cannot employ the armed forces of the government for such purposes unless requested to do so by the civil authorities of the State.

The committee remained in session till a late hour to-night discussing the provisions of the bill. They will hold another meeting to-morrow afternoon, when the bill will be perfected, and it is expected that it will be reported to the Senate on Wednesday next. The republicans of the House will hold a caucus to-morrow evening, when this Ku Klux bill will be submitted to them, and its provisions will be explained by General Butler. It is expected that a line of action will be marked out for the management of the bill in the House. The leading members of the committee anticipate that this bill will give rise to one of the most exciting debates that has been witnessed in Congress since 1865, when the reconstruction measures were discussed. The republicans are determined to allow a full discussion of the bill, and will remain here long enough to pass it. They expect to fight it out on that line if it takes all summer.

The Chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee.

It is understood that Senator Cameron will to-morrow resign his position as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, on the ground that his health will not permit him to assume such laborious duties. Cameron is anxious to be chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections which Sumner, declined. Senator Harlan is the next man on the Foreign Relations to Cameron, but being chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs he cannot accept the chairmanship of the Foreign Relations. It is probable that Morton, the third member of the committee, will be made its chairman.

Free Trade in Salt and Coal.

The free traders in the House to-day made another raid on the position of the tariff men, which completely outflanked the manœuvres of the latter last week. Under a suspension of the rules motions were made and carried, successively, to remove the duty on salt and coal. The tariff men resisted as best they could, but when they were defeated they turned around and moved to put tea and coffee on the free list, which was agreed to. The tariff men console themselves with the belief that none of these measures will pass the Senate at this session. They concede, however, that the action of the House now is only an indication of what will be done next winter. They look for a general reduction of the tariff.

The Pacific Railroad Bonds.

There is official authority for stating that the report that the Secretary of the Treasury intends to push the Pacific Railroad Company for the payment of the interest money due to the government and appeal to the courts to enforce the payment is entirely false, Secretary Boutwell disclaiming any such intention.

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1871.

All the bills and petitions heretofore introduced were taken from the table and referred to the newly organized committees.

THE FRENCH SPOLIATION BILL.

Upon the reference of the French Spoliation bill to the Committee on Foreign Relations,

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., called the attention of the new chairman of that committee (Mr. Cameron) to the fact that the measure had at different sessions passed both Houses, but had repeatedly failed to become law—in one case by a President's veto. He hoped the Senator from Pennsylvania would kindly take charge of the business and press it forward.

Mr. CAMERON, (rep.) of Pa., thought it hardly fair for the late chairman to expect the new committee to secure in one session a law which that Senator had failed to have passed in ten sessions.

THE TEXAS PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. KELLOGG, (rep.) of La., introduced a bill to amend the Texas Pacific Railroad bill by changing the eastern terminus from Marshall to the eastern boundary of Texas, due east from Marshall and making the gauge of the whole line uniform.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y.—To amend the Bankruptcy act of March 2, 1867.

By Mr. COLE, (rep.) of Cal.—Making a land grant to the California and Arizona Railroad, and creating a Southern Judicial District of California.

By Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis.—For a ship canal to connect the waters of Green Bay with Lake Michigan, in Wisconsin, making a land grant to aid the Green Bay and Lake Pepin Railway, and for a railroad from Milwaukee to Lake Superior, via Green Bay, Wisconsin; also, extending the time for constructing a railroad from St. Croix River to the west end of Lake Superior and Bayfield.

By Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass.—To aid in establishing and supporting the public schools in the States lately in rebellion.

By Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nev.—To incorporate the Colorado and New Mexico Railroad Company.

By Mr. FENTON, (rep.) of N. Y.—Relating to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries.

By Mr. NYE—For relief of certain contractors for construction of vessels of war and steam machinery.

REGULATING THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

The Senate then took up the bill recently introduced by Mr. Fenton regulating the customs service at various ports of entry in the United States, and the disposition of fines, penalties and forfeitures incurred under the laws relating to customs, and for other purposes.

SENATOR FENTON'S SPEECH ON CUSTOM HOUSE REFORMS.

