WASHINGTON.

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1873.

The Vice President Sorrowful, Dejected and Disappointed—Parson Newman's Condolence—Business in the Senate.

It was not "smiling Schuyler" who called the Senate to order at noon to-day, put Anthony in the chair and then retreated to his sepulchral sanctum in the basement, but a sorrowful, dejected and disappointed man, whose Presidential hopes have faded, who will soon have to vacate the Vice President's chair, who has not been called to mount an editorial tripod in New York, and who has miserably failed in his successive attempts to repudiate connection with Crédit Mobilier. Patterson was also absent, and the two writers of good character certificates, to the truth of which they respectively swore, were the subject of much bitter comment in the Senate Chamber. Chaplain Newman was prompt to offer his condolences, but even he could not, with "his smile that was childlike and bland," explain away the blunt financial statement of Oakes Ames, who was not disposed to be made a scapegoat any longer. It is significant, however, that Ames should have treated Wilson and Dawes, from his own State, so much better than he did Patterson and Garfield. To be sure, Wilson is soon to be Vice President, and perhaps President some of these days; while Dawes, defeated in his desire to become Speaker of the House, now expects to secure Wilson's place. Each one can be useful to Ames and his road, but that is no reason why the broad mantle he has thrown over them should not have also covered Colfax, Patterson and Garfield. If the venerable Poland so desired, he could elicit a deal of information from Ames and Alley that they have not yet been asked for. But as an examiner Beland is not worth a row of pins stuck in a red paper.

The Senate passed the bill authorizing the building of ten new sloops-of-war, with a total tonnage not to exceed ten thousand tons, and at a total cost not to exceed four million of dollars. This will give a good deal of patronage, much of which will be bagged by the new iron shipyards on the Delaware. The House having performed their annual farce of passing a bill professing to abolish the franking privilege, which, it was well known, the Senate would not adopt, it was taken up in that body to-day and so amended before its passage that the House will not recognize its bantling when it returns. No Congressman wishes to yield this useful privilege, but it can only be retained by thus whipping the devil around the stump.

General Butler Preparing to Fight the Syndicate—He Wants to Save Boutwell from His Friends.

It is stated to-night that General Butler contemplates introducing a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the House as to what propositions are pending before him for funding the bonded debt of the United States, and which if any of said propositions are believed by him to be most advantageous to the government. The object of this resolution is understood to be to develop the fact that a proposition has been before the Secretary for several days in behalf of responsible bankers in Europe offering to take the whole remainder of the five per cents, with a probability of following with the four-and-a-half and four per cents, on terms substantially better than those yielded to the old Syndicate, and now in imminent danger of renewal. The bankers on whose part this offer is made insist, however, on the right to deal directly with the Treasury Department, and not with intermediates, who would otherwise get the credit of placing the loan, besides receiving a virtually unearned commission. Nothing has heretofore come out in regard to this proposal, but the Secretary is not responsible for the silence enfolding it, as he has neither said nor authorized anything to be said concerning the offers made him, and is especially annoyed by the inspired report that he intends to venture into the market with only $100,000,000 at a time. Mr. Boutwell is on record to the effect that the financial credit of this government is stronger than that of any other Power in the world—and it is this belief of his own, shared by many able men, outside the Treasury, and the Treasury rings, that the Syndicate operators find to be a present obstacle to the repitition of the former Syndicate operations. Leading men in Congress are generally convinced that the $135,000,000 disposed of through the Syndicate could have been funded at a cheaper rate had the public been afforded an opportunity of computing upon the difference between the margin of profit afforded under the law and that actually earned by the Syndicate. But it is feared that the pressure upon the Secretary from banking interests believed to be sorely in need of the moral and material aid of a government agency may lead to a realliance on the old terms. This apprehension is enlarged by the action of the Ways and Means Committee, in refusing to give advice to the Secretary and to Congress, and hence General Butler is to stand in the breach and prevent the necessitous from overpowering the conscience of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Overwhelming Defeat of the "Bureau of Commerce" Bill—Windy Speeches on the Subject.

