WASHINGTON.

The Executive Order Concerning Federal Officers in State Offices Modified.

A FIELD DAY IN THE HOUSE.

Exciting Debate on the Admission of Colorado and Utah.

THE TWO TERRITORIES LEFT OUT.

A Contumacious Witness Before the Poland Committee Hauled Up.

A LOBBYIST ON HIS DIGNITY.

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The Senators and the Lost Franking Privilege—Phelps, Dodge & Co.'s Case Not Yet Decided—Resumption of Specie Payments Discussed—Losses by the Theatre Fire.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1873.

Modification of the Executive Order of January 17—What State Officers May Hold Federal Offices.

The following official order has just been promulgated:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1873.

Inquiries having been made from various quarters as to the application of the Executive order issued on the 17th of January, relating to the holding of State or municipal offices by persons holding civil offices under the federal government, the President directs the following reply to be made:—

"It has been asked whether the order prohibits a federal officer from holding also the office of an Alderman, or of a Common Councilman of a city, or of a Town Councilman of a town or village, or of appointments under city, town or village governments. By some it has been suggested that there may be a distinction made in case the office be with or without salary or compensation. The city or town offices of the description referred to, by whatever name they may be locally known, whether held by election or by appointment, and whether with or without compensation, are of the class which the executive order intends not to be held by persons holding federal offices. It has been asked whether the order prohibits federal officers from holding positions on boards of education, school committees, public libraries, religious or eleemosynary institutions, incorporated, established or sustained by State or municipal authority. Positions and service on such boards or committees and professorships in colleges are not regarded as offices within the interpretation of the Executive order, but as employments or service in which all good citizens may be engaged without incompatibility, and in many cases without interference, with any position which they may hold under the federal government. Officers of the federal government may therefore engage in such services, provided the attention required by such employment does not interfere with the regular and efficient discharge of the duties of their office under the federal government. The head of the department under whom the federal office is held will in all cases be the sole judge whether or not the employment does thus interfere. The question has also been asked with regard to officers of the State militia. Congress having exercised the power conferred by the constitution to provide for organizing the militia, which is liable to be called forth to be employed in the service of the United States, and is thus in some sense under the control of the general government, and is, moreover, of the greatest value to the public, the Executive order of the 17th of January is not considered as prohibiting federal officers from being officers of the militia in the States and Territories. It has been asked whether the order prohibits persons holding office under the federal government being members of local or municipal Fire Departments; also whether it applies to mechanics employed by the day in the armories, arsenals and navy yards, &c., of the United States. Unpaid service in local or municipal Fire Departments is not regarded as an office within the intent of the Executive order, and may be performed by federal officers provided it do not interfere with the regular and efficient discharge of the duties of the federal office, of which the head of the department under which the office is held will in each case be the judge.

Employment by the day as mechanics or laborers in the armories, arsenals, navy yards, &c., does not constitute an office of any kind, and those thus employed are not within the contemplation of the Executive order.

Master workmen and others who hold appointments from the government, or from any department, whether for a fixed time or at the pleasure of the appointing power, are embraced within the operation of the order.

By order of the President.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

Excitement in the House of Representatives—A Lively Debate on the Admission of Colorado and Utah and a Report from Poland's Committee—A Lobbyist, Refusing to Testify, is Called Before the House—A Colored M. C. Ousted.

The House of Representatives is a peculiar institution. It is given to surprises and contradictions; it is as uncertain as law itself where questions of law are concerned. Considering that it is largely composed of lawyers, this result should not be so much a matter of astonishment. The House to-day was a surprise to itself, as it apparently was to the lookers-on in the galleries, which were packed to an unusual extent, as though by some mysterious means which "no fellow can find out," its occupants had learned of what was going to transpire. But, whatever may have been the cause of their presence, there they were waiting for the drama to commence. The large gallery had its full quota of the ragged and filthy colored male population of Washington, who spend their nights in the alleyways and shanties and indulge in "nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," in the galleries of the Senate and House between the hours of ten A. M. and four P. M. There was also a full attendance of the feminine loveliness which adorns Washington throughout the year, but more especially while Congress is in session. There was the usual sprinkling of brides and grooms, who make Washington, in the Winter season, the objective point of their travels during the honeymoon, and there was an usual attendance of the sleek, honey-tongued and red-faced members of the third house—the gilded maggots who infest this capital and undermine the virtue of Congressmen, many of whom left their constituents with unsullied reputations and the best intentions. And, as the sequel showed, the lookers-on were well repaid for their attendance; for, contrary to the usual course of Congressional events, there were two performances of most startling interest.