By unanimous consent Mr. FENTON was awarded the floor to address the Senate upon the bill. After stating that he could hardly expect now to do more than call attention to the important subject presented by the bill of a reform in the customs service, with a view to the renewal of the discussion at the next session, Mr. Fenton continued:—I do do not exaggerate in asserting that our present customs service, as practically considered, mainly under the laws framed at an early period in our national history, when the magnitude of our commerce and the modes and channels of conducting commerce varied from our own days, is essentially inadequate duly to protect the interests of the government. It is injurious to the honest importer and encourages the perpetration of fraud, by offering inducements to the commission of crime. Without entering now upon the special features of the bill, I will state that the information elicited under the authority of the resolution I had the honor to introduce on the 14th of December last, and to which response has recently been made by the Secretary of the Treasury, establishes the following important facts:—

First—That large amounts of money are received by collectors and other officers from those who have defrauded the revenue upon the settlement of cases of fraud or smuggling under judgments obtained in court usually by confession, and that the amount of money thus received at the port of New York since the first day of January, 1870, will not fall short of the sum of $500,000.

Second—That out of the money so received by the Treasury one-half has been paid to the Collector, Naval Officer and Surveyor, and to informers, making the pay of the above named officials at the port of New York at least $80,000 each per annum.

Third—That of all the criminals engaged in defrauding the revenue but few have been presented to the Grand Jury and fewer convicted for several years past.

Fourth—That while the present system of moieties continues it is made the direct pecuniary interest of the officers named that this species of crime should go unpunished and the fraudulent practices continue to be perpetrated.

Fifth—That when judgment is obtained the settlement made with parties who have defrauded the revenue with false weights or false quantities or qualities of goods the government does not receive the full duties to which it is entitled before dividing the amount thus received with the officer of customs and informers.

Sixth—That often frauds of great magnitude are not discovered until after the lapse of the time fixed by law, two years, which limits criminal prosecution.

Seventh—That the expenditure for the collection of customs is more than is required.

Eighth—That while the salaries and perquisites of some of the officials are greatly in excess of what is adequate to their duties and responsibilities, the salaries of others are too small.

Ninth—That in some departments or divisions more officers are employed than are necessary, while in others men are worked to their fullest capacity.

Tenth—That the present manner of conducting the warehouse business needs reform, and that officers of customs, it is believed, are to some extent interested in the business, which is alike improper and illegal.

Eleventh—That the general order business as at present conducted is injurious to the interests of merchants, subjecting them to increased expenditure and frequently causing great delay, thereby enhancing the price at which goods can be placed on the market for consumption, which is a tax upon the consumer and an injury to the government.

Twelfth—That the present system of public cartage needs reforming.

I will not now dwell on these several points. I am not sure that it will be necessary, as the mere statement of facts will suffice to incline those who are well disposed to give a full and fair investigation of the whole subject. With such the bill I present as a remedy for the abuses known or believed to exist will find ample justification, while no amount of testimony will be sufficient for those who desire to perpetuate the present state of things. I will refer, however, to the fact that under the present system the Collector, Naval Officer and Surveyor enjoy power, privileges and benefits which, while pecuniarily advantageous to them, tend directly to draw money from the treasury that legitimately belongs to the government. In support of this it is only necessary to examine the laws, decisions and authorities which allow these officers moieties of the fines, penalties and forfeitures, etc., by judgments of courts or upon settlements from offenders against various customs, laws and practices which have thus grown up and prevailed. It will be found that the seizures of goods attempted to be smuggled into the port of New York during the last ten years have amounted to an annual average of over three hundred thousand dollars. In addition to this full five hundred thousand dollars have been collected from fines and penalties for defrauding the revenue. The goods seized generally come within the class called luxuries, and are those which pay the highest rates of duty, or of great value, such, for instance, as silks, paying sixty per cent *ad valorem*; bay oil, which pays six hundred per cent, and other essential oils, laces, diamonds, watches and jewels of all descriptions. With reference to the class of importers who have, by false invoices or fraud and collusion, defrauded the revenue, it will be found that they are mainly those who have no real interest in the government or its credit, but aliens and agencies representing foreign house. And here I desire to accept the favorable opportunity presented by this discussion to repel the imputation recently made in this chamber to the effect that the interests of prominent New York merchants are not identical with a faithful and honest administration of the customs department; that they are prone to complain when the officers in charge do well and to be quiet when corrupt men and official incompetency prevail. This is alike unfounded and unjust. I suppose there is no equal number of business men of any country who stand higher in probity of business intercourse or whose intelligence, integrity and generosity will have the advantage by comparison with them. I resent with indignation any reflection upon the character of such men as the Stewarts, the Chittendens, the Dodges and others in that long list of the successful men of New York. I mention the names of these gentlemen only as they were referred to in the previous discussion to which I have alluded. Leaving the question of right and wrong wholly out of consideration, and even supposing that these large importers disregard principle and eschew upright and honorable conduct, it is nevertheless for their own pecuniary interest that smuggling and fraud be detected and ended. They cannot afford to make false invoices or attempt the smuggling business, and their own protection requires that every importer should be compelled to pay alike the duties the law imposes on the goods imported. Their business is too large and regular for safety or security to be found in any other rule or principle.