Shellabarger's bill to establish a "Bureau of Commerce" came up again this morning. A discussion arose as to the time to be allowed for debate, when Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, made a palpable hit, and one that caused a general laugh throughout the House, by moving "that the House do now adjourn and that the members have leave to print their speeches." As this bill had been introduced twelve months ago every member who was to take part in the discussion had his part "conned over by heart," and, as the subject had all been discussed and gone over time and again in Congress, it was supposed that this motion would save the feelings of members, who won't have to listen to the threadbare theories of Congressional lawyers upon a subject about which they know absolutely nothing that could not be controverted by any intelligent artisan or merchant in the country. But your Congressional Sir Oracle would commit hari-kari, or some other terrible thing—commission Hoax Ames for instance to buy stock in the Crédit Mobilier—if he did not get a chance to explode his pent-up eloquence before a full House, like a boy with his Fourth of July crackers. Beck's motion therefore failed, and the speeches went on, though the bill was doomed to defeat from the first. In fact, if a vote had been taken on it after Shellabarger's speech, it would have met with the same defeat that it received to-day, when nearly two-thirds of the House voted to lay the bill on the table. The speeches were all against the bill and were made by Potter, Kerr, Wood and Farnsworth. Kerr, as usual, made an able argument and appealed to the judgment of the House with unanswerable statistics in defence of his position. He and Wood made the best speeches of the debate against the bill, which is now buried until some future Congress, when the whole subject will again be rehearsed for the benefit of the Congressional Printer and the mutual admiration society in the House. There is one gleam of hope, however, in the defeat of this measure, as it is looked upon as the *avant courrier* of the numerous plundering schemes for steamship subsidies which are hatching in the committee rooms and lobbies of the Capitol, and its defeat is considered a forerunner of the fate that awaits the entire brood, unless, indeed, members should yield to more convincing arguments than words. But it is hoped that the Crédit Mobilier exposure will have a salutary influence upon members who are supposed to be open to the whisperings of the tempter.

A Gross Injustice to the Volunteer Naval Officers—Hopes of a Remedy.

Considerable anxiety is felt in naval circles in regard to a question which has been recently submitted by the Secretary of the Navy to the Attorney General for his official opinion. At the close of the late war Congress, to show its appreciation of the services of the volunteer officers, passed an act authorizing the transfer to the regular service of a specified number of volunteer officers, who were to be selected from those who had shown conspicuous gallantry in the war and whose qualifications fitted them for the positions. In order to have an impartial test a board of experienced officers, seniors in rank, was detailed for the examination of those who desired to remain in the service and forwarded applications for the purpose. As a large number of these officers were in active service in squadrons afloat the examinations had to be at detached periods as the officers returned from cruises, and thus it was nearly two years before the final report of the Board was made. In the meantime, as vacancies occurred, the young graduates of the Naval Academy were promoted to fill them, and thus these volunteer officers, many of whom had responsible commands during the war, found themselves placed under those who were their juniors in age and service. They claimed that the intention of Congress was to transfer them at the date of the passage of the act and give them all the benefit of their continued service in the navy. Instead of which the young regulars were promoted to the additional places thus created, and the volunteer officers were commissioned to take rank at the date of examination of the last volunteer officer who returned from sea, which made the difference of two years in their rank in the service. These officers came from the merchant service, had been masters and mates of ships and are considered as among the very best navigators in the navy. Governor Cox, of Ohio, late Secretary of the Interior, is the counsel in the case and they have many warm friends in Congress who feel that it is the old jealousy of the regulars against the volunteers which has been the cause of this misplacement in rank. The volunteers are confident that the Attorney General will decide that they are entitled by law to the places on the Navy Register which they claim.

Webb's Pacific Subsidy Amendment Kept Back.

The agents of Webb's Pacific line had not the courage to offer their bill as an amendment to the bill for the construction of ten sloops-of-war after the explanations which General Burnside has made to prominent Senators. Whether they will seek to tack it on some other bill as an amendment remains to be seen.

President Grant had decided not to call an extra session on the 4th of March, as he feels competent to "run the machine," but the Senators insist that they should be in session to be consulted on the new appointments to be made, "by their advice and consent." It will be difficult for the President to withstand this Senatorial pressure.

The Cotton Tax Refunding Scheme To Be Killed.

The Ways and Means Committee resumed to-day the consideration of the cotton tax refunding scheme, without reaching a conclusion. It is almost certain that the committee will at their next meeting report unanimously against all the Cotton Tax Refunding bills presented. All the members of the committee except Kerr and Beck are uncompromisingly opposed to the scheme. Mr. Kerr thinks that the cotton tax was illegal, but does not favor payment on the ground of impracticability. Mr. Beck is of opinion that about thirty millions ought to be refunded for the tax paid on cotton actually exported.

The New Orleans Coup d'Etat—An Important Correction.

Judge Elmore, of New Orleans, has telegraphed Mr. H. V. Ogden that the statement in the official document recently sent to Congress is erroneous in saying that on the morning of the 22d of November Judge Elmore proceeded with an armed mob and seized the Eighth District Court before the hour to which it had adjourned. Judge Elmore says:—"Having been duly elected Judge of the Eighth District Court by a majority of over ten thousand votes, commissioned and sworn, I opened the Court without objection. There was no mob present, armed or unarmed. About half an hour afterwards Judge Dibble appeared, with ex-Sheriff Sauvinette, and attempted to take possession of the Court, whereupon I ordered Harper, the recognized Sheriff of the Court, to eject them. This was done, and Harper is the recognized Sheriff by all the Courts."

