CONGRESS.

Standing Committees of the House.

A PETITION FROM POOR JACK.

Mr. Sheridan on the Louisiana Election Returns.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5, 1873.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows:—

By G. F. HOAR, (rep.) of Mass.—To establish an educational fund and to apply the proceeds of the public lands to the education of the people.

By Mr. EAMES, (rep.) of R. I.—To reduce postage.

By Mr. MYERS, (rep.) of Pa.—Providing for the outfit and yearly allowance of clothing to enlisted men and boys in the navy.

By Mr. PLATT, (rep.) of Va.—For the improvement of the Dismal Swamp Canal.

By Mr. HARRIS, (dem.) of Va.—To pay for quartermasters' and commissary stores when purchased and receipted for, without requiring an oath of past loyalty.

By Mr. MOREY, (rep.) of La.—To strengthen the credit of the reconstructed States, and to afford them financial relief.

By Mr. TYNER, (rep.) of Ind.—To permit the publishers of newspapers and periodicals to exchange their publications, and the publishers of weekly newspapers to send within the county of their publication one copy thereof to actual subscribers, free of postage.

By Mr. BURCHARD, (rep.) of Ill.—To require national banking associations to retain, as part of their legal reserve, the coin interest received on bonds deposited as security for circulation; also to aid the establishment of free schools throughout the United States.

By Mr. FORT, (rep.) of Ill.—For the free transmission by mail of newspapers in the counties where published, and to their exchanges.

By Mr. BUCKNER, (dem.) of Mo.—To abolish the tax on cigars, tobacco and snuff.

By Mr. COTTON, (rep.) of Iowa—For the employment of letter carriers at every place having a population of 10,000 within the delivery of its Post Office.

By Mr. LOUGHRIDGE, (rep.) of Iowa—To complete the James River and Kanawha Canal.

By Mr. DONNAN, (rep.) of Iowa—To afford cheap transportation by water from the interior to the Atlantic seaboard by way of the great lakes.

By Mr. CLAYTON, (rep.) of Cal.—To incorporate the Asiatic Commercial Company.

By Mr. RANDALL, (dem.) of Pa.—To renew, protect and improve the condition of the national currency.

REPEAL OF THE SHIPPING COMMISSIONERS LAW.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., presented a petition signed by 3,411 mariners of the port of New York, with the designation to each signature of the ship to which they are attached, asking for the repeal of the act of June 7, 1872, to authorize the appointment of Shipping Commissioners by the Circuit Court to superintend the shipping and discharge of seamen. The petition contains ten reasons for the repeal. The last reason is that they desire to make their own contracts without guardianship or fraud.

PAYING THE LOAN OF 1858.

On motion of Mr. BANKS, (rep.) of Mass., the Senate bill passed yesterday for the redemption of the loan of 1858 was taken up for action, and was explained and advocated by Mr. Dawes.

Mr. BECK, (dem.) of Ky., asked whether the bonds which were not exchanged would be paid in gold or was a premium to be paid for them?

Mr. DAWES replied that no premium could be paid for them. They would be paid at their face value in gold.

Mr. BECK—After the decision of the Supreme Court, deciding that debts on all contracts prior to the war could be paid in legal tender notes, why should these bonds be paid in gold?

Mr. DAWES—Without going into the discussion of that decision of the Supreme Court it is enough to say that the government does not hold itself at liberty to meet its bonds with any such decision as that.

Mr. BECK—The government gets its money from the taxpayers and the taxpayers are bound by that decision.

Mr. DAWES—I am sure that the gentleman from Kentucky does not wish to be understood as wishing the government to pay its bonds in paper money.

Mr. BECK—I want them paid at their face value under the law.

Mr. DAWES—That is the intention of the government—to pay these bonds according to their tenor—that is, in the money of the world.

Mr. RANDALL, of Pennsylvania.—Some time ago, when the Geneva award was paid, it was invested in five per cent bonds, and a commission to the Syndicate was claimed and allowed. I want to know whether a commission is to be allowed to the Syndicate for these bonds?

Mr. DAWES—Whatever was the claim of the Syndicate, no such commission was allowed in that transaction or would be allowed in this.

Mr. ELDRIDGE, (dem.) of Wis.—I object to the bill unless it be referred.

The bill was thereupon referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CLAIMS FOR AID TO THE POLARIS CREW.

Mr. G. F. HOAR, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Navy to communicate facts tending to show what legal or equitable claims the owners, officers or crew of the Tigress, or any other persons, may have on the United States for assistance rendered to the officers and crew of the Polaris. Adopted.

FREEDMAN'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

Mr. RAINEY, (rep.) of S. C., offered a resolution to abolish the Committee on Freedmen's Affairs. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

UNITED STATES COURTS IN IOWA.

Mr. MCCRARY, (rep.) of Iowa, introduced a bill changing the time for holding certain District Courts of the United States in Iowa. Passed, after a brief discussion.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE.