Immediately after the reading of the Journal and the reception of a few resolutions the bill for the admission of Colorado to the sisterhood of States braska, who had charge of it, took the floor, and in a very silly, rambling and ineffective way, proceeded to plead came up for final consideration. Mr. Taffe, of Nefor the measure. Mr. Taffe's management of this bill has been impolitic and weak in the extreme. If there was any chance of its success at any time during the debate his action would have killed it. One of the unwise moves was to permit the representative of Brigham Young to attach an amendment for the admission of Utah. This called forth yesterday a very bitter and eloquent speech from Claggett, the delegate from Montana, which aroused the ire of Hooper, the delegate from Utah, who sought the floor to-day to reply to Claggett and to defend Mormondom. Others also struggled for the floor to show how much they knew about admitting Territories, with two-fifths of a population of a Congressional district, to all the rights and immunities of States, including the right to neutralize great States like New York in the Senate of the United States. A further extension of time was asked for, but Mr. William R. Roberts objected, saying that the House had already wasted valuable time upon a measure that could have been decided quite as well several days ago. He withdrew his objection, however, to permit the delegate from Utah to reply to the attack upon his territory, and, no objection being made by the House, the venerable representative of Mormonism commenced his defence with an attack upon Claggett, by saying that he did well to signalize his departure from Congress by vilifying the people of Utah. He proceeded in a carefully prepared statement to defend the people and rulers of Utah, but never once alluded to the peculiar institution. As Hooper is rather popular than otherwise with the members, they crowded around him, more with the desire to encourage the tawny and venerable apostle of the Latter Day Saints in his oratory than through any desire to hear him mumble his defence of Pasha Brigham and his saints. The old man is a strange compound of cunning and apparent simplicity, and to judge him by his looks you would never select him out of a crowd as a man of many wives, nor as a preacher or believer in polygamy. After hearing the venerable old apostle the House concluded it was but fair to hear the delegate from Montana in reply, whereupon Mr. Claggett proceeded to dance an Indian war dance around that solitary and venerable Mormon in a way that will not soon be forgotton. During its continuance the face of Brigham's friend was a picture to behold. The few straggling hairs on the back of his head stood out in evident indignation; the skin on his forehead rolled up in little waves to the shining surface on the crown. His eyes glared; his mouth essayed to utter denials; but his words were unheeded, and the eloquent delegate went on pouring broadside after broadside of terrible facts into what he termed the spiritual and political despotism of Utah. He wound up with one of the most eloquent perorations that have been heard for a long time in the House, and which brought forth the applause of the gallery and the members on the floor. During his remarks Claggett showed that it was impossible for an American citizen to open even a butcher's shop without a license from Brigham; that he had a monopoly of all the whiskey manufactured in the territory; that the poor whites brought from Europe were his spiritual, political and social slaves, and that it was a disgrace to a civilized and Christian nation to permit within its midst an institution which degraded the sacred character of woman and raised children upon whose brow nature stamped in ineffable letters the word "Bastard,"

Soon Hooper made a short reply, but it was no use. The House had enough of the discussion, and particularly of Mormonism, and Mr. Eugene Hale, of Maine, moved to lay the bill for the admission of Colorado on the table, which was carried—as your correspondent foretold, by a large majority—117 ayes and 67 nayes.

After the announcement of the vote the Committee on Elections reported, through their chairman, Mr. McCreary, unanimously in favor of the right of Mr. Niblack to the seat now occupied by J. L. Walls, colored, of Florida. The report of the committee was unanimously concurred in.

This was no sooner settled than the second great feature of the day commenced. Mr. Wilson, chairman of the Crédit Mobilier Investigating Committee No. 2, rose to present a unanimous report from his committee, which he sent to the Clerk's desk to be read. All at once a death-like stillness pervaded the House. The galleries were hushed, the reporters leaned over the rail behind the Speaker's desk and looked down at the paper in the hands of the Clerk as though trying to read its contents in advance. The Clerk proceeded to read the report, which recited the cause of its presentation. The committee, for the first time during the investigation, found a witness who would not plead loss of memory in answer to important questions, and who, with the fate of Colfax and Patterson before his eyes, could not, or dare not, swear against the facts and the proofs, but refused point-blank to answer what he had done with the quarter of a million dollars worth of Pacific bonds and $60,000 in cash which he acknowledged he received in order to influence legislation in Congress. The question was put to him in various forms, but to no purpose. He refused to answer, on the ground that, as an attorney, he was bound to preserve secret the communications and names of his clients. This man's name is Stewart, and he is believed to be one of the most unscrupulous lobbyists in Washington.