Liberia Wants a Line of Steamers.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society to-day a committee was appointed to urge the government to establish a line of steamers to Liberia, as all the trade of Western Africa, by means of weekly steamers from England, is now going to that country. Three thousand applicants are now on the books of the society waiting passage, and 300 will leave on the 1st of May. Most of the applicants are from Florida and Georgia.

Exceptions in the President's Recent Proclamation.

Hon. Charles O'Neill, of Philadelphia, called on the President this morning and had a conversation with him relative to his recent proclamation as affecting members of school and educational boards and directors of public schools.

The President said he did not intend his proclamation to apply to members of such boards and school directors who held national offices, and that such need not resign them. He also said that, if necessary, he would modify his proclamation to reach such classes, his desire being that those interested in our public school system should not diminish their laudable and unrewarded exertions in so good a cause.

The Records of the Buell Court Martial Safe.

Mr. Benjamin Pitman has arrived in Washington, bringing with him the retranscription of his phonographic notes of the Buell Court of Inquiry, the original record of which, it will be remembered, very mysteriously disappeared from the War Department. It contains a historical record of military operations in Kentucky and Tennessee during 1862 and 1863, and makes 3,361 pages of legal cap, averaging 225 words to the page.

Mr. Justice Miller Bereaved.

Mr. Justice Miller, of the United States Supreme Court, will be absent from the bench during the next fortnight, in consequence of the death of his daughter, who was the wife of Colonel Corkhill, Clerk of the United States Circuit Court of Iowa. She died here to-day. Judge Miller's other daughter, Mrs. Stocking, will start with the remains to-morrow, for Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in company with her father.

Illness of Mr. Brooks.

The Hon. James Brooks has been ordered by his physicians to quit all work of any kind. He has not been in his seat either in the House or on the Ways and Means Committee for over two weeks. He is suffering severely from attacks arising from his Summer journey around the world.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections

will commence the examination of Louisiana matters to-morrow morning and resume the Caldwell investigation next Saturday. The committee did not hold a meeting to-day.

A New Light in the Detroit River.

The Light House Board gives notice that on and after the opening of navigation in the Spring of 1873 a light will be exhibited from the brick tower recently erected in the village of Gibraltar, Mich., on the western side, near the mouth of the Detroit River.

The Great Paper Contracts

for the paper to be used during the coming year at the Congressional Printing Office are to be awarded to-morrow, and some of the leading paper manufacturers are on hand to-night with their proposals.

Treasury Balances.

The balances in the Treasury at the close of business to-day were as follows:—

Currency	$3,200,771
Special deposits of legal tenders for the redemption of certificates of deposit	29,330,000
Coin	65,394,570
Including coin certificates	25,252,000

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1873.

Mr. FENTON, (lib.) of N. Y., called up the House joint resolution tendering

THE THANKS OF CONGRESS

to Captain David Ritchie, commander of the revenue steamer Moccasin, and to the officers and men under his command, for their humane and heroic conduct in saving the lives of forty-two human beings and rescuing seventeen dead bodies from the wreck of the Metis, in Long Island Sound, in August last. Passed.

Mr. WEST, (rep.) of La., presented a petition of the merchants of New Orleans, asking the national government to assume the construction and care of

THE LEVEES OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported the House bill to abolish the grades of Admiral and Vice Admiral in the United States Navy. Passed.

Mr. CRAGIN, from the same committee, also reported favorably the House bill to prevent the employment of officers on the retired list, and the bill to promote the securing of efficient seamen for the navy.

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill granting the right of way to the Denver, Georgetown and Colorado Railroad, and to the Denver, South Park and Colorado Railroad.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM, (rep.) of Conn., from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Creek Indians for a portion of the lands occupied by them. Passed.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, reported, with an amendment, the bill supplemental to the act incorporating the Texas Pacific Railway Company, which was passed.

M'MILLAN'S AND RAY'S CREDENTIALS.

Mr. WEST presented the credentials of Mr. M. McMillan, elected by the Warmoth Legislature to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Kellogg as United States Senator from Louisiana; and also the credentials of Mr. John Ray, elected by the Kellogg Legislature. The credentials of both were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., from the Judiciary Committee, reported a substitute for Mr. Morton's bill to regulate the distribution of

THE GENEVA AWARD.

