CONGRESS.

Senator Boutwell Explains His Financial Theories.

REGULATION OF RAILROADS

House Debate on Compensation of Congressional Reporters.

THE VOLUME OF THE CURRENCY.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1874.

Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal., presented a lengthy petition of Susan B. Anthony, relating the circumstances of her registering and voting in Rochester, N. Y., and subsequent indictment and trial for illegal voting, before Judge Hunt, of the United States Supreme Court, stating that her trial was not a fair one and her conviction was in violation of the statute, and asking that the fine imposed upon her be remitted. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. SCOTT, (rep.) of Pa., presented a petition of Philadelphia merchants asking the enactment of a law to provide for the issue of 3.65 per cent bonds, into which legal tenders can be converted. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Also the petition of the citizens of Pittsburg, asking to be reimbursed for expenditures incurred in fortifying the city in 1863, in accordance with the order of the Secretary of War. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. CONOVER, (rep.) of Fla., presented resolutions of the Legislature of that State in regard to the recognition of the Cuban insurgents. Read and laid on the table.

CARE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, reported favorably on the bill to purchase five extinguishers for the Capitol building. Passed.

Also the bill appropriating $5,000 to secure the services of a suitable person to make a topographical survey of the Capitol grounds and prepare a plan for their improvement.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., asked if the committee had come to any conclusion in regard to trees around the Capitol.

Mr. MORRILL replied that the matter would be left in the hands of whoever should be employed to make the survey.

Mr. SUMNER hoped the committee would act courageously in regard to those trees and have them removed. It was now settled by experience and the rules of taste that trees were not advisable around public structures. Where immense sums of money had been expended for architectural beauty it should not be obscured by trees. In the streets they are in place, but out of place in the neighborhood of a great public monument like the Capitol. These trees around the Capitol should be removed entirely or so thinned out as not to interfere with the view. The bill was passed.

NO FICTITIOUS SPEECHES TO BE PRINTED.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., from the Committee on Printing, reported favorably on the resolution making it unlawful for the Congressional Printer to print in the *Congressional Record* any speech or part of a speech not actually delivered in the Senate or House of Representatives. Passed.

NO PORT OF DELIVERY AT JEFFERSON, TEXAS.

Mr. SPENCER, (rep.) of Ala., from the Committee on Commerce, reported unfavorably on the bill to create a port of delivery at Jefferson, Texas. Indefinitely postponed.

IMPROVING THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

He also reported back the bill to facilitate the execution of and the protection of certain works for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi River, and asked for the present consideration of the bill.

Mr. CLAYTON, (rep.) of Ark., objected, and the bill went over.

PUBLIC BUILDING APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to inquire into the expediency of suspending expenditure of appropriations for all public buildings upon which work has not yet been commenced and to cover such unexpended appropriations into the Treasury. Agreed to.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. CLAYTON introduced a bill donating the military reservation at Forth Smith to the city of Fort Smith. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of W. Va., introduced a bill for the improvement of the great Kanawha River. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

AN ARKANSAS SENATOR CORRECTS A FALSE STATEMENT.