The report of the committee, after reciting the repeated refusal of Stewart to tell what disposition he made of so large a sum of money, proposed that the House order Stewart to be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and to be held in his custody until such time as he should purge himself of contempt of the House and answer the questions propounded by the committee. On the conclusion of the reading of the report a scene of great confusion ensued. Every lawyer in the House was on his feet, each with his own intepretation of the law and the rights and immunities of lawyers. Wilson expounded; Shellabarger explained; Maynard put a point in a drawling tone with his bony finger; Eldridge asked a question with a stump speech; Hoar split the atmosphere of the chamber with his falsetto voice, while his nose, which was at an angle of forty-five degrees with the ceiling, pointed in the direction of Susan B. Anthony, who was an interested spectator in the gallery; Wood was sensible and clear; Potter became red in the face and indulged in violent gesticulation, while Bingham offered an amendment that Stewart be brought before the bar of the House to answer for his contumacy. This was finally agreed to and Stewart is happy, in view of this latest honor conferred on him and the publicity which his name will receive throughout the country. Several democrats voted against permitting this man to appear at the bar of the House, believing it too complimentary to him, and thinking also that if this is done with others, who may refuse to testify, the session will terminate before the committee can report.

Vice President Colfax's New Line of Defence—What a Good Criminal Lawyer and the Right Kind of Witness May Accomplish for Him—Perjurer Patterson in the Senate.

Colfax is not cornered after all. Realizing the truth of the old proverb that "he who pleads his own case has a fool for his client," he determined to engage counsel, and retained the burly, jovial agent for the United States before the Mixed Commission, Robert S. Hale. The venerable Poland has a parental affection for Hale, who is a Vermonter by birth, and used to have at Elizabethtown great good luck in getting clear people who had been arrested for crimes and misdemeanors. Hale commenced operations today by showing that while his smiling client deposited $1,200 in bank on the 22d of June, 1868, he drew out $1,000 on the same day in the form of a draft, which was sent to Indiana. This was apparently an innocent disposition of ten-twelfths of the sum which Ames swears was paid Colfax by check on June 20, the receipt of which Colfax denies. But now suppose some obliging friend of the Vice President, here or elsewhere, is brought forward and swears that he paid him this $1,000 on the 21st of June, to be used in Indiana for electioneering expenses, and that then Colfax will swear that he received this $1,000 on the 21st of June, deposited it with other funds on the 22d, and on that same day remitteed $1,000 to A. H. Connor, of Indiana, to be used in carrying on the campaign, and then Ames' story about paying Colfax the $1,200 check will be deprived of its sting. So perhaps Lawyer Hale thinks of the damaging circumstantial evidence supplied by the certificate of deposit. Whether this programme will be made thick enough to bear the reputation of Colfax, or whether it will be too thin to keep him from plunging into an abyss of infamy, remains to be seen. Should it prove successful poor Patterson will also retain a sharp criminal lawyer, and endeavor to clear himself from the perjury which his own receipts show that he committed. In the meantime, he comes into the Senate chamber with unblushing effrontery, and actually brings up his little District of Columbia jobs as though he had never written, read and sworn to a false statement. Wouldn't it be appropriate for Wilson, Colfax, Patterson and Ames to sing the chorus to the old glee, "'Twas you that kissed the tailor's wife?" How Alicy's ferret eyes would twinkle as this merry catch would go round! how the oratorical Kelley would address the assemblage! and how the venerable Poland, beating time with his foot, would turn over the warblers to the lower committee, which would at once order Ordway to arrest them and take them before the bar at Whitney's, to enjoy a smash, typical of their own political fortunes!

The Result of the Abolition of the Franking Privilege—The Senate Determined to Make the Most of Its Concession to Public Opinion.

The Senate has demonstrated to day how men dislike to yield power. It has been a delightful thing for a Senator to just write his name on a book or a package of seeds or a letter to insure its free transmission to any post office between Alaska and Key West, or Madawaska and Brownsville. Ladies supplicated for franks, constituents begged them, and even newspaper correspondents were conciliated by them. But public opinion has made the Senators relinquish this cherished "privilege," and great is their wrath. Cresswell did the business by asserting that the abolition would save $3,500,000, and now they mean to make him save this sum. They have cut down his appropriations for clerk hire to-day, and they mean to continue their reforms, even depriving him of his "riding privilege," by which he goes to and from his home in Maryland free, under the department deadhead clause in the contracts for mail service on the railroads. Meanwhile these reforms will benefit the public and warrant a single letter postage rate of two cents, although the Turveytops of the Upper House may be deprived of their cherished privilege.

Resumption of Specie Payments Discussed.

The Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Banking and Currency held a joint meeting to-day, at which the question of resumption of specie payments, contraction or expansion of the currency, and other kindred subjects were discussed informally, without action, almost as many plans and theories being advanced on each subject as there were members of the committee present.

No Decision Yet in the Phelps-Dodge Case.

The full returns of the investigations from the officers of the Treasury in the Phelps-Dodge case have not yet been received, but are daily expected, and a final consideration of the case by the Solicitor and Secretary will be had upon their reception. There is, as yet, no decision which may be regarded as final.

The Washington Theatre Fire.