The substitute authorizes the President to appoint five commissioners, to be called the Court of Commissioners of the Alabama Claims, one of them to be called the presiding judge. The court is to make and publish its own rules of procedure—conforming as far as possible to the modes of practice in the United States Circuit Courts—and is to have the same power to compel the attendance of witnesses and production of testimony. Special provision is made that books and papers deemed material to the consideration of any claim must be produced. The salaries are as follows:—Judges, $6,000 each; a clerk, to be appointed by the President, $3,000; shorthand reporter, $2,500. The President is specially authorized to appoint a person to act as counsel for the United States before the commissioners. The sittings of the court are to be held in Washington City, and it is to exist for one year from the date of first convening, and six months longer if the President deems it necessary. It shall be the duty of the court to receive and examine all claims not excepted, as hereinafter stated, directly resulting from damage caused by the Alabama and Florida and their tenders, and by the Shenandoah after her departure from Melbourne February 18, 1865, and to decide upon the amount and validity of such claims according to the principles of law and their merits and in conformity with the provisions of this bill. No claim shall be admissible or allowed for any loss or damage for or in respect to which the party injured, his assignees or legal representatives shall have received compensation or indemnity from any insurance company, or otherwise; but allowance may be made for the difference between losses suffered and insurance received. No claim shall be admitted or allowed for unearned freights, gross freights, prospective profits or for officers' and seamen's wages for a longer time than one year from the breaking up of any voyage. No claim shall be admissible or allowed on behalf of any insurance company or insurer either for themselves or as assignees of the rights of parties insured, unless such claimant shall show to the satisfaction of said Court that during the late rebellion the sum of its or his losses by war risks exceeded the sum of its or his premiums or other gains by reason of war risks, and in case of any such allowance the sum shall not exceed such excess or loss. No claim shall be allowed in favor of any insurance company not lawfully existing at the time of the loss under the laws of some State of this Union, or in favor of any person not at the same time entitled to the protection of the United States in the premises, or in favor of any person who did not at all times during the late rebellion bear true allegiance to the United States.

IN ESTIMATING THE COMPENSATION

to claimants the Court shall ascertain and certify to the Secretary of State, with the judgment, the amount of interest at four per cent per annum upon the actual loss sustained from the respective dates in each case when it was sustained by the claimants. Five per cent of the total amount of the judgment shall be retained in the Treasury for the reimbursement to the United States of expenses, and the remaining ninety-five per cent shall be paid to the claimants, together with interest as aforesaid, unless the amount received from Great Britain shall prove insufficient, in which case claimants shall be paid *pro rata*.

Mr. AMES, (rep.) of Miss., from the Committee on Finance, reported an original bill establishing $4 86.65 as the Custom House value of the sovereign or pound sterling of Great Britain and the par of exchange. The bill also provides that all contracts made after the 1st day of January, 1874, based on an assumed par of exchange with Great Britain at fifty-four pence to the dollar, or $4 44-9 to the pound sterling, shall be null and void. And it is also provided generally that

THE VALUE OF ALL FOREIGN COIN

as expressed in the money of account of the United States shall be that of pure metal of such coin of standard value, and the value of foreign standard coins in circulation in this country shall be estimated annually by the Director of the Mint, and promulgated on the 1st day of January by the Secretary of the Treasury.

PASSAGE OF THE NAVAL BILL.

At the expiration of the morning hour the unfinished business being the bill to provide for the construction of six new sloops of war, increased by amendment to ten, was resumed; and the amendment offered by Mr Sherman, of Ohio, yesterday, providing that neither of the vessels shall be commenced until complete plans, models and specifications for it shall be prepared, was agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, offered an amendment which would virtually repeal

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW,

so far as the construction of these vessels was concerned.

Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., expressed the hope that he would withdraw the amendment.

Mr. CASSERLY, (dem.) of Cal., also asked him to withdraw it, saying that there was no reason why a special discrimination should be made against the men who should work upon these vessels.

Mr. SHERMAN then withdrew the amendment.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., offered an amendment providing that the Board of Survey having power to authorize changes in the plans for the vessels shall estimate the cost of such changes, and that the contractors shall be bound by such estimates. Agreed to.

Mr. CASSERLY moved to substitute the main points of the House bill for the bill reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs. Lost.

The bill was then passed—Yeas 39, nays 8.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., moved to assign next Monday for the consideration of

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH BILL.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., said he would object to fixing any day for the consideration of that bill until some action should first have been taken to abolish the franking privilege.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the calendar, and several bills granting pensions were passed.

ALAS, POOR WOMAN!