Mr. CLAYTON rose to a personal explanation and sent to the Clerk's desk, to have read, a paragraph in the Boston *Daily Advertiser* of Monday in regard to the dispute between the Postmaster General and himself. He said that at first he thought not to notice the article, but in view of the fact that it had been charged that he, in his official capacity, had undertaken to influence a high officer of the government, he felt it due to his constituents, due to the Senate and due to himself and due to the press that he should denounce the insinuation as being false and the instigator of it a falsifier. In December last he, with his colleague, Mr. Dorsey, addressed a letter to the Postmaster General asking that the free delivery system be ordered in Little Rock, Ark. The Postmaster General said he would send a special agent to look into the matter. On Saturday last he (Clayton) called at the department to see about the matter. The Postmaster General said he had recalled the officer sent to make the investigation, and would take no further steps in regard to the matter until after the passage of the Appropriation bill. The only point of controversy between himself and the Postmaster General was whether the inquiry made in order to establish the system should be made now or after the passage of the Appropriation bill. He (Mr. Clayton) did not state, as appeared in the Baltimore *Sun*, that he would see the Postmaster General in a very warm place before he would vote for any Appropriation bill unless the free delivery system be established at Little Rock. But he did say that under certain circumstances he could not favor any further appropriations for the free delivery system, and he did not think that was out of keeping with some remarks he made a few days ago on the subject. As to any bad feeling between the Postmaster General and himself it had all been settled, and he was glad to say it had been settled satisfactorily to both parties. He believed in a free press, as one of the most powerful auxiliaries of a free government, and they should go hand in hand. He also believed in free schools, being indebted to the free schools of Pennsylvania for what little education he had. He remembered the rod of the teacher and believed it to be good. He claimed that the rod the newspaper men held was a good thing, and when they laid it upon persons deserving it he said "Lay on Macduff;" but when they went slashing around every which way, he would ask those gentlemen to be a little more careful. If they did lay on him he would take this means in the Senate to set himself right before the country.

CREATION OF POST ROUTES.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., offered an additional rule to those of the Senate, declaring that no amendment to any bill for the creation of a post route shall be in order until after the reference of such amendment to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

RAILROAD REGULATION.

Mr. MORTON submitted the following resolution, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed:—

Resolved, That the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard be instructed to consider and report a bill creating a commission of five eminent and skilled persons to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall examine and report to Congress what legislation is necessary and practicable in regard to inter-state railroads, to promote the following objects, viz.: the speedy transportation at reasonable rates of freight and passengers; the safety and comfort of passengers, by providing for the inspection of bridges, tracks, locomotives and cars, and the reform of any abuses that may exist in consequence of extortion or unjust discriminations in the transportation of freight and passengers, and, in general, what regulations are necessary to promote the efficiency of railroads, the interests of commerce and the convenience and safety of the traveling public.

Mr. MORTON said on Tuesday next he would take a short time to express his views on the subject.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

The morning hour having expired the consideration of the finance resolution was resumed, and Mr. BOUTWELL, (rep.) of Mass., addressed the Senate.

He said the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Schurz) had been pleased to arraign him for opinions, incidentally expressed on the financial question in this Chamber, and, perhaps, more at large, stated elsewhere, and was pleased to characterize these opinions as the "do-nothing" policy. Those opinions, during the past five years, were embodied in the financial policy of both the legislative and executive branches of the government. The financial difficulty through which the country had recently passed had taught a lesson. As a teacher it should be respected; but as a dictator, demanding that a policy tried should be abandoned, and one not tried be entered upon, it was not worth attention. The number of failures of legitimate business men during the late troubles were few in the State he represented. He did not know of one of importance. The business men of the country are in a substantial condition and prepared to go on with their business. The laboring classes alone have suffered, and they alone are the persons entitled to consideration, and to their interests he thought Congress should now address itself. He hoped to be able to show that an inflation of paper currency would inflict standing and lasting evils upon the laboring men. He contended that there was frequently an inflation of currency in New York, and its evils were disastrous. There is a natural process by which currency, whether paper or coin, used for the purpose of business, will accumulate in a particular place. When every power of legislation should have been exhausted for the purpose of distributing currency over the the country, the result would be failure. Currency will flow where it belongs, and therefore naturally accumulates in the city of New York. The banks of the city of New York, acting upon a practice almost universal, pay interest on deposits, and the result is that money, instead of remaining in Chicago, St. Louis and other points, flows into New York—fifty, sixty or seventy millions of dollars often being held there subject to call. The accumulation of currency in New York by artificial means led to an inflation of the currency in that city, and to speculations, followed by disaster and ruin. An inflation of the currency of the country would in time produce the same results. He was, therefore, opposed to any increase in the volume of the paper money of the country, and, on the other hand, was opposed to any contraction of the currency. He did not think a depreciated currency, in itself, a great evil. By that he meant to say that if the currency be depreciated, and the prices and products of labor become accommodated to that state of things, there are no substantial evils affecting the general prosperity of the country. The authority of the Treasury Department to use the forty-four million legal tender reserve ought never to have been questioned, but he trusted that this debate would settle the legal right of the Treasury to use that reserve. The department had acted upon the idea that it had the right to use it whenever an emergency occurred, bearing in mind always that it was not to be added to the volume of the currency when issued, but to be restored to the Treasury as soon as practicable.