In turning from this somewhat personal view of the matter to broader aspects of the subject, I may properly refer to other forms of fraud and mismanagement under the present customs regulations, as follows:—

First—The rendering of false weights by unfaithful or corrupt government weighers, or the substitution by liquidating officers of false for correct returns of weights, whereby in both cases the duty is levied upon much less than the actual quantity of merchandise imported.

Second—The presentation of false invoices, upon which, either by deception or collusion with custom officers, the importer succeeds in getting particular cases ordered for examination which do not represent the balance of the goods.

Third—The entry of invoices which do not specify the quantity of goods contained in each case, getting the order for examination and afterwards falsely inserting such particulars on the invoice entries.

When frauds of this character are detected and cases are made up which clearly establish the liability of the importer to a certain amount, a settlement may be arranged upon some basis deemed satisfactory with or without proceeding to prosecution and judgment. Then, instead of the government receiving the amount of duties to which it is entitled under the law, the whole amount is treated a fine. This is divided up accordingly between the Collector, Naval Officer and Surveyor and the individuals styled "informers," the government having a portion, but often far less than the amount of duties which would have been collected had there been no fraud. The present bill looks to a thorough reorganization of the Custom House Department, under such regulations and safeguards as will, in my opinion, give greater efficiency to the revenue service and remedy abuses of which we know and now complain. I shall fail in my judgment if it shall not, if placed in operation, afford increased protection to a large degree to the interests of commerce and of the government. It is true, as the law now stands, fraud, forgery and smuggling in the matter of customs duties is declared to be felony, punishable by fine and imprisonment. Yet no case of punishment, I believe, can be found for these offences on the records of the courts in the city of New York. It would seem, therefore, that the Collector, Naval Officer, Surveyor and informers were not slow to perceive their common interest in the pecuniary benefits growing out of a compromise with violation of revenue laws, a compromise with crime; at least a common cause in personal gain must suggest the less annoying and more direct method which is to be found in these settlements with offenders against the integrity of the revenue and laws. It is also true that it is often difficult upon the commencement of fraud to detect it. Experience has shown that even more than two years may elapse before the discovery, and this completes the period within which the statute of limitation may interpose and afford immunity from criminal punishment. These cases, while not necessarily numerous, are sufficient to furnish an excuse by government officers for not prosecuting any such case criminally. In any event, the statute of limitations should be changed. It is not good policy, nor is it just to permit any officers of the government or other person to obtain from the public the enormous sums now realized in the manner I have now indicated, or indeed in any other way. Why should the Collector at New York, the Surveyor or the Naval Officer be permitted by law to make fifty thousand dollars and upwards per annum each out of their positions? Is it earned by reason of the surpassing ability of those officers or by the unequal responsibility devolved upon them? No one pretends this. The Secretary of the Treasury of the United States receives but $8,000.

In further elucidation of its provisions Mr. Fenton remarked that the bill conceded the right and necessity of a seizure and examination of books and papers in certain cases. It sought, however, to limit this exercise of authority within a prudent yet liberal construction of the interests of the government. In the whole history of the Customs Department there did not exist a more palpable violation of private rights of the citizen than the present practice under the law as it now stood.