The bill to allow women to vote and hold office in the Territories was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Ramsey the bill to abolish the franking privilege was taken up by a vote of yeas 28, nays 13, the following Senators voting in the negative:—Messrs. Ames, Bayard, Carpenter, Edmunds, Hamilton of Maryland, Hill, Johnson, Lewis, Machen, Norwood, Pool, Robertson and Stevenson.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., offered an amendment, providing that no allowance shall now or hereafter be made to members of Congress in lieu of the franking privilege. Without this, he said, the abolition would be a farce.

Mr. HAMLIN, (rep.) of Me., said that to give the country the full benefit of the abolition of the franking privilege, the bill ought to be so amended as to reduce and limit the amount of public printing.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, (rep.) of N. J., did not favor the abolition of the franking privilege, because he thought it undesirable that there should be any tax imposed by the government upon communication between the people and their representatives. To him personally it would be a relief to be deprived of the franking privilege; but he looked upon it as a privilege valuable to the people, and of which they ought not to be deprived because it was abused. The abuses of it, however, should be corrected, and that could be best done by limiting the privilege to postal matter weighing not more than one ounce, and by the preparation of a single compendium in one volume of the information about public affairs most necessary and useful to the people.

Mr. EDMUNDS spoke of the bill as an utter delusion. The abuses of the franking privilege ought to be corrected, but the benefits of the privilege belonged to the people and not to members of Congress, and the people should bear, as they ought to bear, the burden of it. If, however, it was to be abolished, he was in favor of abolishing it honestly and completely, and not as proposed by this bill. He hoped no one would accuse him of shirking the question.

Mr. CONKLING—Are you for it or against it?

Mr. EDMUNDS—I am against abolishing it, most decidedly. I hope the Senator understands me.

Mr. CONKLING—I do now. (Laughter.)

Mr. TIPTON, (rep.) of Neb., said he would vote to correct the abuses of the privilege, but not to abolish it.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., said he did not regard it as a privilege at all, and he was willing now, as he had always been, to relinquish it unconditionally; but he was not sanguine as to the saving to be effected by abolishing it.

Mr. HILL, (rep.) of Ga., gave notice that when the Legislative Appropriation bill should come up he would offer an amendment increasing the compensation of members of Congress, and he moved that in the meantime the pending bill lie on the table. Lost.

The amendment offered by Mr. Morrill, of Vt., was then agreed to.

THE BILL PASSED.

On motion of Mr. CARPENTER, (rep.) of Wis., the bill was then so amended as to simply abolish the franking privilege on the 1st of July next. The bill was then passed—yeas 33, nays 16.

At forty-five minutes past four P. M. the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1873.

After some preliminary business of no public importance the bill for the admission of Colorado as a State came up as the business of the morning hour, was discussed and went over without action.

On motion of Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Washington Territory, the bill to amend the act granting the right of way to the Walla Walla and Columbia River Railroad Company was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. TYNER, (rep.) of Ind., the Senate amendment to the bill for a government building at Nashville, Tenn., was concurred in.

THE BUREAU OF COMMERCE BILL DEFEATED.

The House then took up the bill for the creation of Commissioners of Commerce and for giving bounties to American shipbuilders.

After speeches against the bill by Messrs. Potter, of New York; Kerr, of Indiana; Wood, of New York, and Farnsworth, of Illinois, Mr. Cox, of New York, moved to lay the bill on the table, and that motion was carried—yeas 121, nays 64.

So the bill was defeated.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, from the Appropriation Committee, reported a bill appropriating $113,500 to supply the deficiency for the expenses of the United States Mixed Commission on American and British claims. Passed.

Mr. LYNCH, (rep.) of Me., from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to amend section 12 of

THE SHIPPING COMMISSIONERS' ACT.

He explained that it was simply to take out of the operation of the twelith section vessels engaged in the trade between the United States and the North American possessions, and the West India Islands. It was to correct an error in the amendment of the law which passed a few days ago.

Mr. POTTER, (dem.) of N. Y., said that the effect of the amendment referred to was simply to transfer half of the sailors of the United States from the control of the Shipping Commissioners to that of sailor boarding-house keepers. He was glad it was in operation and he hoped the House would not pass the bill.

After a brief discussion of the bill it was passed.

VETO BY THE PRESIDENT.

The Speaker presented a message from the President vetoing an act reducing from two years to six months the time in which new trials may be on motion of the United States granted in the Court of Claims. The President failed to see any advantages in the proposed law, and regarded it as tending to facilitate the perpetration of frauds on the United States. The message was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The House, at twenty minutes past four o'clock, adjourned.

THE ORPHANS' BALL.