Mr. SCHURZ, (rep.) of Mo.—I understand that the gentleman maintains that the Treasury had the legal right to issue the $44,000,000. Does he also maintain that the department has the legal right to withdraw it again?

Mr. BOUTWELL—Keeping in view the legislation of Congress, it was the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to do so. Deducing from the policy of Congress his conclusion would be that $356,000,000 was the amount of currency to be kept in circulation and when the exigency passed it was the duty of the Secretary to reduce the volume of currency to $356,000,000. He argued that the issue of the $44,000,000, in his judgment, was consistent with the public interest in the highest degree, and the Secretary of the Treasury could not sit silent and inactive while ruin and disaster to the country were apparent. But to permanently increase the currency he was opposed. In a time of peace like this, when the country is prosperous, its resources great, its future bright, what excuse could Senators offer themselves or offer the country for adding to the volume of the currency and changing the relation of debtor and creditor? He denied that any pledges of the government had been violated. The act of March, 1862, declared that the holders of United States notes might, between March and the following July, convert their notes into United States bonds, and they had that time to make such conversion. He favored a return to specie payments with such limitations as set forth in the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury of 1872. The statement had been made here that during the past four years no progress had been made toward a return to specie payment. This he denied. In 1869 the average price of gold was 32¼ per cent, in 1870 it was less than 15, in 1871 less than 12, in 1872 it was 12 4-10, and in 1873 it was 13 84-100. Did not these facts, by themselves considered, demonstrate that in those four years we had made progress toward specie payment?

Mr. MORTON inquired if the gentleman did not attribute the decrease in the price of gold in 1869 to the act of Congress passed then to strengthen the public credit?

Mr. BOUTWELL replied that he attributed much of the cause of the decrease to that act. When the act was passed the credit of the United States in Europe was substantially that of Italy, Spain, Turkey and the dishonored countries of Europe. From the passage of that act in 1869 the credit of the government steadily and rapidly advanced, until in all the markets of Europe it was equal to that of any other nation, without exception; but the depreciation in the price of gold was not due exclusively to the passage of that act. It was due also to the increase in the business of the country. He looked for an ultimate and not far distant equalization of our paper currency and coin; and, until that time arrived, any policy looking to a resumption of specie payment would be fraught with the greatest danger.

Mr. GORDON, (dem.) of Georgia, inquired if the gentleman believed that the general prosperity of the country, and particularly that of the producing classes, increased as the currency approached a gold value?

Mr. BOUTWELL replied that the government had never enjoyed such prosperity as during the past four years. If there had been a lack of prosperity anywhere it was caused by circumstances independent of the policy of the government. He called the gentleman from Georgia to witness that the cities of the South were more prosperous now than before the war and had increased in wealth and business.

Mr. GORDON—That is true; but my question was, "Have the producing classes grown wealthier?"

Mr. BOUTWELL—When you have demonstrated that a city is prosperous you have demonstrated the fact that such city is situated in a prosperous, labor-producing community. There are in the South a large portion of people, both white and black, who have entered upon lands they have either leased or bought, and are producing larger crops than before the war. The aggregate products of the South show the amount to be much greater than before the war.

Mr. GORDON said the increased production of cotton was not due to any great facilities which have been furnished for it, but was due to the fact that new fields, new acres were opened for cultivation, and higher latitudes, heretofore given to grass and grain, were now devoted to cotton.