He then quoted from the report of the investigating committee upon New York customs affairs in regard to frauds upon the government by false appraisals of damaged goods and pernicious practices of employés, the committee suggesting that these chronic evils may be eradicated by appointments to office upon personal integrity and capacity. He continued, without attempting to analyze the testimony:—It seems to me apparent that the conclusion to be derived from the whole matter points toward civil service reform as needful to the integrity, economy and efficiency of the revenue service. I could with equal propriety embrace in this summary of their investigations the political as well as the public interests involved. In a large degree principles must be enforced through party organization, and in no step toward civil service reform would I impair or assail either. It is also true that the very essence of popular government lies in associated political action, and the cause which embarrasses the one strikes at the other. But the beneficent operation of this principle is impaired when pushed to the extreme of attempting frequent changes in civil employments. There is then this difficulty as well as danger, that parties seek perpetuation by the use of patronage. The effect is seen in an increasing habit of subserviency and less unselfish devotion to the public welfare. It is painful to contemplate the tendency apparent towards a condition in which the various departments of the social structure will become subordinate to the strife and inroads of political movements. For every office adequate qualifications should be exacted from the candidate, and there should also be general confidence in his character and integrity, and in his faithful and honorable political conduct when appointed. If his suitability becomes manifest in these respects he should not be removed during the usual period of an administration. The few remarks which I have presumed at this brief session to ask the Senate to consider will suffice to explain, and I trust to justify my conviction that a genuine and thorough reform in our civil service, and especially in the Customs Department of this government, has become indespensable. I submit that those who hold positions under the government should be faithful servants of the republic and her laws, not the supplant tools of the appointing power. I desire that they may be incited to the utmost fidelity to the country and our institutions, rather than to be public servants who discharge an official responsibility in appointing or nominating them. The doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils of the vanquished" may have been applicable in the bestowment of official place; but, if so, I deem it applicable no longer. The patronage of the government of the United States is so vast and the offices to be filled are so numerous that the public interests forbid that they be filled and refilled as ambition or party caprice may dictate. I plead for the adoption of a purer and a nobler system, under which the capable and faithful officer shall, like his superior in the highest place, be irremovable during his allotted term of service, except for sufficient and evident cause. With that view, so far as applicable to the Customs Department, I have submitted the following section to the bill:—

"That all officers of customs requiring the concurrence of the Senate shall be appointed for the term of four years, and shall hold their offices respectively until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified; and such officers shall not be removed during the term of such appointment except for cause; and before any removal shall be made an officer shall be furnished with a copy of the charges against him and have an opportunity of being heard in his defence."

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Fenton's remarks a discussion took place as to the reference of the bill for the present.

The bill was finally referred to the Committee on Finances.

ENLISTMENTS IN THE NAVY.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., introduced a bill for the enlistment of 300 additional seamen in the United States navy.

After a short executive session the Senate adjourned at a quarter to four.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1871.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. PETERS, (rep.) of Me.—To allow persons accused of crime to testify in their own behalf in the courts.

By Mr. POLAND, (rep.) of Vt.—In relation to respondents in extradition cases, and a bill supplementary to the act of 1862 providing for remedial justice in the courts of the United States.

By Mr. BUFFINGTON, (rep.) of Mon.—A joint resolution relative to the harbor of refuge at the entrance of Cape Cod Ship Canal, and a bill to enable the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company to mortgage its road, and confer jurisdiction on the District of Missouri.

By Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass.—To enable the volume of currency to be self-adjusting, according to the wants of the people.

By Mr. HOOPER, (rep.) of Mass.—To provide for the exportation of distilled spirits, and to amend the existing laws relative to the compensation of officers of customs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MYERS, (rep.) of Pa.—To repeal the income tax.

By Mr. WOOD, (dem.) of N. Y.—Relative to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries.

By Mr. COX (dem.), of N. Y.—To provide for additional mail service to Brazil, rendered necessary by the increased importations of coffee by mail steamers; and to change the name of the ship industry to that of William M. Tweed.

Mr. BRAXTON, (dem.), of Va., introduced a bill quieting the title to the Arlington estate, and making an appropriation therefor.

It provides that there shall be paid to the devisees three hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. BUTLER, (Mass.), moved to lay the bill on the table. Agreed to—115 to 74.

By Mr. BURCHARD, (rep.) of Ill.—Establishing free schools throughout the United States.

By Mr. CONGER, (rep.) of Mich.—To encourage the building of ships for the foreign trade, and for the appointment of shipping judges for the further protection of seamen, &c.

By Mr. PALMER, (rep.) of Iowa—To grant lands to Dakota for railroad purposes.

By Mr. WALLS, (rep.) of Fla.—Granting lands for railroads in Florida and securing railroad connections, at the nearest available harbor, with Cuba and other West India islands.

By Mr. LOWE, (rep.) of Kan.—Providing for the sale of certain New York Indian lands in Kansas.

By Mr. CHAVFEZ (of Cal.)—To enable the people of Colorado to form a constitution and State government and to enable the people of New Mexico to do likewise, the latter under the name of "Lincoln," with a view to their admission into the Union.

ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION.

Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate adjourn their respective houses of the first session of the Forty-second Congress on Wednesday, the 15th instant, at twelve o'clock M., without day.

The resolution was agreed to—yeas, 125; nays, 67.

THE DUTY ON SALT.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of Me., offered the following:—

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives that from and after the passage of this act salt shall be placed on the free list and no further import duty shall be collected on the same.

Mr. BUTLER (of Mass.) objected, on the ground that the resolution could not be introduced except on the call of States.

The SPEAKER said that it could be introduced on the suspension of the rules, which motion had been made.

The motion recurred on Mr. Hale's motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution. It was decided in the affirmative—yeas 145, nays 46; so the resolution was passed.

THE DUTY ON COAL.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., moved the suspension of the rules in order to pass a joint resolution now offered by him, that from and after the passage of this joint resolution no tax or duty shall be levied or collected on foreign coal.

The yeas and nays being ordered the result was—yeas 132, nays 57; so the joint resolution was passed.

COFFEE AND TEA ON THE FREE LIST.

Mr. RANDELL, (dem.) of Pa., moved a suspension of the rules, in order to pass a bill that from and after the passage of this act tea and coffee shall be placed on the free list, and no further import duty shall be collected on the same. Passed—yeas 141, nays 49.

RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Ind., introduced a resolution declaring the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution of the United States duly ratified by three-fourths of the States, and that no State has a right to withdraw its ratification after it has been given; and, further, that Congress has a right to impose the ratification of these amendments as a condition precedent to representation in Congress. The preamble to the resolution refers to the action of the democratic members of the Senate of Indiana. Lost—yeas 110, nays 75—not two-thirds voting in the affirmative.

The House at five o'clock adjourned.

THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION.

Protracted Session—A Telegram from the British Government—Thanks to the Universal Peace Union—Dinner at Secretary Robeson's.

WASHINGTON, March 13, 1871.

The weather to-day favored the labors of the Joint High Commission, and the session was the most protracted of any yet held. They met at twelve o'clock and remained until near five o'clock, the American Commissioners being the first to retire.

Earl De Gray received a telegram from the Home Government this afternoon, which was delivered to him at the State Department.

After Justice Nelson, ex-Senator Williams and Judge Hoar, of the United States commission, and Sir Stafford Northcote, Professor Bernard and Sir John A. Macdonald, of the British commission, had left the State Department, Earl De Gray and Minister Thornton, with Secretary Fish and General Schenck, remained for some time in conversation.

Lord Tenterden, on behalf of the British Commissioners, has addressed a note to Mr. James H. K. Wilcox, thanking the Universal Peace Union for the friendly sentiments contained in their letter, and expressing the regret of the Commissioners that engagements already made will prevent them accepting the ovation tendered them by the Union in Philadelphia.

This evening Secretary Robeson gave a dinner at his residence, on I street, which was attended by all the British Commissioners, Lord Tenderden, their secretary, and Senators Anthony, Thurman and Bayard.

Hon. Francis Lawley, the correspondent of the London *Times*, who was in this country during the rebellion, and wrote letters from the South, has arrived here, and will remain in Washington, it is understood, until the Joint High Commission has concluded its labors.

SENATOR SUMNER.

The British Minister's Interference Denied—Letter from the Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1871.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE EVENING POST:—

A "special despatch," dated Washington, March 11, introduced with startling headings, which appears in the second edition of your paper of last evening, requires a contradiction, rather from the character of the journal which is made to give currency to a malicious invention than from any probability of truth in the statements of the despatch.

No person who knows the scrupulous delicacy of Sir Edward Thornton (the British Minister to this capital) in his official relations with the government to which he is accredited will for a moment credit the statement that he has attempted or suggested any interference with the organization of any part of the machinery whereby the business of any branch of this government is conducted. And no person who knows me, I venture to hope, will credit a statement that any representative of any foreign power would be allowed to approach me with a suggestion on that subject.

The entire statement of your correspondent, so far as it relates to any conversation, expression, discussion or allusion by Sir Edward Thornton to me or by me to or with him or with the British Commissioners, or any or either of them, on the subject of Mr. Sumner's position on the Committee on Foreign Relations, or with respect to any organization or constitution of that or of any other committee of the Senate, is from beginning to end without the slightest foundation of truth.