A Splendid Display at the Academy of Music—Charity and Pleasure Combined—Material Aid for the Lonely Little Ones.

Some seventeen years ago, when the annual appeal was made for aid for the large number of orphan children in the Catholic Orphan Asylum, several young gentlemen, well known in Catholic society throughout the city, conceived the idea of giving a grand ball, the proceeds of which should be devoted to the good work of maintaining those whose natural guardians had been taken from them by death. The idea then conceived was carried out with gratifying results; the young men were so encouraged that they formed a permanent organization under the title of the Young Men's Association, and regularly each year, the "Orphans' Ball," as their reunion is called, is looked forward to by many as a feature of the festival season, and by many others as the means of bringing to them material aid. Last evening the sixteenth annual ball of the Association was given, and it may safely be said to rival any of its predecessors for numbers present, style and taste displayed in the dresses and general beauty and brilliancy of the surroundings. As the ball is given for charity no useless expenditures were indulged in, and the only attempt at decoration were the monogram and title of the organization at the stage end of the Academy in letters of fire. Shortly after nine o'clock the guests began to arrive, and, although the coaches came in an almost steady string, owing to the efficient management of Captain Leary and the promptness with which his directions were carried out by his officers, there was no delay and no confusion. The street immediately in front of the house was in the same pitiable plight as was noticed on the occasion of the Twenty-second regiment reception. The street cleaners had not been around, and the Academy people apparently did not think it worth while to have the roadway placed in decent condition. On the ball itself it is unnecessary to dilate. The company was—as a young lady present remarked—"really nice;" the music was in Grafulla's best style. Good nature prevailed on all sides, and was helped along by the jolly-faced John Burke, who, as chairman of the floor committee, had his hands full of work, but, being well assisted by the veteran Thomas J. O'Brien, got through his arduous duties in good style. Mr. Maurice J. Powers performed the duties of receptionist with all the art he is known to possess, and the President of the Association, Mr. Jeremiah Quinlan, seemed to be almost ubiquitous in his efforts to make the affair a grand success. The ball of last year netted the Asylum some nine thousand dollars, and, judging from appearances, the receipts from the ball last night will be fully up to, if not more than, those of any of its predecessors.

NEW IRON STEAMERS.

A Fine Vessel of the Bremen Line—The Mosel, Her Dimensions, &c.—The China Steamship Surprise—From the Far East Via Suez.

The new steamship Mosel, belonging to the North German Lloyd Company, is now lying at her dock in Hoboken, having accomplished her initial passage across the Atlantic in the short space of twelve days and six hours. The Mosel is a larger boat than the other vessels in the line, and was built by Messrs. Caird & Co., at Greenock, on the Clyde. She is an iron propeller and her dimensions are:—Length, 365 feet; beam, 40 feet; depth of hold, 35 feet. She has a flush hurricane deck; her gross tonnage is 3,500 and her bunkers carry 1,000 tons of coal. She is full brig rigged, carries eight metallic lifeboats and two gigs, and her decks are of East India teak. Her machinery is powerful and fine, being inverted direct acting engines of 800 horse power nominal, with the capacity of working up to 2,500. She has two cylinders, 72 inches in diameter, with 5 feet stroke; has surface condensers, and is furnished with all the latest mechanical improvements, her starting gear being worked by steam. The boilers are six in number, with four furnaces to each; the shafts are all of steel and 16½ inches in diameter. Her screw or fan has four blades, is 17 feet 6 inches in diameter and has 30 feet pitch. During the passage her machinery worked smoothly and well, despite the severe weather encountered. The crew is composed of 14 officers and 95 subordinates. The saloons of the Mosel are splendidly furnished, the panels being of highly polished maple, with mouldings of rosewood and black walnut, and the pilasters and cornices richly gilded. Fine oil paintings of scenery on the Mosel, an elegant piano and library also adorn the main saloon, while the one devoted to the ladies and also the smoking room is beautifully fitted up. The berths have everything requisite to promote the comfort of passengers. The vessel is heated with steam throughout, and the second cabins, which are between the main and lower deck, can be ventilated by a new and unique process. The Mosel can accommodate ninety first class, 126 second class and 680 steerage passengers. Pneumatic bells are attached to all the rooms, the pantries and galleys are marvels of cleanliness and order, her ice house holds forty tons and her water tanks 16,000 gallons. She is commanded by Captain George Ernst, who is vice commodore of the line.