Mr. BOUTWELL said the general fact remained, and indicated that the South was as prosperous a section of country now as it had been in any previous condition of its history. The Senator from Georgia demanded cheap money. If he meant by that demand to secure additional circulation of paper money for the purpose of cheapening it, he (Mr. Boutwell) would advise the Senator (Mr. Gordon) to recall his own experience in the South during the war, when they had cheap money, and went to market with a basket full of money to purchase a basket of provisions.

Mr. GORDON said that he did not mean cheap money, as the gentleman understood him, but he meant cheap interest.

Mr. BOUTWELL said that, with inflation, the interest on money would continually advance. Money grew cheap in New York in July, when business men were away in Europe or at the watering places, taking their recreation, but, as the fall came on, the demand increased and interest advanced. After the crops had been moved it became plentiful again, and interest became lower. These changes were bound to occur every year. He argued that it was possible to have a depreciated currency, and yet the paper in circulation could be nominally redeemable in coin. He opposed the free banking system. Under it the currency of the country would be vastly increased, and when the time came to resume specie payments these banks would be unable to respond. He was also opposed to the proposition of his colleague, Mr. Sumner, for convertible bonds, and expressed the opinion that it would result in contraction and hoarding of money, to the detriment of the business interests of the country. If the currency was to be contracted as a means to resume specie payment, let it be done openly, so that every business man could see what was going to be, and shape his business accordingly. Was it to be presumed for a moment that we could go into the markets of the world and purchase coin with which to redeem the legal tender notes? The whole Bank of England and the money markets of Europe combined would be arrayed against us. Great fortunes, accumulated during the war by individuals in this country, put it in the power of a few men to organize themselves to prey upon the government. It was possible for men in New York to mass for the purpose of speculation and control $10,000,000, $20,000,600 or even $30,000,000, and if the plan proposed by his colleague (Mr. Sumner) should be adopted, those men would work ruin to the Treasury by putting their money into those convertible bonds when money was plentiful, hold their bonds until a scarcity of money occurred, when they would have them redeemed, and precipitate an additional volume of currency on the country, inflaming prices and doing great damage. The plan of returning to specie payments a year from now also was very objectionable, as he had shown the government could not get gold to do it; and, if the time for a return should be fixed at a year from now, the government could not stand the shock. After redeeming fifty or a hundred millions the Treasury would have to close its doors. Enough coin could not be accumulated in the Treasury in a year to pay our notes, and it was impossible to get it from Europe. The only escape is to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to go into the markets of the country and buy our six per cent bonds at the market price with the proceeds derived from the sale of the five per cent bonds. The Senator from Missouri (Mr. Schurz) is in favor of resumption. Let him show how it can be done. He (Mr. Boutwell) had observed a disposition to put more confidence in the days future, of which we know not, than in the days present, of which we do know.

Mr. SCHURZ, (rep.) of Mo., said that the discussion now was merely upon the resolution directing the Finance Committee to report a bill, not upon the specific means for specie resumption. When the committee have reported such a bill he would discuss specific measures. There had been an inflation of the currency now amounting to $27,000,000. If this process went on, even to the extent of the $44,000,000 reserve, he was not sure but that it would be followed by events corresponding with those in New York in September last. He, therefore, thought it the duty of Congress to legislate immediately to prevent such disaster. It was not, in his judgment, the true plan to borrow money to return to specie payment; neither was it right to issue bonds to raise the money. He asked now, after a struggle of five years, in which he had performed some humble part, if it was right to attempt to strengthen the credit of this country now in the time of peace and in comparative prosperity by going into our own markets and the markets of the world begging for money to pay the current expenses of the country? There is but one remedy and one means to ward off the evil, and that is taxation. He would not say on what, but taxation must be, or else the disgrace of borrowing money to pay the expenses of the government, and, as between burden and disgrace, he would put burdens on the people of the country before submitting to disgrace.

Mr. GORDON, of Georgia, said that the Senator from Massachusetts spoke of the increased prosperity of the Southern States. He begged to refer to the fact that the cash value of farms in Georgia in 1860 was $157,000,000, and in 1870 only $94,000,000. The value of all the real estate in Georgia, including cities and farms, was $53,000,000 less in 1870 than it was in 1860. In 1860 Georgia raised 31,000,000 bushels of corn, and in 1870 only about half that quantity. In 1860 she raised 2,000,000 head of hogs, and in 1870 only 988,000.