Neither Sir Edward Thornton nor either of the British Commissioners ever, directly or indirectly, by word or in writing, has expressed or intimated to me any opinion or wish, or apprehension or objection as to Mr. Sumner of any other person being on any committee of either House of Congress, or made any allusion or reference to the organization or composition of any committee of either House of Congress.

Of the transparent object and probable source of the statement which your correspondent has written to you I have nothing at present to say.

But as the effect of the statement, if not contradicted, would be to misrepresent the conduct of Sir Edward Thornton and his colleagues on the British Commission, and to prejudice pending negotiations of great public interest, I trust you will give place to this denunciation of the entire falsity of the alleged disclosures. Very respectfully,

HAMILTON FISH.

SOMETHING FOR HORSEMEN.

The sale of the late Mr. James Watson's valuable stock of horses will come off to-morrow, under the hammer of Johnston & Van Tassell, at the stable of the deceased County Auditor, in Forty-second street. The horses to be sold are well known to the sporting community. The reputation of the animals, such as "Charles Green," "Dan" and the others, has long been established on the road. Their aggregate value is supposed to be about forty thousand to forty-five thousand dollars. The horsemen will decide the question of value when they come to bid upon them. The sale, considering the sad circumstances which make it a necessity, as well as the known character of the animals, will, no doubt, be one of exceeding interest.

THE PRIZE RING.

Fight Between Mike O'Connor and Dan Carr Near Dubuque, Iowa.

Sixty Rounds in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes.

The Referee Declares the Fight a Draw.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, March 13, 1871.

"See here, old chap," said Marshal Hardy, of this town, this morning, "I was once in New York, and am going to make a clean breast of it. You see I wouldn't tell you only you have come twelve hundred miles to see this scrape and take a glorious look; but we mean business here, whether we are fighting men, levelling forests or shooting and gathering fish and fowl, from the caribou down to the smallest trout. We mean business, and this is part of it; and, sir, to the town this is glorious excitement, for it gives merchants and hoosiers alike a stir up that acts like wine, or even better, and begins the spring sparring session and all that sort of thing nicely."

Thus spoke the Marshal of this community to me down on the levee an hour ago, and now, in obedience to command and invitation, I am plodding up the upper Mississippi river, to take in a prize fight that has in anticipation stirred pleasantly the denizens of our State, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. The boat is

AN AWKARD CONCERN.

It is a stern-wheeler, called Charley Rogers, and its missions have been of piety oft before, but Captain Donovan is an old boy, fond of a good thing, and says, "I'll take yer, my lads, but yer're to be quiet." The principals are with us—Mike C. O'Connor and Danny Carr.

MIKE

is thirty three years old, born in St. Arcet, Canada. He is a rover, as his pugilistic career will show. Ambition and love of notoriety made him what he is. First, in 1869, in the Red River territory, he whipped John Dolan, in ten rounds, in forty-five minutes; then he turned circus performer, and was content with legitimate business until 1869, when, in St. Paul, he fought and cleaned out Mike King in eight rounds, lasting twenty-five minutes. In January, 1870, he appeared in the ring again and was equally fortunate, beating James Barnard in two minutes, knocking him out of time. That was in Rochester, Minn. Once more he put up his hands against Tom Wheeler, alias Bridgeport Tom, whom he bewildered at Makato, Minn., June 14, of last year, in three rounds and five minutes. Next in his net came, November 17, last year, J. C. Clark, whom he laid out in seven minutes and four rounds. Finally, January 20, this year, St. Clair, of New Orleans, an unregenerated and unredeemed sort of a Kit Burns, suffered the same fate in twenty rounds, in seventeen minutes. O'Connor is thirty-three years old, five feet seven and a half inches high, and weighs when stripped 133 pounds.

CARR,

his antagonist, is smaller in stature, and his features have been terribly seamed by the destroying smallpox; his mouth is large, and looks like a huge mash made in a new cheese. When he speaks his voice rasps like the filing of a saw, and when he laughs it is the agony of a door-hinge that groans for want of oil. Carr was born in Ireland, and is twenty-four years old. He went to Liverpool when very young, and in 1866 stopped in New York in company with Patsy Shippard, another of your prize fighters who mean business when they have a sure thing whipping an inferior gladiator. First, Carr fought Jim Brennan, 1867, whipping him in twenty-five minutes and six rounds. Then coming West he claimed in Chicago the light weight championship, but finding no customers of the ring unstained by foul tricks or filthy subterfuge, skipped to New Orleans, where in 1869 he fought Patsey O'Mealy seventy-eight rounds in two hours and ten minutes and won. From there he returned to the Garden City, and, once more discontented, halted in Dubuque and went for Red-handed Mike. Carr is five feet seven and a half inches in height, and when stripped to the buff three hours ago weighed 142 pounds.