The SPEAKER announced the standing committees of the House as follows:—

On Elections—Messrs. Smith (of N. Y.), Thomas (of N. C.), Hazleton (of Wis.), Todd (of Pa.), Pike (of N. H.), Robinson (of Ohio), Harrison (of Tenn.), Hyde (of Mo.), Speer (of Pa.), Lamar (of Miss.) and Crossland (of Ky.)

On Ways and Means—Messrs. Dawes (of Mass.), Kelly (of Pa.), Burchard (of Ill.), E. H. Roberts (of N. Y.), Kasson (of Iowa), Waldron (of Mich.), Sheldon (of La.), Foster (of Ohio), Beck (of Ky.), Niblack (of Ind.) and Wood (of N. Y.)

On Appropriations—Messrs. Garfield (of Ohio), Hale (of Me.), Wheeler (of N. Y.), O'Neill (of Pa.), Starkweather (of Conn.), Loughridge (of Iowa), Tyner (of Ind.), Parker (of Mo.), Marshall (of Ill.), Swann (of Md.) and Hancock (of Texas).

On Banking and Currency—Messrs. Maynard (of Tenn.), Farwell (of Ill.), Merriam (of N. Y.), Hawley (of Conn.), Hunter (of Ind.), Phelps (of N. J.), Hubbell (of Mich.), Niles (of Miss.), Randall (of Pa.), Mitchell (of Wis.) and Durham (of Ky.)

On the Pacific Railroad—Messrs. Sawyer (of Wis.), Sypher (of La.), Killinger (of Pa.), Houghton (of Cal.), Crocker (of Mass.), Willard (of Mich.), Corwin (of Ill.), McDill (of Iowa), Wells (of Mo.), Barnum (of Conn.), Standeford (of Ky.), Creamer (of N. Y.) and Neal (of Ohio).

On Claims—Messrs. Hawley (of Ill.), Shoemaker (of Pa.), Lansing (of N. Y.), Dunnell (of Minn.), Munn (of Tenn.), Smith (of Ohio), Burrows (of Mich.), Howe (of Miss.), W. R. Roberts (of N. Y.), Eden (of Ill.) and Hamilton (of N. J).

On Commerce—Messrs. Wheeler (of N. Y.), Sawyer (of Wis.), Conger (of Mich.), Hooper (of Mass.), Negley (of Pa.), Stannard (of Mo.), Parsons (of Ohio), Clayton (of Cal.), Holman (of Ind.), Bromberg (of Ala.) and Willie (of Texas).

On Public Lands—Messrs. Townsend (of Pa.), Dunnell (of Minn.), Orth (of Ind.), Bundy (of Ohio), Morey (of La.), St. John (of N. Y.), Phillips (of Kan.), Bradley (of Mich.), Hereford (of W. Va.), Herndon (of Texas) and Clymer (of Pa).

On War Claims—Messrs. Lawrence (of Ohio), Hazelton (of Wis.), Cobb (of N. C.), Kellogg (of Conn.), Woodford (of N. Y.), Scudder (of N. J.), Smith (of Pa.), Wilson (of Iowa), Holman (of Ind.), Harris (of Va.) and Morrison (of Ill.)

On Post Offices and Post Roads—Messrs. Packer (of Pa.), Stowell (of Va.), Platt (of N. Y.), Williams (of Mass.), Page (of Cal.), Danforth (of Ohio), Cobb (of N. C.), Cannon (of Ill.), Randall (of Pa), Read (of Ky.) and Atkins (of Iowa).

On Manufactures—Messrs. Farwell (of Ill.), Hathorne (of N. Y.), Viery (of Pa.), Banner (of S. C.), Field (of Mich.), Whitely (of Del.), Woodworth (of Ohio), Waddell (of N. C.), Wilson (of Md.), Bowen (of Va.) and Blount (of Ga.

On Agriculture—Hayes (of Ala.), Lamport (of N. Y.), Hazelton (of Wis.), Begole (of Mich.), Wilson (of Iowa), Ray (of Ill.), Ross (of Pa.), Cain (of S. C.), Davis (of Va.), Hatcher (of Mo.) and McLean (of Texas).

On Indian Affairs—Averill (of Minn.), Lowe (of Kan.), Butler (of Tenn.), Rainey (of S. C.), Richmond (of Pa.), McNulta (of Ill.), Lawson (of N. Y.), Hoare (of Mass.), Adams (of Ky.), Comings (of Mo.) and Giddings (of Texas).

On Military Affairs—Coburn (of Ind.), Donnan (of Iowa), Hawley (of Ill.), Hawley (of Conn.), Gunckel (of Ohio), Albright (of Pa.), McDougall (of N. Y.), Thornburgh (of Tenn.), Nesmith (of Oregon), Young (of Ga.) and Hunton (of Va.)