The Senate, at five minutes past four P. M., adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1874.

REGULATION OF MARITIME COMMERCE.

Mr. HOUGHTON, (rep.) of Cal., introduced a bill to establish a uniform registry of seagoing vessels, to afford additional protection to life on shipboard and to govern rebates in duties on merchandise damaged on the voyage of importation. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

PAY OF CONGRESSIONAL REPORTERS.

The conference report on the bill to pay the official reporters was presented and gave rise to considerable discussion. Finally the conference report was agreed to.

IMPROVEMENT OF MATTAPONY RIVER.

Mr. SENER, (rep.) of Va., presented a petition from the Corn and Tobacco Exchange of Richmond, Va., and of members of the Virginia Legislature, praying for an appropriation for the improvement of the Mattapony River, Virginia. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

TAXATION OF CHECKS AND MATCHES.

Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported back adversely bills to repeal all taxation on bank checks and friction matches, and stated that there was a strong desire in the community to remove these taxes. He, therefore, instead of having the adverse reports laid on the table *sub silentio*, moved their reference to the Committee of the Whole for discussion and to make them the special order for Wednesday next.

Mr. MONROE, (rep.) of Ohio, stated that he had introduced bills to repeal the stamp tax on matches, and he therefore submitted some reasons why the adverse report should be rejected and the bill passed.

Mr. DAWES' motion was agreed to.

LEGAL TENDER CIRCULATION TO BE $400,000,000.

Mr. DAWES also reported a bill, prepared by Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, to fix the amount of legal tender notes as follows:—

Whereas the existing uncertainty as to whether the amount of legal tender notes now authorized by law to be kept in general circulation is $356,000,000 or $400,000,000 is calculated to derange the business of the country and unsettle values, be it, therefore, enacted, &c., that the provisions of law existing prior to the passage of the act approved April 12, 1866, entitled "An act to amend an act to provide ways and means to support the government," approved March 3, 1865, be and the same are hereby declared to be in force, so as to authorize legal tender notes of the United States to the amount of $400,000,000 to be kept in general circulation and the total amount of United States notes issued or to be issued shall never exceed $400,000,000.

Mr. MORTON moved to make the bill a special order in Committee of the Whole for Thursday next, and, in reply to a question, said the bill was a unanimous report of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn., chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, while disavowing any feeling of jealousy connected with the conflicting jurisdiction of the two committees, suggested that the consideration of this bill might be arranged to go on in connection with such measure or policy as the Committee on Banking and Currency might present.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., said he would like to see a little more definitiveness in this matter. This bill settled nothing as to a future policy. The mere setting down the discussion for Wednesday or Thursday fixed nothing. This bill, properly interpreted, was a legalizing of the issue of the reserve. It was a step away from resumption. In spite of what might be said here the people would so regard it. Its tendency was towards inflation, and the people should be advised about it. It was a relapse into barbarism.

Mr. Dawes' motion was agreed to, and the bill was made the special order in Committee of the Whole on Thursday next.

SAVINGS BANKS DEPOSITS.

Mr. KASSON, (rep.) of Iowa, also from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill concerning deposits in savings banks, construing the existing laws. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

BONDED STORES FOR RICE.

Mr. SHELDON, (rep.) of La., also from the same committee, reported a bill to establish bonded warehouses for the storing and cleansing of rice intended for exportation.

This bill was originally introduced by Mr. Potter, (dem.) of N. Y. After discussion the bill was passed.

CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY.

Mr. O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, presented a petition of citizens of Pennsylvania, praying for the enactment of laws directing the redemption or conversion of legal tender notes outstanding since 1862 by issuing therefor, at the option of the holder, bonds of $1,000 and its multiples, said bonds to be payable on demand in said legal tender notes, the bonds to bear interest at some fixed rate, say 3 65-100 per annum, and also that the national banks may count said bond in the reserve.