The new British steamship Surprise, belonging to the China line of E. De Busscher, arrived from Shanghae yesterday morning, having come via the Suez Canal. She is an iron vessel of 1,233 tons, is 288 feet in length, 34 feet beam, 23 feet depth of hold and 21 feet draft. She has three decks, five water-tight bulkheads and is fitted with machinery of the finest make and material. She was built at Renfrew and is commanded by Captain Shaw. She left Shanghae on October 1, Amoy November 10, Singapore November 20, Point de Galle November 30, Suez December 16, Port Said December 18, and Gibraltar January 3. She is consigned to Peabody, Willis & Co.

THE BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.

Dion, of New York, vs. Whassey, of New Orleans.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Cross-challenges having passed between Mr. Whassey, of New Orleans, and myself, and I being especially desirous of testing the skill and prowess of that gentleman, and wishing to end all newspaper and telegraphic controversy in the matter, respectfully present the following as my ultimatum in regard to a series of contests between us:—

I will play Mr. Whassey two matches, each to consist of a series of three games, to be played on consecutive nights; the first match to be the four-ball American game and the second the three-ball French game, and each match to be for $2,500 a side. The first match to take place in the city of New Orleans, on consecutive nights during the last week in February; the games to be of 1,500 points each, and of the same character, and to be governed by the same rules as the matches for the championship of America.

The second match to take place in the city of Brooklyn, N. Y., on consecutive nights in the month of April next; the games to be of 500 points each, and according to the established American rules. In each case the winner of two games to be the winner of the match. The $2,500 deposited by me with A. R. Samuells, of Brooklyn, on the 11th inst., still remains in that gentleman's hands, and I have this day deposited a like sum of $2,500 with Mr. Samuells, the whole now awaiting Mr. Whassey's reply. As soon as these stakes are covered they will be deposited with any bank or safe deposit company mutually agreed upon, to be paid over to the respective winner.

I trust that Mr. Whassey and his friends will now be convinced that I mean business, and that further controversy, except in the arrangement of preliminaries, is superfluous. JOSEPH DION.

OAKES AMES' CONFESSION.

Revelations of the Financial Adviser and Pawnbroker of Congress.

Damning Facts Brought Out by Poland's Committee.

"THE STOCK AND SHARE LIST."

Names of the Implicated Congressmen, the Shares Allotted to Them and the Amounts They Received—Secretary Boutwell Not To Be Bribed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1873.

Judge Poland's Investigating Committee had an eventful sitting to-day. Oakes Ames continued his confession, which made sad havoc of the testimony given by Vice President Colfax, Representatives Garfield and Kelley, while it indirectly gave the finishing blow to Senator Patterson, who might as well, politically, give up the ghost. In the light of Ames' evidence these gentlemen are placed in a very unenviable position in view of their past asseverations. Oakes Ames acted during the whole sitting as if he were goaded on to say what he did; and his exposé of his own schemes and those of his colleagues were so ample as to suggest the thought that he no longer wished to vindicate himself, but to drag his confederates down in his fall. His testimony has excited great sensation, and will bring down upon his head the concentrated wrath of

THE EXPOSED CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR ALLIES.

He seemed to realize that he was not preparing for himself a bed of roses; but uncomfortable as he has been made by the recent events before the committee, he did not seem to be of that benevolent disposition that would make him suffer in silence in order that he might save others.

The committee room was crowded this morning at the opening of proceedings. Vice President Colfax, with an anxious look upon his face, sat just back of Judge Poland. From the fact that not once during the sitting did he give one of his elastic, far-reaching, soul-pervading smiles, one might have inferred that some secret trouble was gnawing on his vitals. Shortly after ten o'clock the venerable Poland signified his intention to go through the list of accused Congressmen with Mr. Ames, to see how their statements compared with his side of the story. They began with Colfax. Ames' story was a simple straightforward one, and during its recital Colfax was the unhappiest-looking man in the room.

THE ARROGANCE OF EXCESSIVE VIRTUE

fled from his face, and he began to look more like a Congressman than he has for some time. Ames said he bought twenty shares for Colfax at his request; Ames advanced the purchase money. Shortly after the transaction there was an eighty per cent dividend declared in Union Pacific Railroad bonds. These he sold at ninety-seven and applied the proceeds to the credit of Colfax, after deducting interest. Colfax then gave him a check on the Sergeant-at-Arms for $534 72, the balance of the purchase money. The Vice President here broke in with a set of questions, which did not materially help his case. He asked Ames whether he had not come to him and begged the money, as he needed it badly. He also queried

WHAT BUSINESS OAKES HAD TO SELL

the bond dividends if they were his (Colfax's). Ames replied he had probably given him the usual statement of indebtedness furnished to stockholders. He supposed he did not deliver the stock, however, as it was not demanded. In June there was a cash dividend on the Crédit Mobilier of $1,200, which he gave to Vice President Colfax, by a check payable to "S. C. or bearer," drawn on the Sergeant-at-Arms. Colfax's thin story of his offer of the money, given by check, as a present to Ames on account of his failure, was simply laughed at by Oakes, who said that he would not even take the trouble to deny so absurd a story.