On the Militia—Messrs. Butler (of Tenn.), Hazelton (of Wis.), Snyder (of Ala.), Ross (of Pa.), Crouse (of Neb.), Elliott (of S. C.), Walls (of Fla.), Storm (of Pa.), Sloss (of Ala.), Hereford (of W. Va.) and Cook (of Ga.)

On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Hale (of N. Y.), Harmer (of Pa.), Cotton (of Iowa), Rice (of Ill.), Hendee (of Vt.), Clark (of N. J.), Pelham (of Ala.), Lofland (of Del.), Eldridge (of Wis.), Barnum (of Conn.) and Leach (of N. C.)

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Butler (of Mass.), Wilson (of Ind.), Poland (of Vt.), Tremain (of N. Y.), Frye (of Me.), Cessna (of Pa.), White (of Ala.), Ward (of N. J.), Eldridge (of Wis.), Potter (of N. Y.) and Jewett (of Ohio).

On Public Expenditures—Messrs. Havens (of Mo.), Whitely (of Ga.), Richmond (of Pa.), Pike (of N. H.), Wilber (of N. Y.), Smith (of N. C.), Begole (of Mich.), Hynes (of Ark.), Clark (of Mo.), Robbins (of N. C.) and Luttrell (of Cal.)

On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Myers (of Pa.), Eames (of R. I.), Sessions (of N. Y.) Harriere (of Ill.), Pratt (of Iowa), Hendee (of Vt.), Freeman (of Ga.), Bright (of Tenn.), Sayler (of Ohio), Dewitt (of N. Y.) and Buckner (of Mo.).

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Scofield (of Pa.), Gooch (of Mass.), Hays (of Ala.), Platt (of Va.), Packard (of Ind.), Scudder (of N. Y.), Burleigh (of Me.), Furman (of Ky.), Archer (of Md.), Whithorne (of Tenn.) and Jameson (of Ohio).

On Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Orth (of Ind.), Myers (of Pa.), Willard (of Vt.), E. R. Hoar (of Mass.), Clarke (of N. Y.), Ward (of N. J.), Albert (of Md.), Williams (of Wis.), Robinson (of Ill.), Cox (of N. Y.) and Banning (of Ohio).

On Territories—Messrs. McKee (of Miss.), Currie (of Pa.), Williams (of Ill.), Havens (of Mo.), Hopkins (of N. Y.), Croonse (of Neb.), Fort (of Ill.), Hynes (of Ark.), Schumacher (of N. Y.) and Brown (of Ky.) and Mills (of Texas).

On Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Shoemaker (of Pa.), Lansing (of N. Y.), Sprague (of Ohio), Williams (of Mich.), Smith (of La.), Crutchfield (of Tenn.), Bland (of Mo.), Caldwell (of Ala.), Vance (of N. C.) and Rawls (of Ga.).

On Invalid Pensions—Messrs. Rusk (of Wis.), Wallace (of S. C.), Barry (of Miss.), McJunken (of Pa.), Mellish (of N. Y.), Martin (of Ill.), Small (of N. H.), Sener (of Va.), Young (of Ky.), Crittenden (of Mo.) and O'Brien (of Md.)

On Railroads and Canals—Messrs. McCrary (of Iowa), G. F. Hoar (of Mass.), Hurlbut (of Ill.), Bass (of N. Y.), Sherwood (of Ohio), Lewis (of Tenn.), Taylor (of Pa.), Smith (of Va.), Arthur (of Ky.), Wolf (of Ind.) and Stone (of Mo.)

On Mines and Mining—Messrs. Lowe (of Kan.), Negley (of Pa.), Buffinton (of Mass.), Rusk (of Wis.), Hubbell (of Mich.), Page (of Cal.), Sheats (of Ala.), Lynch (of Miss.), Mandal (of Nev.), Southard (of Ohio) and Harris (of Ga.)

On Freedmen's Affairs—Messrs. Cobb (of N. C.), Nunn (of Tenn.), Rainey (of S. C.), Townsend (of Pa.), Cotton (of Iowa), Morey (of La.), Barber (of Wis.), Sener (of Va.), Comingo (of Mo.), Eden (of Ill.) and Adams (of Ky.)

On Education and Labor—Messrs. Monroe (of Ohio), G. F. Hoar (of Mass.), Elliott (of S. C.), Davralle (of La.), Field (of Mich.), Crooke (of N. Y.), McDill (of Mich.), Rainer (of Ala.), Storm (of Pa.), Whitehead (of Va.) and Glover (of Mo.)

On the Revision of the Laws—Messrs. Poland (of Vt.), E. R. Hoar (of Mass.), Lawrence (of Ohio), Dewell (of N. Y.), Barber (of Wis.), Pendleton (of R. I.), Moore (of Pa.), Casson (of Ind.), Stephens (of Ga.), Kendall (of Nev.) and Knapp (of Ill.)