ARMY SURGEONS.

Also resolutions of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, asking for the repeal of the act of March 3, 1869, which prevents promotions or appointments in the medical department of the army, and asking for rank and emolument for protracted services.

DUTY ON FRUIT.

Mr. MYERS, (rep.) of Pa., presented the memorial of the fruit importers of Philadelphia asking that green or perishable fruit shall be placed on the free list.

The House then resumed the consideration of the WEST VIRGINIA CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

After a long discussion, and without coming to a vote, the House, at half-past four o'clock, took a recess till half-past seven.

The evening session is to be for the consideration of the bill revising and consolidating the Statutes.

Evening Session.

The evening session of the House was a very dull performance. Various amendments to the bill were offered and discussed of a technical nature, or correcting the figures of the salaries of clerks or laborers in the departments. There were not more than thirteen members present. There was not much progress made and the House adjourned at ten o'clock.

THE GERMAN REFORMERS.

Reorganization of the Central Committee for 1874.

The delegates of the German Reform organizations of the different Assembly districts, organized during the reform campaign three years ago, held a meeting at the Beethoven Maenner Hall, in Fifth street, last night, for the purpose reorganizing the Central Organization for 1874. Primary elections were held during the past week in the different Assembly districts. The Eighth Assembly district was represented by two delegations, one headed by Conrad Geib and the other by John C. Boeckel. The meeting was organized under the presidency of David M. Koehler, and when the roll had been called a resolution was passed to admit both delegations from the Eighth Assembly district. It was found that 123 delegates were present and fourteen districts were fully represented, while the rest, it was announced, had not been fully reorganized. A permanent reorganization was effected by the election of Oswald Ottendorfer as President for the ensuing year, who, in a brief address, recapitulated the object and aims of the German Reform organization, stating that its action henceforth is not to be confined to matters of municipal reform; but that, according to the new platform, its influence shall be brought to bear on State and national politics, in accordance with the principles originally adopted with reference to municipal reform. He argued that the organization probably will have occasion to exert its influence before long, in view of the present session of the Legislature.

The reorganization was completed by the election of S. D. Sewards, Dr. Charles Nette and Hermann Stemmermann Vice Presidents; Recording Secretary, George Kuester; Corresponding Secretary, A. Disbecker, and William Radde Treasurer.

THE EXPRESSMEN'S CONVENTION.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 22, 1874.

The Expressmen's Association reassembled this morning in the hall of the House of Representatives. A considerable amount of business was transacted. Chicago was designated as the place for the next meeting, in 1875. The following Executive Committee was chosen for the ensuing year:—W. Y. Yates, of Cleveland, Ohio; J. J. Valentine, of San Francisco; J. Morrill, Jr., of Philadelphia; Ely Westcott, of New Haven; C. P. Thayer, of New York. Resolutions of thanks to the various railroads of the State, the newspapers and the express companies, for courtesies extended to the association, were passed, and the Convention adjourned.

THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

A secret meeting of the Committee of Safety was held last evening at Masonic Hall, all of the members being present. They decided to give a relief ball at the New York Assembly Rooms on Monday evening for the benefit of the families of those persons who were arrested during the raid upon the working men at Tompkins square. It was also decided that the committee meet regularly every Friday evening. The members were adverse to giving any further information regarding the business transacted.

THE TOMPKINS SQUARE RIOT.

Joseph Hoefflicher, One of the Alleged Rioters, Tried in the Court of Special Sessions—He Is Sentenced to Three Months in the Penitentiary.