THE MORNING

is clear and bracing. A genial sun glints from spires and bluffs. The streets are crowded, all walking towards the point of embarkation. Two flatboats are tied by big hawsers to the steamboats. There rude bars are constructed for the occasion, and all kinds of liquors are being placed there, to be in readiness to be drunk by the thirsty multitude. A shrill whistle noted our departure. Splish! splish! guggle! guggle! goes the wheels, and the crowd of 500 sent up a cheer to the poor fellows on shore who can't go or are afraid to trust themselves in this eruption of strange, uncouth, savage-looking fellows. With dyed black mustaches, overcoats of brilliant hues and pearl-handled revolvers, they look like a swarm of locusts, and placid Dubuque is glad to get rid of them. For a while we go by Eagle Point slowly, stop just above that wilderness and take on board about one hundred more of the same kind of men, making as precious a lot of rascals as ever went on a strawberry festival, as they term it, and yet withal they have behaved themselves better than like gangs of Assyrians do on similar occasions. Ropes and stakes are away in the boiler room, and the stoker grins sardonically as he looks down at the coffinlike bundle and then glances up at Carr and O'Connor, who pass him. At times huge cakes of ice impede our progress, but the propeller has fair machinery if she has not beauty. There are no seats but one or two, and these are monopolized by a red facen, swelled head railway official, who purposely displays now and then his ugly and murderous bowie knife. Five miles is nearly gone over, and the Mississippi is

COVERED WITH SKIFFS,

which shoot out from the thousand and one sloughs and behind clumps of willows. They have been awaiting the boat and now follow us, their occupants shouting and howling as their humor best suits them. Still on we go, passing in succession bays, inlets and arms of this river, until

SMEAD'S BOTTOM

is reached. This is the location of the fight between Danny Carr, of Chicago, Ill., and Mike O'Connor, of Independence, Iowa, for $1,000 and the championship of the light weights West, made February 10. Profoundly secret had it been kept, and they didn't want to break the laws of Iowa, and so found an island in the jurisdiction of Wisconsin. It is a God-forsaken spot, two or three miles in length and about fifty yards wide only. A landing is soon affected by the crowds, and now the spirit of evil begins to excite the gang. Bawdy songs are vocalized by stentorian lungs, which reverberate against the bleak bluffs and come back as a lamentation. One ruffian from Chicago, with a leer almost inhuman, has gone up to O'Connor as they are carrying the stakes ashore, and calls him the dirtiest of all filthy names. Mike lifts his hand to strike him, but his trainer stopped him, and the brute is hauled off.

THE RING,

a double one, is pitched on the west side of the island, about ten yards from the beach. It is very sandy soil, and all injurious substances, such as bits of sharp twigs and brush, were removed. Soon the dull thud of mallets is heard, and Andy Ratshorn, from across the river, is wielding the instrument with the facility and ease of a blacksmith, driving the stakes surely and strongly in the earth. The crowd now gathers about, and back behind them are men on horseback that have come from the main land to witness the exhibition. They are Hoosiers, you would stake your existence. It is just such a gang, with but one or two exceptions, that would frighten even a prize-fighting coterie East. Whiskey bottles are in everybody's hand, and chin music is excessive; profanity and filthy expressions seem to come from every tongue. A moment of silence, and at fifteen minutes past two o'clock the cap of Carr was observed sailing into the ring, followed immediately by Mike's, and, presenting their pleasant faces to respective admirers, the gladiators received satisfactory ovations. There is great trouble about the referee and it is a long time before one is chosen, and here a certain Charley Donahue, a nice looking fellow was chosen.

"We want a square fight," said Mike, "and I came here for that, by God."

"Yes, yer can bet," retorted Danny, "and I'll show you how, big duffer. Good enough, old Smallpox."