On Coinage, Weights and Measures—Messrs. Hooper (of Mass.), Houghton (of Cal.), Harmer (of Pa.), Barrere (of Ill.), Willard (of Mich.), Sayler (of Ind.), Strait (of Minn.), Mills (of Texas), Berry (of Ohio), Bell (of Ga.) and Ashe (of N. C.)

On Patents—Messrs. Conger (of Mich.), Eames (of R. I.), Smart (of N. Y.), Clements (of Ill.), Crutchfield (of Tenn.), Dobbins (of N. J.), Taylor (of Md.), Smith (of N. C.), Sloss (of Ala.), Parker (of N. H.) and Magee (of Pa.)

On Public Buildings and Grounds—Messrs. Platt (of Va.), Sessions (of N. Y.), Killinger (of Pa.), Sprague (of Ohio), Hersey (of Me.), Pierce (of Mass.), Lowndes (of Md.), Strait (of Minn.), Wells (of Mo.), Perry (of N. Y.) and Milliken (of Ky.)

On Reform of Civil Service—Messrs. Kellogg (of Conn.), Willard (of Mich.), Woodford (of N. Y.), Sheats (of Ala.), Hurlbut (of Ill.), Butler (of Mass.), Strawbridge (of Pa.), Willard (of Mich.), Sayler (of Ohio), Luttrell (of Cal.) and Whilehouse (of N. Y.)

On Mileage—Messrs. Bundy (of Ohio), Biery (of Pa.), Ray (of Ill.), Nesmith (of Oregon) and Parker (of N. H.)

On Accounts—Messrs. Buffinton (of Mass.), Sawyer (of Wis.), Roskins (of N. Y.), Wallace (of S. C.) and Archer (of Md.)

On Expenditures in the State Department—Messrs. Packard (of Mo.), Cobb (of Kan.), St. John (of N. Y.), Morrison (of Ill.) and Lamison (of Ohio).

On Expenditures in the Treasury Department—Messrs. Sypher (of La.), Snyder (of Ark.), Phillips (of Kan.), Schumacher (of N. Y.) and Southard (of Ohio).

On Expenditures in the War Department—Messrs. Williams (of Ind.), Lamport (of N. Y.), Curtis (of Pa.), Bright (of Tenn.) and Giddings (of Texas).

On Expenditures in the Navy Department—Messrs. McJunkin (of Pa.), Burrows (of Mich.), Wallis (of Fla.), Magee (of Pa.) and Herndon (of Texas).

On Expenditures in the Post Office Department—Messrs. Barry (of Miss.), Todd (of Pa.), Mellish (of N. Y.), Whithorne (of Tenn.) and Young (of Ga.)

On Expenditures in the Interior Department—Messrs. Orr (of Iowa), Woodworth (of Ohio), Lynch (of Miss.), Robinson (of Ill.) and Rawls (of Ga.)

On Expenditures on the Public Buildings—Messrs. Duell (of N. Y.), Cessna (of Pa.), Smith (of Ohio), Pratt (of Iowa) and McLean (of Texas).

On Rules of the House—The Speaker, Maynard (of Tenn.), Garfield (of Ohio), Cox (of N. Y.) and Randall (of Pa.)

On Printing—Messrs. Donnan (of Iowa), Hale (of N. Y.) and Waddell (of N. C.)

On the Library—Messrs. Frye (of Me.), Monroe (of Ohio) and Clymer (of Pa.)

On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Darrall (of La.), Pendleton (of R. I.) and Harris (of Ga.)

THE DUTY ON COAL.

Mr. HAMILTON, (dem.) of N. J., asked leave to offer a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to abolish the duty on coal.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., desired to amend the resolution by making it imperative on the committee to report such a bill.

Objection was made to the resolution.

THE LOUISIANA ELECTION RETURNS.

Mr. SHERIDAN, (rep.) of La., rising to a personal explanation, said that he had some agency in seating his colleague, Mr. Smith, from the Fourth district of Louisiana, and if any wrong had been done in the matter he considered himself personally responsible. Some newspapers had charged that the certificate read to the House, had been executed prior to the receipt and canvass of the returns in New Orleans. He was informed on reliable authority that the returns had arrived and been properly canvassed on the 28th and 29th of November, prior to the execution of the certificate. It was not a matter of physical impossibility, as had been said, for a man could go in three days from any part of the district to New Orleans. He assured the House that the statements to the contrary were untrue. It was also a mistake to say that that was a democratic district; no democrat ever had been or ever could be elected from it.

The House, at 2:30 P. M., adjourned till Monday.

BEECHER AND BOWEN.

Meeting Last Evening of Plymouth Church on the Question of Discipline—Collapse of the Beecher Scandal—Bowen Confesses His Sins and Asks for Forgiveness—The Church Accepts Him.