The following are the losses at the fire yesterday:—Theatre—W. W. Rapley, owner of the theatre building, $80,000, insured for $40,000; J. G. Saville, lessee, $9,000, partially insured; Miller & Jones, billiard saloon, $15,000, insured; Abraham Wambold, $1,000, no insurance; the Oates Company, $3,000, insured; the National Stock Company, $5,000, no insurance; H. Koppel, tailor, loss unknown, supposed to be slight; Gross & Sheehan, stage carpenters, $500; J. L. Lockhead, $3,000; John Roscoe, confectioner, slight loss.

Little Rhody in a Forgiving Mood.

Senator Sprague to-day moved to repeal the Morrill amendment adopted yesterday for cutting off those who rendered aid and comfort to the rebellion from the payment of judgments from the Court of Claims, unless by special act of Congress, and nothing but an adjournment saved it. Tomorrow the old threadbare argument on this subject will be again aired.

A Railroad Controversy Settled.

The controversy between the State of Wisconsin and the city of Duluth and the Northern Pacific Railway has been compromised by Governor Washburne, who is now in Washington with a committee from Duluth and the President of the railway. The Northern Pacific agrees to extend its road to the city of Superior within eight months and to give that city the same facilities of business as Duluth; the dyke to be removed, and the Bay of Superior to be dredged out from the natural entrance to the docks at Superior and Duluth.

Nomination by the President.

The President sent the following nomination to the Senate to-day:—J. Madison Case, to be chief engineer in the revenue marine service.

Nomination Confirmed.

The nomination of Pay Director J. O. Bradford to be Paymaster General, United States Navy, has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

POLAND'S COMMITTEE.

Scenes and Incidents Yesterday—Hoax Ames Very Forgetful—Another Receipt from Patterson—Colfax's Counsel—Hoax Anxious to Save Garfield.

Judge Poland's Investigating Committee spent three hours to-day in trampling upon the political corpses of Brooks, Garfield, Kelley and Colfax. Oakes Ames acted as undertaker and drove the last nail into the coffins of the distinguished dead. James Brooks' ghost is not content to rest in peace but revisited to-day the scene of its torture, in order to make another statement, which did not materially change the case of the defunct. The committee kept harping for half an hour on the old theme of Brooks' fifty shares, and examined the white-headed Dillon on the subject. Dillon, who professes to be not a man of details, told the same story of forgetfulness as he did when he gave his testimony before.

Congressman elect Hale, from New York, a fat, good natured looking old gentleman, then appeared before the committee and stated that he came as the friend and counsel of Vice President Colfax, who, he said, was now engaged in

A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF HIS PAPERS,

and would personally come before the committee in a few days to make another statement. The "friend and counsel" did more harm than good to the case of his client. Swain, the cashier of the First National Bank, was again put on the stand at the request of Mr. Hale, but his testimony was quite immaterial. It appears that Colfax's line of defence will be that the $1,200 deposit on June 22, 1868, was not derived from Crédit Mobilier stock, but was a contribution for election purposes. Oakes Ames looks pityingly upon the desperate efforts of the champion smiler to extricate himself from the meshes of deceit which he has woven, and the committeemen regard Colfax's case a hopeless one.

Oakes Ames was in a sulky, uncommunicative mood. He was put on the stand, but the truth was drawn from him only by piecemeal.

SENATOR PATTERSON'S CASE

is so bad that he could not make it worse by producing another receipt for $2,328. As Crédit Mobilier dividends, in the handwriting of the New Hampshire patriot, Ames' account in the books of the Sergeant-at-Arms was again examined. Judge Poland interrogated Ames with regard to the different checks by which he drew out the $10,000 deposited with the Sergeant-at-Arms. Upon several of these checks, which were simply made out to bearer, Ames could give do information, except that they were handed as dividends to those Congressmen who had Crédit Mobilier stock, Garfield among the number; "for," said Ames, "they all received their dividends." But the most interesting part of his testimony was his account of different

CONVERSATIONS WITH GARFIELD AND KELLEY.

He related how these gentlemen came to him and implored him to make his testimany in accordance with theirs, and call the Crédit Mobilier transaction merely a "loan." Garfield in particular besought him to save his reputation by not making the damaging exposure of the facts. For the sake of form he gave Oakes Ames a check for the amount received by him as dividend, in order that he might say he had paid back a loan. Ames tore the check in his presence, and had no objection to saving Garfield's reputation provided he was not called upon to sacrifice his own. There is daylight wanted yet on Dawes' Crédit Mobilier transaction. Owing to the tacit connivance of the committee Oakes Ames has so far succeeded in his efforts to screen Dawes, whom he wants to see elected to the Senate from a double motive—firstly, Ames is a personal friend of Dawes, who is a friend of the Union Pacific Railroad; secondly, Ames bears no good will to Boutwell, who has done his best to stem the tide of the Crédit Mobilier and Union Pacific Railroad frauds. How can either the holy Dawes or

THE CONGRESSIONAL PAWNBROKER

explain the discrepancy between their statements as regards dates and figures? If the truth were known it would be found that the old maidish, sanctimonious chairman of the Ways and Means Committee belongs to the same category of saints as Garfield, Kelley and the rest. Ames has gone home for a week, and during his absence he hopes to be able to get evidence that will be interesting.

KELLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO POLAND.

The following appeared in a New York evening paper yesterday:—

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1873.

Representative Kelley sent the following letter to Judge Poland, chairman of the Crédit Mobilier Committee, to-day:—

"WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1873.

"LUKE R. POLAND, Chairman of the Committee on Crédit Mobilier:—

"DEAR SIR—Please find enclosed my check on Jay Cooke & Co., bankers of this city, dated January 25, 1873, to your order for three hundred (300) dollars. It is certified by the house on which it is drawn, and is for the amount of the balance of a loan from Hon. Oakes Ames to me, but which, on grounds made known to you in the course of the investigation before your committee, he has been pleased to disclaim. It does not belong to me, nor do the ten shares of stock in the Crédit Mobilier of America, the power to transfer which to me he executed in the presence of your committee on Friday last, when, at my request, he was about to deposit it with you, nor do any of the dividends thereon. But, inasmuch as he disclaims all ownership therein, and declares that they belong to me, I beg you to transfer said check and certificate of stock and all dividends now due, or that may be declared thereon, to the United States, to whom, in the light of recent revelations, I believe all said property rightfully belongs. Permit me further to request you to embody this note in the record of the proceedings of your committee. Meanwhile I remain yours, very truly, "WM. D. KELLEY."

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Reports from the Narragansett in the South Pacific.

CALLAO, Peru, Jan. 6, 1873.

The United States steamer Narragansett, Commander Meade, arrived at Callao, Peru, on the 1st of January, 1873, in sixty-five days from Sydney, Australia. She had pleasant weather most of the way over, as she passed north of New Zealand, and she made the voyage of 8,000 miles under canvas entirely—the screw not being once lowered until four miles from San Lorenzo. Two days out from Sydney the whaling bark Germany was signalled, bound west-southwest.

The Narragansett went into commission in October, 1870, at Portsmouth, N. H., and sailed soon after for New York, where she was some time detained as flagship to the Port Admiral. In March, 1871, she sailed from New York for this station, since which time she has been incessantly cruising among the various islands of the North and South Pacific and the Coral Sea as far as the coasts of New Zealand and Australia. Traversing this immense field, she has surveyed and examined some of the portions least known, and looked into the existence of numerous reported dangers. Many places have been visited where our men-of-war had not touched for many years, and some places where the flag of a United States ship of war had never been shown before. Throughout the cruise the health of all has been good, and there has not been an accident, death or casualty of any kind, notwithstanding the long, arduous and varied service the vessel has performed. Since leaving New York 418 days have been passed at sea—an extraordinary amount of sea duty, never before exceeded in the history of our navy. During this time the ship has sailed nearly sixty thousand miles, almost entirely under canvass, has surveyed fifteen harbors or islands and examined numerous reported dangers.

Treaties have been made, as at Tutuila, and treaty stipulations enforced, as at Apamama, in the Gilbert Islands, where a promised indemnity for injuries inflicted and American property destroyed was collected without any resort to force of arms, and simply by making a firm demand, coupled with the prompt appearance of the vessel in a state to enforce it. With all this duty the exercises have been constant, but so divided as to fall lightly and easily upon the crew, who miss their accustomed drill and exercises when the weather is adverse.

This ship at sea, with everything set alow and aloft, has shortened all sail in two minutes and made all sail again in three minutes—reducing sail from royals. She can double reef her topsails in two and a half minutes from the order in royals until topsailyards are hoisted, and with all sail on she can shorten sail, shift all three topsails and make all sail again in fifteen minutes. In port with royal and topgallant yards across she has had her yards and topgallant masts on deck in one minute and twenty seconds, all her lower yards and topmasts down in four and a half minutes—all atant again in sixteen minutes and royal yards across.

It takes four minutes to send up topgallant masts, topgallant and royal yards and loose sails, and all boats have been manned and armed for service in less than five minutes. To prepare to extinguish fire never takes over one and a half minutes after the crew reach their quarters, and she can prepare for battle by day in two and a half minutes and by night in five minutes. All this has been taken from the actual time made without any previous notice of the character of the exercise being given. She has badly beaten in exercise every other vessel, American and English. In one case where competition was going on, the Narragansett's light yards and topgallant masts were on deck before her opponent's topgallant masts were "unfidded" even, and this was the champion ship, too, or at least she claimed to be until the Narragansett beat her in every exercise.

The Narragansett, besides her battery, carries a torpedo attachment, and is manned by seventeen officers and 138 bluejackets and marines. The period of service of all the marine guard and of all the petty officers expires within a few months, when they hope to be relieved. Most of the crew shipped for the cruise out of the men comprising the crews of the wrecked Arctic whaling fleet, and many men are shipped as ordinary seamen who are well able to do the duty of able-bodied seaman.