THE VICE PRESIDENT EXCITED.

Mr. Colfax at this juncture became excited, and said in a nervous way that he gave Mr. Ames notice now that he would prove the negative of his assertion about the $1,200 dividend. The Vice President saw in the recesses of his memory that oft-repeated assertion made during the campaign, "I have never owned any shares nor received one cent of dividend of the Crédit Mobilier," and it now came up before him in such a crushing way that he saw it was necessary to move all his energies to avoid the blow. He then examined Ames very sharply, and asked him about a conversation between them, when he (Colfax) had said that "the Crédit Mobilier business was off." Ames replied he could remember nothing of the sort. He had always regarded Mr. Colfax as the owner. He had the shares with him and was ready to turn over to Mr. Colfax his property then and there.

After Ames had finished his story, which left the Vice President decidedly tame and humble, he had to submit to a series of imploring questions from Mr. Colfax. The President of the Senate asked

THE FINANCIAL ADVISER OF CONGRESS

why he had not corrected him before in his statement, when he had said that he never owned any Crédit Mobilier stock? Ames' reply was significant. He said he had hoped he never would be called upon to contradict the Vice President. He would let the matter go over if possible. Another important point elicited in the cross-examination was that the $1,200 dividend had been paid before the time that Colfax claimed there was a talk of the business being "off." The check of Ames, payable to "S. C." was a damaging proof, which Mr. Colfax could not shake. Mr. Ames said he had not mentioned it before as he had not the necessary memoranda to support it. He now had.

THE VICE PRESIDENT TURNED PALE AND LOOKED LIKE A BAFFLED MAN

when he saw that the testimony of the Sergeant-at-Arms would nail Ames' evidence beyond his power of shaking it. Ordway, the Sergeant-at-Arms, was then interrogated. He was exceedingly considerate and gentle, but told the truth, which undid the tale Mr. Colfax had woven. He remembered in Ames' account one check, at the time mentioned, drawn payable to "S. C.," or bearer; but, as he was not the paying teller, he did not know who had drawn the money. But the fact of his having seen the check, which coincides with Ames' statement, completely crushed Mr. Colfax's testimony to the contrary. He stared blankly before him; he saw the result of his deception and the light in which he must be regarded hereafter.

"EVERY MAN HAS HIS PRICE."

During all this talk between Ames and Colfax the former drew forth a huge red leather pocket-book and fished out a card on which he had memoranda of cash dividends that he had paid to Congressmen or holders of stock. The paper read as follows:—

Henry Wilson	$1,200	Garfield	$329
Scofield, 26th	800	Dawes	600
Patterson	1,000	Kelley	329
Bingham	1,200	Wilson, J. F., June 23	29
Colfax, June 12	1,200	Allison	600

This list was neither incorporated in the evidence nor made public.

ALLEY'S AWFUL FORGETFULNESS.

As a drowning man catches at a straw Colfax called up the incorruptible Alley, who came snuffing forward. The Vice President asked him whether he did not remember hearing Mr. Ames once say that his (Colfax's) version of the transaction was substantially correct. Alley replied in his apologetic, humble, cringing tone; but he did not remember anything that could satisfy the yearnings of Colfax's soul. He had heard Ames say something of that sort about a statement Colfax once made in private conversation, but never about his statement before the committee. Alley rolled up his eyes in his usual deprecatory way at Mr. Colfax as he planted this last sting of forgetfulness, and hobbled back from the witness stand.

When he came to reviewing the case of ex-Representative Allison he gave a funny account of how Allison, becoming frightened at the suit against Ames, wanted to get rid of his stock in name only, so as to avoid any imputations being cast upon his character. He parted with it to Ames for a mere nominal sum, with the understanding that it was to be returned.

McCrary saw an opportunity here to distinguish himself, and, tugging at his little tuft of whiskers, said, "How much was paid, about a nickel?" "Somewhere in that neighborhood," replied Ames.

When Ames was called upon to say what he knew about Representative Garfield's transaction with the Crédit Mobilier, he presented a statement of facts that but poorly agrees with the explanations of

THE IMPECUNIOUS CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Garfield has in his statement laid himself open as badly as Colfax. In reaching after inaccessible heights of virtue both have slipped and fallen. Oakes Ames to-day has made their situation in this matter utterly hopeless of satisfactory explanation. Garfield has sworn he never owned any stock, and that the only business transaction he ever had with Ames was