At a meeting of the members of Plymouth church, held after the weekly prayer meeting last evening, in the lecture room, which was crowded, a letter was read from the Clinton avenue church and the Church of the Pilgrims (Congregational) asking, in the kindliest manner, whether Plymouth church declined to meet in council as well as in conference. The letter was read by Mr. Halliday, after which the following resolution, moved by Mr. Beecher, was adopted unanimously:—

Resolved, That the following answer be respectfully returned to the churches sending this letter:—

"DEAR BRETHREN—We have received your third letter, dated December 5, 1873, and it has been read to the church. It gives us great pleasure to accept your statements in regard to the spirit and interest of your letter of November 8. As we do not admit the statement of facts, nor the allegation of principles held by us, contained in your letter of November 8, we are not aware, on our own part, of any questions requiring the advice of a council. If, however, you desire further light, and will state to us the points to be submitted to a council, we will promptly inform you of the decision of this church. We cannot consent to be parties to the calling of a council without being definitely informed of the precise matter that is to be referred to. Wishing you grace, mercy and peace."

THE BOWEN SCANDAL.

Rev. S. B. Halliday read the following letter and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

S. B. HALLIDAY, Clerk of Plymouth Church:—

DEAR BROTHER—At a special meeting of the Examining Committee, held on Monday evening last, the following preamble and resolution were adopted, and I was instructed to send the same to you to be presented to the church as their report in the case of Brother Henry C. Bowen:—

Whereas a complaint has been made to the Examining Committee against Henry C. Bowen, a member of Plymouth Church, of uttering slanders affecting the good name of our pastor; and whereas a sub-committee was appointed to confer with Mr. Bowen in reference to this complaint; and, whereas, Mr. Bowen assured the sub-committee that it has been, and is, his purpose to abide in good faith by the agreement signed by the pastor and himself, which is as follows:—

"I, Henry C. Bowen, having given credit, without, perhaps, due consideration, to tales and innuendoes affecting Henry Ward Beecher, and believing influenced by them, as was natural to a man who receives impressions suddenly to the extent of repeating them guardedly, however, and within limitation, and not for the purpose of injuring him, but strictly in the confidence of consultation, now feel that therein I did him wrong. Therefore I disown all the charges and imputations that have been attributed to me as having been by me made against Henry Ward Beecher, and I declare fully and without reserve that I know nothing which should prevent me from extending to him my most cordial friendship, confidence and Christian fellowship, and I expressly withdraw all the charges, imputations and innuendoes imputed as having been made and uttered by me, as set forth in a letter written to me by Theodore Tilton on the 1st day of January, 1871 (a copy of which is hereinto annexed), and I sincerely regret having made any imputations, charges or innuendoes unfavorable to the Christian character of Mr. Beecher; and I covenant and promise that for all future time I will never, by word or deed, recur to, repeat or allude to any or either of said charges, imputations and innuendoes.

And whereas Mr. Bowen has also authorized Brother S. B. Halliday to refer to the examining committee or to the Church that if on his part there has seemed to have been any departure from the letter or spirit of that agreement, he regrets it exceedingly, and trusts that nothing shall occur in the future in this direction to mar the peace of the Church. Therefore

Resolved, That this committee, in view of the facts and statements set forth, accept these assurances made by Mr. Bowen as an answer to the charges preferred against him, and that the complaint against him be dismissed.

D. W. TALMAGE, Chief Examining Clerk.

THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. S. C. RAYMOND offered the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas it is desirable that the relations of Plymouth Church with other churches should be clearly understood; therefore

Resolved, That this Church reiterates the principles declared in rules adopted April 17, 1845—rules 1 and 2 of its manual,—as follows:—

"This Church is an independent body, and in matters of doctrine, order and discipline, is amenable to no other organization."

"This Church will extend to other Evangelical churches and receive from them that fellowship, advice and assistance which the law of the Church requires."

Resolved, That we interpret these principles as relieving all other churches, and as asserting for this Church the right to judge in every case what fellowship, advice or assistance may, according to the laws of Christ, properly be offered or received.

At the conclusion of the passing of these resolutions some routine business connected with the Church was proceeded with, and the large assembly then adjourned.

SAILORS' BOARDING HOUSE COMMISSIONERS.

The Commissioners under the law for licensing sailors' boarding houses met yesterday at the office of the Harbor Masters, No. 40 Burling slip. The Board is composed of J. K. Myers, representing the insurance companies; Captain N. Briggs, of the American Seamen's Friend Society; N. D. Wells, of the Port Society; C. G. Duncan, of the Chamber of Commerce, and George W. Blunt, of the Marine Society. The Board elected Mr. G. W. Blunt president, and D. A. Nash secretary, the present assistant secretary of the Harbor Masters. A resolution was adopted instructing the Secretary to notify the proprietors of sailors' boarding houses in New York and Brooklyn that application must be made for licenses to the Commissioners before the 19th inst., and the meeting adjourned. The law prescribes that the fee for the license shall be $20, which must be paid before the application is considered, and is to be returned should the license be refused. The penalty for a violation of any of the provisions of the act is imprisonment for not more than one year or less than 30 days, or a fine not exceeding $250 or less than $100, or by both fine and imprisonment.