The following is a list of the Narragansett's officers:—

Commander—Richard W. Meade.
Lieutenant Commander—A. H. Wright (executive officer).
Lieutenants—Z. L. Tanner (navigator), E. D. Tansing.
Master—H. O. Handy.
Midshipmen—George A. Calhoun (acting watch officer), M. F. Wright, W. P. Ray and F. H. Lefavor.
Passed Assistant Paymaster—G. H. Griffing.
Assistant Surgeon—H. C. Eckstein.
First Assistant Engineer—J. B. Carpenter.
Gunner—J. G. Foster.
Boatswain—Thomas Savage.
Clerks—T. K. McGren and George B. Reinman.

Naval Order.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Jan. 29, 1873.

Commander George E. Dewey, now here, is ordered to the command of the United States steamer Narragansett, at Callao.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

SANTA FE, N. M., Jan. 29, 1873.

First Lieutenant J. W. Sartle, Adjutant of the Fifteenth United States Infantry, died suddenly on the evening of the 27th inst.

THE GRAND JURY AT THE TOMBS.

The present condition of the City Prison is considered to be so faulty in itself that strange and, if true, interesting rumors are beginning to be circulated about it. It has been said that the food is bad and insufficient, and also that the cells and beds are damp and unhealthy, which seems to stand with reason, as the structure, to the knowledge of every citizen, is built on a swamp. The site of the building, some old Knickerbockers say, was a filthy marsh, which gave rise to the malarias, fevers and epizootics of the time. The atmosphere of such a locality, especially to the prisoner, can never be wholesome, and the story withal must have some truth in it. George Francis Train is not the only one who complains of its horrible condition, and no one can pass the dismal hole without pronouncing it a living grave. It is true Warden Finlay has lived in it and Deputy Wardens Kendall, Daly and Cunningham, each for a number of years; but it must be remembered these are only trustworthy officials, not doomed prisoners. They can close their room windows when open, provide themselves with suitable bedding to keep out the cold, use means for cleansing the dampness of the walls, and do away with the sickly air which surrounds them, by the use of wholesome food, but all these the prisoners cannot have.

The visit and recent investigation of the Grand Jury, the prisoners expect, and so do many others, will be the first step towards a total reformation in the wretched prison. A narrow cell and bare walls ought to be sufficient punishment without any other concomitant evils. But it is feared the Grand Jury's work will end in no beneficial results unless the issue of the investigation be made public. The HERALD man yesterday could glean very little on the subject except from these current reports.

Comptroller Green yesterday made the awards for $2,600,000 city improvement stock, the bids for which were opened on Tuesday, the lowest rate being 103, and from that upwards to 105.

"LE CENTENAIRE" AT THE UNION SQUARE THEATRE.

The play of "Le Centenaire," *anglicé*, "One Hundred Years Old," produced last evening at the Union Square Theatre, belongs to a class of dramas as familiar to the stage as the footlights or the drop curtain. The villain works his measure of evil and is finally sent to the devil, while suffering innocence and unrequited chivalry are in the long run triumphant and recompensed. This drama has been adapted from the French of MM. D'Ennery and Plouvier by Mr. Hart Jackson. He might have contrived to preserve for us in the translation more of the brilliancy of dialogue and quaintness of humor in the original and saved us at least from hearing the most vulgar of commonplace hypocrisies in American forms of greeting, "so glad to see you," with extravagant emphasis on "so." As for the construction of the plot, while *bizarre* and strained in various situations and conceptions it shows an uncommon degree of skill, but all that is truly original s in making the characters of the drama refer in turn to a central figure who is advanced to the rare standard of longevity, one hundred years. This old chap, from beginning to end, is a subject of curious interest to the audience. They went to see how one who has reached so far past the ordinary limits of age bears himself through the ordeal he is forced to pass by a singular combination of circumstances well calculated to test the mettle of any centenarian.