Never was the Court of Special Sessions more crowded with spectators than on yesterday morning—Judges Morgan, Kilbreth and Flammer presiding—when the case of Captain Edward Walsh and Officer Patrick Walton against Joseph Hoefflicher was called for alleged riotous conduct and assault and battery, on the 13th of January, in Tompkins square. The benches, aisles and passage way of the court were packed with large numbers of respectable German people, who took the most lively personal interest in the case, although to the majority of them Hoefflicher himself was comparatively a complete stranger. Captain Walsh was the first witness called to the stand. The prisoner was charged with inciting a riot. The Captain stated that there were some 2,000 or 3,000 persons hallooing and shouting, and Hoefflicher in their midst. The Captain was asked if he saw the prisoner commit any overt act. He answered, "No." Officer Patrick Walton was then called. He testified that, when ordered by Captain Walsh to disperse the crowd, he was in the rear rank and Hoefflicher was in the northeast corner of the square. He ordered him to leave, when Hoefflicher raised his cane and struck him on the arm twice.

Counsellor Price—Did you not hit him with your club?

Officer—No, sir.

Counsellor Price—Did you not knock him down?

Officer—Yes; when he struck me with the cane I took and "gave him the hand and foot" and tripped him up.

The Court questioned him as to the attendant circumstances, and he said there was a great deal of excitement and Hoefflicher was a prominent actor.

Sergeant Berchold next appeared. He saw Hoefflicher knocked down and also saw him strike Walton.

By the Court—What did Hoefflicher do? What part did he take in inciting a riot?

Sergeant—When we came forward Hoefflicher said in German, "*Arbeiter, bleibt zusammen!*" (Workingmen, stand together).

Judge Flammer—You understand German and heard him say this?

Sergeant—Yes, and I heard him say, "Don't leave the square." He was cross-examined at some length by Counsellor Price, but no proof of any overt act was shown except the lifting of the cane.

Hoefflicher was then put on the stand in his own defence. His appearance was the very opposite of that of a rioter. He is over fifty years of age, somewhat rheumatic, with a thin, attenuated countenance, indicating intelligence, and gave his testimony clearly and with apparent honesty. He said he was so far from being a leader, as charged, that he was not even a member of the society that day. He had come from Bridgeport some two months ago to look for work, being a wood turner by trade. He heard that Mayor Havemeyer was to address the people in the square that day, and went to hear him unattended. When the police made the rush on the crowd he raised his cane to avert a blow from a club, and the expressions attributed to him he denied *in toto*.

He was questioned by Judge Flammer as to his connection with labor organizations, and stated that he had never struck a man in his life unless attacked, and was educated on the principle "to live and let live."

Judge Flammer—Did you go there with any intention of fighting or exciting others to do so?

Hoefflicher—No, sir; no, sir. I went to hear Mayor Havemeyer's speech to the workingmen. I am a peaceable man, and I have been a peaceable man all my life, and I always respect the law.

After Mr. Hoefflicher left the stand three men, named George Hauser, No. 309 Broome street; Frederick Buchstorf, President of the "Gruetli Bund," and Philip Muller, came forward as witnesses to prove character. They knew Hoefflicher to be a strictly honest and industrious workingman. The association with which Hoefflicher is connected is not professedly a workingmen's association, but a social and benevolent organization, formed among the natives of Switzerland.

All the testimony being in, the Judges held a long consultation, and Judge Kilbreth addressed Counsellor Price as follows:—"Counsellor, the prisoner has been tried on the charge of inciting a riot. Are you willing that the same evidence shall stand on the charge of assault and battery?" Counsellor consented. Judge Kilbreth then delivered the opinion of the Court amid profound silence:—"Hoefflicher, on this first charge the Court are of opinion that you went to Tompkins square on the day of the riot with a peaceable purpose in view, and had no intention of inciting or taking part in any riot; but the Court feel that, while they are obliged to acquit you on the charge of rioting, you were very wrong in not pursuing a different course when the officers requested the crowd to disperse. It was your duty to obey the officers and to assist them, not to place obstacles in their way, and not to argue with them. We therefore find you not guilty on the charge of riot. On the charge of assault the Court find you guilty, and sentence you to three months in the Penitentiary." The excitement among the audience was intense on the rendition of the judgment, and some confusion ensued, which was promptly suppressed, as usual, by the officers.

A COMMUNISTIC FAILURE.