George Brown, of Chicago, a nigger not qui e black as the ace of spade, O'Connor's trainer, a man of splendid physique, and Andy Ratshorn and Mike's seconds, they look as if they mean business. Carr is being attended to by Jerry Donovan, of Chicago, and Big Paddy Sutten, of the Key City. In

TOSSING FOR CORNERS

Carr won and selected that with his back to the sun, which now was very bright and genial. The colors were tied to the stake near the referee. O'Conner's was a cloth of green, with a harp in the centre surrounded with shamrocks in gold. Carr's was entirely green.

They soon strip. O'Connor is in a splendid fix, not an ounce of superfluous flesh being on his body, and his muscles stand out like whipcords. Carr is not in such good trim, and that was too soon evident. He has ginned it too much. Both wore green stockings over white ones, Carr having about his waist a green broad ribbon, while O'Conner's drawers are kept in place by a black sash. Carr

MEANS BUSINESS,

as, with a roll of greenbacks in his hands, he trips to Mike's corner and wants to bet him a hundred that "I win this fight."

"I haven't a dollar more in the world, Danny, or I'd do it."

"Come, let's fight," urged Mike, and then, in obedience to the wishes of the crowd, the rival boxers threw themselves into position for

THE FIGHT

at twenty-five minutes to four o'clock. They fought for two hours and thirty-one minutes, having sixty rounds, ending in a draw, Carr proving to be guilty of the meanest tricks and endeavoring by every unprincipled subterfuge to beat his opponent. Carr may have fought well sometime or other, but to-day at times he was as useless as an innocent child, and just as harmless.

ROUND 1.—As they came to the scratch, after shaking hands, Carr appeared the largest. Both seemed confident. There was a vast deal of sparring, with many feints and dodges, when O'Connor took the initiative with the left and got on the head and right shoulder of his opponent, who returned the pleasant compliment, giving O'Connor a hot one on the breast. They clinched, and Carr slipped down.

ROUND 2. Both men eager and quick to the call of time. They sparred a long while and were seemingly afraid of each other. At last O'Connor got his left heavily on the right breast of Carr, when he sent in one of the same kind of cracking strokes in the stomach of O'Conner, when Carr went down to avoid punishment.

ROUND 3. Nobody hurt much, yet there was considerable sparring, and both in good humor. O'Connor sent out his left vigorously, but was short, when Carr got in on his head, and the latter, as before, went down.

ROUND 4. Connor now began to chaff Carr, saying, "Are you the bloody duffer that has come all the way from Chicago to lick me? Ye can't lick a louse; you are a sweet sucker." "Never mind," returned Danny, "I'll knock the stuffing out of you." His second now stopped Connor, and told him to fight, not talk, when, in obedience, he got in a good one with his left on Carr's breathing apparatus, which made that young man look sick. This was followed by another in the mouth, and Larry again struck Mother Earth of his own accord, doing but little or nothing in the round. Blood was seen trickling from Carr's lip, and first blood being claimed for O'Connor it was allowed by the referee and the event duly chronicled, and the yells of half a thousand brazen throats made more demoniacal by the crazying whiskey which is drunk on every side.

ROUND 5. O'Connor was getting impatient. He had displayed more science than Danny, and now rushed in as if to demolish the latter; but that individual caught him with his left on the right breast, and O'Connor was not quite so anxious. After more sparring O'Connor delivered an effective right-hander on Carr's jaw, when they each exchanged two ineffective body blows and Carr went down.

ROUND 6. Carr's lip was now bleeding somewhat and the bodies of the fighters looked red from the thumping they had given and taken. O'Connor led off and got in a left-hander in the stomach of Carr, which made that poor boy from Waterloo wince. Carr missed a vigorous right-hander at Mike's face, when the latter again visited Carr's body, who sent a hot one from his right duke to Mike's head, and as usual and very suspiciously went down.

ROUND 7. The quick and anxious features of Carr wore a queer and certainly not fighting expression, which made Mike laugh at him a little; so that didn't increase Danny's cheerfulness. Carr sent in a weak right-hander on Mike's breast and went down.

ROUND 8. The Goths were getting weary. There had not been enough blood, enough broken bones, and the same wild voices that had a few minutes before yelled for the fighters to punch the guts of each other cry aloud, in their agony of disappointment, "Nice pudding heads you are that won't fight." Carr sent a right-hander on O'Connor's breast and went down. It was now evident that Carr had more than he bargained for, and it was also evident by the actions of his seconds that he was to have the fight anyway, whether honorable or not, and desired him to make O'Connor strike him a foul blow. The latter had been repeatedly claimed, but on grounds so