Jaques Fauvel (Mark Smith), the head of the Fauvel family, celebrates, in the first act, his 100th birthday. The village children and maidens, singing gleefully and bearing flowers, come around the old man and make a sweet picture of love and reverence for old age. There is also assembled on this eventful occasion his granddaughter, Juliette (Miss Mary Griswold), whose husband, is at sea, and Camille (Mrs. Clara Jennings), unmarried, who is idolized by the old man; his son, Georges Fauvel (Mr. Welsh Edwards), a prosperous banker, the father of the girls, and Richard (Mr. Montgomery), a friend of the family and young doctor, who watches over the centenarian, and pretends to be a lawyer, in order to humor the grandfather's whim of studied aversion to medicine and its professors. The birthday is the occasion of two noticeable incidents—the reconciliation with the Fauvel family of Réné d'Ally (Mr. Claude Burroughs), secretly in love with Camille, and the introduction of Max de Maugard (Mr. George Parkes), a determined-looking and sarcastic man of the world, who has saved Camille's life in a carriage accident. The prologue over, the serious interest of the play commences with an interview between the married and unmarried sisters. The extreme melancholy and depression of Juliette have to be explained to her sister Camille, and the story is profoundly sad. Juliette, during her husband's absence at sea, has yielded in an unguarded moment to the advances of Max de Maugard, who is no other than the new arrival at the house, and also the passionate adorer of Camille, whose life he has saved. The situation is terrible for all who would preserve the life of old Fauvel, and to whom that life is most precious; and it is all the more overwhelming since a child will soon be born, and Juliette's husband is on the point of returning home. Jacques Fauvel, who prides himself on his reading of character by the face, has taken a sudden and violent hatred to Max, and when the latter proposes for Camille to the head of the family his offer is indignantly rejected. The determined Max has heard that the slightest excitement will kill the old gentleman, so he proceeds with relentless cruelty from cringing deference to vulgar threats. For a moment the old man is taken off his guard and worked up into a violent passion; but, suddenly reading the true character of Max, he detects his intention, changes from violence to supreme calm, declares that he will not die such a base death as is planned for him, and, buttoning up his coat, orders Max de Maugard out of the house. In this scene Mr. Mark Smith drew down a round of well deserved applause; but the trouble with his acting last evening was that he started out with too much voice and vigor for an old man of a century, and consequently when he came to where a *tour de force* was expected in a person of such advanced age he had already dissipated the delusion that he was any more than three score or less. The child is born, and something must be done to conceal her shame. Camille determines she will take the sin upon her own shoulders and save her sister. Acting on a sudden impulse, she leaves her lover Réné, to whom she is to be married shortly. Camille is absent many days, and on her return is silent on the subject of her absence. She will tell nothing, say nothing, own nothing; and she is the more obstinate in her determination since Juliette's husband has come home. For the sake of old Jacques Fauvel this compromising absence is in part forgiven; but at last the secret of the child is discovered to Camille's father, and Camille, before the whole family, declares that she is the mother. While Camille has been suspected all along Jacques Fauvel has protested the innocence of his darling. When all have been inclined to turn against her, he has tottered back to comfort the child with a grandfather's kiss. But now the sorrow is almost greater than he can bear, so he declares that his time has come at last. Not only to the grandfather but to the whole family Camille's innocence is soon confirmed, and the play ends with a happy dénouement. Mrs. Clara Jennings, as Camille, acted with all her accustomed care. Miss Mary Griswold showed somewhat of a lack of stage training; but she has all the voice, presence and spirit for a great actress. Miss Imogene Fowler suffers a drawback in her elocution. Messrs. Parkes, Mackay, Montgomery and Burroughs sustained the reputation of this stock company for ability to render the higher class of plays, and if Mark Smith would only consider himself one hundred years old in place of thirty or forty he might carry this drama along successfully for some time.

RELICS OF THE REBELLION.

Malliefert Clearing Up the Obstructions in the James River and in Charleston Harbor—A List of War and Other Vessels Raised—Thousands of Tons of Material and Machinery Recovered.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 29, 1873.

The wrecking operations in the harbor here, under the direction of Professor Malliefert, which have been in progress nearly twelve months, have been signally successful. Monsieur Malliefert, who is a French engineer, in 1871 obtained the contract from the United States government for clearing the obstructions in both the James River, in Virginia, and the harbor of this city. From the James River he removed the wrecks of the iron-clads Virginia and Fredericksburg and the steamers Jamestown, Northampton, Patrick Henry and Raleigh, besides seven schooners and twenty-three stone cribs, which made the James free and safe for all navigable purposes.

Upon arriving here he first turned his attention to the wreck of the rebel iron-clad Palmetto State, which was sunk off the mouth of Town Creek inlet by the Confederates to prevent it falling into the hands of the United States naval forces, then in strong force off Charleston Harbor. All the boilers, engines, guns and machinery of this vessel were recovered. He next took out of the wrecks of the Charleston and Chicora, sunk off Cooper River, two other rebel iron-clads, 275 tons of machinery, boilers, engines and guns. The operations of the Professor were next turned to the wrecks of the Beatrice and Flora, two iron blockade runners, sunk in Maffit's Channel, with the success of raising the entire hulls, boilers and engines of both. After this the steamers Coffie, Randolph and a torpedo boat, 125 feet long, were taken up.

The vessel involving the greatest labor and danger in taking up was the Weehawken, a United States iron-clad which was accidentally sunk off Morris Island while being loaded with shot and shell. Nearly everything was recovered, and the skeletons of many of the crew who went down were found in a good state of preservation in the monster coffin in which they had been so long entombed.