ART MATTERS.

Novelties at Goupil's.

There has been a rearrangement of the pictures in the gallery known as Goupil's, No. 170 Fifth avenue, but actually possessed by Knoedler & Co., and several new paintings have been added thereto. Among these a small and strongly realistic oil painting by Firmin-Girard will be sure to win intelligent plaudit. In it a woman in an humble station of life is represented standing outside her door, drawing water from a well. The woman is what would be called a peasant were she encountered among the Tyrols, but her dress has nothing about it to which is commonly attached the idea of picturesqueness. The work is strong because it is all that it pretends to be—a bit of common rustic life, realistically expressed. A coast-scene by the Swedish artist Wilhelm de Gegerfelt renders with much truth the murky monotone of a cloudy day. The shore and the water are particularly good. The sky is not so successful. It is somewhat dauby and contradicts the fact that in nature even the murkiest atmosphere has a certain transparency. A landscape by Brochochi is informed with the feeling of a peaceful sunset distributing its light over low-lying land and fair groups of trees, with a cottage or so bearing the sign of antiquity, but not decay. The hand of that graceful Belgian, Florent Willems, is discernible the exquisite art with which is painted the satin robe of a fair lady who reads a book just taken from the case behind her, though we should have been glad if the face had prevented our remembering the gown. By the Roman artist, Casanova, are two or three little pictures, one of which, representing a gaily-dressed cavalier leaning over a balustrade, is noticeable for the strong effect of its sunlight. The gaudy dress of the cavalier, however, is crudely painted. More careful painting is to be seen in another picture by the same artist, composed of a group of ladies and a gentleman in the costumes of a couple of centuries ago. Rossi has a brilliant picture cleverly composed and wrought up. It represents a party of ladies and gentlemen of the time of Louis Seize, enjoying a picnic. There are some half-dozen figures in all. Upon an even piece of ground, which looks as though it might be the top of a hill, a rich Turkish mat is spread. Upon this are seated several ladies, handsomely attired and preserving a refined and aristocratic air. The composition is skillfully worked up, in order to show against the sky the erect figure of a gentleman, while one of his friends stands with his back to the party, a little distance off, perhaps for the purpose of reconnoitring or of satisfying himself that no interloper is insight. This incident, together with the glimpse that is caught of a female figure half reclining beneath an umbrella spread open and resting on the ground, gives to the composition a slight taint of that convivality which just verges on debauchery. When we remember the epoch when the scene is supposed to have occurred, the introduction of such an element cannot but be regarded as characteristic of it. Perhaps a perfect master of color would not have introduced an umbrella of such color and at such an angle under the circumstances, since so large a point of brightness at once rivets the eye and distracts it from the intended effect. The picture, however, is very charming. Louis Gabriel (Eugène Isabey) has a painting, as strong as any of his marines, representing a trumpter calling the troops to arms. The trumpeter is mounted, and the horse is painted with a rude and shaggy strength that is unusual; the coloring is strong, and so is the effect of daylight. Very clever, in its reproduction of the sense of a coming storm, is a little landscape by Lier, showing a team of bay horses toiling along a pass between the hills, while the sky threatens and twig and tree bend in the rising blast. Louis Georges Brillouin has a fine picture which shows a party of six or seven French gentlemen discussing some topic, probably politics, in a private room of a French café. The characterization is strong, the drawing is correct, and the general treatment reminds us of that so skillfully used by Mr. J. Beaufain Irving in his recent picture, "The Recital." Our references must close for the present with the mention of a large picture, strongly dramatic, by Carl Becker, representing an incident with which every student of Goethe is familiar.

Novelties at Moore's.

Those who visited the Lotos Club last Saturday evening must have observed, among the many excellent oil paintings there, a new marine, by Mr. E. Moran. It has since been removed to the art rooms of Mr. R. E. Moore, No. 31 Union square, where it will remain for the present. It is a noble piece of work, representing morning at sea, and is thought by many to be the best that the artist has sent forth. It presents, in strong combination, several of the characteristics which helped to form for Mr. Moran a reputation which has now lasted a good many years. It reveals his old power of depicting the life of water and life on the water, and reproduces very distinctly that sentiment of buoyancy and animation which fill the breast when the light of the fully risen sun sets the ocean in a sparkle, and the fisherman mends his nets and the sailor sings his song. Another marine is entitled to equal prominence. It is by Mr. M. F. H. de Haas, and represents a moonlit night at sea. A vessel is working her way through prosperous winds beneath the full radiance of a round golden moon. The solemnity of a glorious night at sea, its mystery, beauty, loneliness, are powerfully indicated, and Mr. De Haas has painted with the sentiment of an artist who sympathizes with starry nights and ocean scenery, and the brave and dangerous life on the sea.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Wendell Phillips lectures on "Courts and Jails" on Saturday next, the 13th inst.

The sickness of Mr. James Lewis, of the Fifth Avenue Theatre is very severe, his ailment being rheumatism of the heart.

There is nothing that we like so much as the puff dramatic. Here is one of Miss F. H. Churchill, a reader:—"She once read selections from 'Hiawatha,' to Mr. Longfellow in his own library, in the very chair in which it was written, with tears rolling down his face, and received his thanks for her conception and delineation, saying they were a complete rendering of his own ideal." With tears rolling down his face is very good, but that the poet wrote the work in such a mood is incredible.

The cast of "Home" which is to be produced at Wallack's on Monday evening will be as follows:—Colonel John White, Mr. Lester Wallack; Mr. Dorrison, Mr. John Gilbert; Captain Mountraffe, Mr. Ed. Arnott; Bertie Thompson, Mr. W. R. Floyd; Mrs. Pinchbeck, Miss K. Rogers; Lucy Dorrison, Miss Effie Germon, and Dora Thornhough, Miss Kate Bartlett. "Ici on Parle Français" is to be played as an afterpiece, Harry Beckett, Mrs. John Sefton and others appearing in the farce.

"The Maid of Orleans" has always formed a favorite subject with musicians. She has now been brought into fresh notice by the production of M. Gounod's "Jeanne d'Arc, at the Paris Gaité, and the ill-fortune of M. Mermet's opera on the same subject, which was rehearsing on the eve of the burning of the Opera House. Eleven composers have already chosen La Pucelle for their heroine, Weber's setting of Schiller's "Yungfrau von Orleans" being, perhaps, among the most notable. Three other German musicians set Schiller's tragedy to music, but their efforts were doomed to failure. In 1790 an opera by the violinist Kreutzner was produced at the Opéra Comique with no success. Carafa followed suit in 1821, Vaccaj in 1821, and Pacini brought out a similar work at Milan in 1830. Nine years later Balfe's opera on Joan of Arc was played at Drury Lane, while in 1865 the tenor Duprez turned composer, celebrated the fame of La Pucelle in Paris. We must not forget Verdi's "Giovanna di Arco," produced at the Milan Scala in 1845, and again 23 years afterwards at Ventadour, when Patti, in armor and casque, was the heroine. Even Napoleon I. was struck by the fertility of the subject, and it is said that he wrote one act of a drama in collaboration with the Prime Chancellor Cambacères.

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW CONSTITUTION.

Decision of the Superior Court Against the Authority of the Commissioners to Conduct the Election.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5, 1873.

In the Superior Court to-day Judge Agnew delivered an opinion, in which all the judges concurred, restricting the Electoral Commissioners appointed by the Constitutional Convention from acting in conducting the election.

The decision is to the effect that the Constitutional Convention had not the extensive powers it had attempted to assert, and that it had been guilty of an act of attempted usurpation of authority in setting aside the election system prescribed for this city and inaugurating a new one, under which the election for the adoption or rejection of the constitution should be conducted.

The opinion further declares that the true interpretation of the phrase "and manner in which this election shall be held" did not give the Convention the high authority it endeavored to assume, and that to conduct this election in a way different from that by law prescribed for all general elections in the State was an unwarrantable excess of authority which had not been given to the members of that Convention when they were delegated as the agents of the people to amend and revise the constitution of the State.

SALMON P. CHASE'S SUCCESSOR.

The Press of the Country Excited Over the Nomination—The Senate Advised Not to Confirm—The Republican Press Displeased.

The nomination by the President of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice meets with little enthusiasm from the administration organs, mild criticism from the independent press and general denunciation from the democratic journals. From the many views expressed the following are given as samples of how the nomination meets the approval or disapproval of the press:—

The Cincinnati *Commercial* (independent) suggests that "if the Senate refuses to confirm Mr. Williams, they should consider the claims of Judge Lewis Dent."

Governor Hawley, a personal friend of the President, in his paper, the Hartford *Courant*, does not approve the nomination, and rejoices that the confirmation "hangs fire." The *Courant*, referring to Mr. Williams' effort in the Crédit Mobilier suit, sarcastically remarks:—"If he is to be confirmed it is to be regretted, for the peace of mind of the Bar of Connecticut, that Mr. Williams ever came to Hartford to make a speech in the courts."

The Detroit *Free Press* (democratic) says that while the nomination is not a surprise, "it cannot be very favorably received," especially on account of his support of Governor Kellogg, of Louisiana.