The wreck upon which Professor Malliefert is now engaged is that of the ill-fated Patapsco, which was sunk off Fort Sumter by the bursting of a torpedo, which sent down the unfortunate vessel and all on board to a watery grave. Out of this vessel about four hundred tons of material have already been taken, including the boiler, machinery, portions of the turret, twelve plates thick, and other material. This can only be removed by the most powerful explosions. The only two wrecks that now remain are those of the Housatonic and Keokuk. The former lies outside the bar and near it the torpedo boat that sent it down. The latter lies near the Lighthouse Inlet. All the bodies of those on board have been recovered and a great number have been buried in a federal cemetery near Fort Moultrie. With the removal of these last two vessels all the obstructions in the harbor will be removed.

SALTING THE TRACKS AGAIN.

Charge Against the Third Avenue Railroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

At a quarter-past two A. M. to-day, as I was waiting for a Third avenue car to go home after leaving the office, one arrived after a long delay, drawn by four horses. On going to the rear platform I found, to my great surprise, that it was barricaded by iron gates. Going to the front I found the same, and was told by the driver that it did not carry passengers. I then asked him what it was for, but received no reply. Looking in I found it divided into three compartments, and each piled up with salt to the height of three feet. Several men were inside, all employés of the company, and they with the driver looked as suspicious as if they had committed a felony. It must have been that they were salting the entire track, contrary to law, and from the way in which they acted were conscious of their guilt. The car was a very old one and numbered 170. M. J.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29, 1873.

THE ABSCONDING CASHIER.

Flight of Shute, of the National Granite State Bank.

OVER $120,000 ABSTRACTED.

The Bonds of the Defaulter Forfeited and Large Rewards Offered for His Arrest.

EXETER, N. H., Jan. 29, 1873.

Nothing definite has yet been ascertained of the whereabouts of Mr. Shute, the defaulting cashier of the Granite State Bank of this city, and likewise defaulting treasurer of the New Hampshire Savings Bank. The last heard of him was in Boston, and where he went from that city is still a mystery. Some are of the opinion that he has fled the country, and others that he is lingering in some large city.

CONDITION OF THE SUFFERING BANKS.

The Bank Commissioners have just completed an examination of the affairs of the Savings Bank and find that by its books the amount of deposits is $401,817 20 and its surplus $12,064 83, making a total of $413,881 03. They also find property to the amount of $293,229 27, making the amount abstracted $120,651 76. The Bank can pay about seventy-three per cent on its deposits, with its own property, and about eight and seven-tenths per cent additional upon the payment of the treasurer's bond of $35,000, making a total of about eighty-one and seven-tenths per cent. In the above estimate all the stocks are reckoned at par value, which is a little less than their real value. No account is made of items of interest due the bank upon its notes, which would, perhaps, amount to $1,000 or $1,200. The investments of the bank are excellent. Every note and security is believed to be entirely good. All concerned in its management, save its defaulting treasurer, are men of character and ability, and up to the time of his leaving the treasurer even had the entire confidence of the community.

SHUTE'S DEFALCATIONS OVER FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE GRANITE STATE BANK.

Later developments show the losses of the National Granite State Bank to be greater than at first reported. It was believed that the amount embezzled from this institution would not exceed forty thousand dollars; but discrepancies have since been evolved which, as I am informed by one of the bank directors, will bring their loss to fifty thousand dollars or more.

THE BONDS OF THE RUNAWAY CASHIER.

I have to-day been able to get access to the defaulter's bonds, which show that the Granite State Bank has sureties to the amount of $20,000. The bond bears the signatures of N. A. Shute, Nathaniel Shute (defaulter's father), Harvey Kent, Isaac S. Shute, John F. Moses, Luke Julian, Joseph Getchell, Woodbridge Odlin, Amos Tuck and Thomas Conner. The bond of the Exeter Savings Bank, for the amount of $35,000, it appears was temporarily placed in the private trunk of one of the officers of the bank, kept in the bank vault. This trunk was opened with a duplicate key by the absconding treasurer and the bond extracted, but the requirements of the law that a copy of the bond should be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State at Concord, and also entered on the books of record of the bank, leave the bank secure; for, although it has not been ascertained that the Secretary's office has a copy of the bond, yet it seems the criminal failed to destroy the recorded copy in his own handwriting in possession of the bank. This copy bears date November 8, 1869, and bears the names of Nathaniel A. Shute, S. W. Dearborn, William B. Morrill, William P. Moulton, Nathaniel Gordon, G. A. Wentworth, William A. Stickney, Edmund Elliot, John J. Bell, J. C. Hilliard.

HOW HE WORKED MATTERS IN GENERAL.

It is evident that the unlawful use of the banks' funds has been going on an indefinite time and it is believed that, being the managing officer of the two institutions, when an examination of the affairs of one institution was being made he produced the securities of the other to make good the deficits, and *vice versa*. Shute had a salary as cashier of the Granite State Bank of $1,200 a year and house rent, and as treasurer of the Savings Bank of $800, besides a private brokerage business from which he netted about fifteen hundred dollars annually. Yet with this comfortable income