The Indianapolis *Journal* (republican) approves the nomination, very coldly, however, and believes that he may make a good Chief Justice.

The Chicago *Tribune* (republican) believes Mr. Williams to be superior to Conkling and the appointment "a better one than was generally expected."

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* expresses its disapproval thus:—

General Grant has outraged the public sentiment of this country in many respects; but in no respect has he set it at defiance more shamefully than in his appointments to high and responsible offices. Without recalling the number of his incompetent and worthless relatives whom he has hoisted into position, we have enough in the appointment of Williams to the Supreme Bench to barb and point old insults and to add a new and more grievous one to the long and disgraceful list. It really appears that in this case General Grant has acted on the idea of Jeffreys. "As you seem to be unfit for the Bar or any other honest calling," said he to the notorious Wright, "I see nothing for it but that you be made a judge yourself." There is no other explanation of his course.

THE RING CASES.

When the Next Cases Are To Be Called—The Friends of the Indicted Parties Make a Strange Allegation—The Probable Return of Woodward and the Political Obstacles in the Way.

Considerable speculation is being indulged in just now by the politicians and others who take an active interest in city affairs as to the reasons why and wherefore the trial of any one of the so-called Ring thieves now under indictment has not been set down for the present term of the Oyer and Terminer. The friends of the accused parties allege that the District Attorney has decided to call the next trial only when Judge Davis is on the bench.

"This," said one of the friends of one of the Court House Commissioners to a HERALD reporter yesterday, "is not justice, nor is it courteous to Judge Ingraham, who is presiding during the present term. It is almost the same as though Mr. Phelps openly declared that he had no confidence in Judge Ingraham, and that he preferred to have Judge Davis, because the latter has made such a tenstrike in dealing with Tweed and Farrington that he will be

WILLING TO STRAIN A POINT OR TWO

to assure the conviction of any one else brought before him on a charge of having been concerned in the 'Ring' frauds."

"Is that not rather severe on Judge Davis?" was the reporter's query.

"Yes, it is; I don't deny that, nor do I say that it is in my opinion just or warranted. But you can't prevent people talking, you know, and that's the way a good many whom I know are talking at present, and the talk has been started by this rumored action of the District Attorney that he is only waiting for Davis to preside again to bring the other trial up."

Inquiry at the District Attorney's office failed to elicit any definite information as to what the prosecution intend doing. To all questions as to whether any one of the Ring cases was to be brought up this term of the Oyer and Terminer, only evasive answers were given when any answers at all were vouchsafed. One of the gentlemen connected with the office was, however, good enough to give it as his opinion that Harry Genet will be tried this term. "In order to accommodate him before he goes to Albany" was the sneering addendum to the unofficial opinion. The friends of Genet are not apparently very hopeful of

A SPEEDY TRIAL

in his case. He himself said yesterday that he was very anxious to be tried at once, and that he intended to go to Albany next month. "But," said he, "if it is the desire of the prosecution, which I do not believe it to be, that I shall be not only prosecuted but persecuted, my trial may be set down for January or some other month, when it will interfere with my Albany business. I have been told by several parties that this is just the kind of treatment I may expect. If it be true, I must say it is a very small business. If the prosecution want me tried let them go ahead at once. I am more anxious to be tried than they are to try me, judging from the slow way they are going about matters, and to keep me waiting so long after making such a fuss is excessively annoying." In relation to the statement that the District Attorney was reserving all the other "Ring cases" for Judge Davis to take hold of, Mr. Genet frankly said he did not believe that Mr. Phelps had come to any such determination. "I have a better opinion of him than that," he added, "and, besides, he is too shrewd not to know that that kind of thing would not take well with the public, who want justice done, but don't like the idea of reserving this or that case for any particular judge to have a say about."

IS WOODWARD COMING?

It is now pretty certain that the ignorance displayed by the District Attorney as to the expected return of one of the Ring magnates from Europe, at least so far as the subordinates of Mr. Phelps are concerned, is not put on after all, and that they really know as little about the matter as a good many other persons who are not always consulted about the doings of the Ring prosecutors outside the District Attorney's office. One thing can now be relied upon as a dead certainty, deny the fact as much as the officials may, and that is that negotiations have been going on in Europe for the past few weeks which, if everything is guaranteed, to suit the party most concerned, will result in the return to this country of Woodward, who knows more about the ramifications of the Ring and certain pious people, who are now among the most clamorous of reformers, who profited heavily and criminally and knowingly by the villanies of the official thieves than all the other members of the Ring put together. There is one great drawback, it is said, to Woodward's guarantees being made satisfactory, and that is the general fear among those republicans who have been made aware of the negotiations that if his revelations should criminate any republican in good standing now in the party the whole party would be the sufferers. And it is just this question which will materially decide the chances of Mr. Woodward's return.

TRANSFER OF NOTORIOUS CONVICTS.

**Frank H. Walworth