It was reported to the police that men were to proceed to the City Hall Park in small bodies, and when a large number had arrived there they were suddenly to assume the attitude of an organized meeting and present a bold and threatening front to the authorities unless their demands were granted. At one of the recent Communist meetings propositions to toss the Mayor and Police Commissioners into the river and treat the Aldermen to somersaults through their chamber windows were talked over, but

THE POLICE ARE READY

for all such little side effusions as this, and the Communists ought to remember, unless their heads are too thick, the police have most convincing methods of clinching an argument. Superintendent Matsell says he is thoroughly prepared for any demonstration these fellows may make, and as to their getting to the City Hall he has two or three movements in reserve to block that little game most effectually. Every movement of the Internationals (even the most secret) is known to the police, and there is no danger of their taking the authorities by surprise. The demonstration that was to have been made yesterday will, no doubt, be attempted another day, but the police will be ready and on the spot. Workmen should be careful to avoid these things, for nothing but trouble will come of them. President Smith, of the Board of Police, is of opinion

THESE MEN MEAN MISCHIEF,

and he is desirous to meet and decide the question as soon as possible. This constant excitement of the minds of the laboring classes is disturbing them from their labors and doing serious injury. Captain Walsh, of the Seventeenth precinct, is making daily tours of his precinct, warning men of the danger of mixing themselves up with this thing. He has been met on every side with assurances of a desire for quiet by the workmen. A corps of twenty private detectives, including eleven women, have been added to the detective squad, and all the force is at work watching and working up the doings of the Communists. The police are quite confident they are prepared for any emergency, and say the public may rest assured they are competent to deal with and strangle this monster of discord.

WORKINGMEN'S CENTRAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Workingmen's Central Council took place last evening at Masonic Hall. There was a full attendance. The Committee on Bills reported a petition to the Legislature to appoint a commission to purchase land for the people and furnish means to erect buildings, to be paid for in rent; also a bill to prevent the police authorities from preventing the people from meeting wherever they please; also apprentice and life and limb bills, and a law to license and regulate qualified engineers and to prevent unqualified engineers from working; also a bill regulating the rights of the people to supply themselves with gas independent of monopoly; also to appoint a labor bureau.

The delegates from the several trades reported work as being remarkably dull.

Much ridiculous criticism took place at the expense of the press, and whether the Chairman or any of the other members had a right to call meetings which worked in secret. Some members abused the President and the President abused the members. The Chairman was obliged to apologise for the action of a special meeting, and a member subsequently gave the Chairman the lie direct. Indeed, it was a very strange scene, and the elements of discord were so numerous that at any moment there threatened to be a free fight.

Some resolutions were proposed denouncing the capitalists and the inability of the statesmen to advance the interests of the workingmen, from their utter disregard of the prosperity of the industrial classes, &c. The resolutions were referred. It was also proposed that the workingmen form a co-operative building society.

A member proposed a resolution condemning the police for their action in Tompkins square. Another wrangle took place on this.

The Chairman said he would not countenance this resolution. Thereupon some excited speeches were made. The Chairman said the Council was a body to benefit the workingmen and not to discuss Communistic resolutions. An appeal from the decision of the Chair was put to vote, and the appeal was lost. Thereupon two members withdrew.

The row went on for some time, several members speaking on this question, no conclusion being reached when the meeting adjourned.

ENGLISH VS. AMERICAN CAVALRY.

Colonel Brackett's Reserves.

NO. 125 CLARK STREET,
CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 20, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I am somewhat surprised at the storm of indignation which has fallen about my ears on account of my criticisms of the British cavalry, which are contained in my "History of the United States Cavalry," published by Harper & Brothers, of New York city. As the writers of several letters which appeared in your paper of the 15th and of the 17th inst., under the heading of "English vs. American Cavalry," clearly know nothing of the subject they are writing about, I will proceed to show them why I believe the British cavalry are so often whipped when they go into battle.

In a book called "The Words of Wellington, collected from his letters, despatches and speeches," compiled by Edith Walford, and published in New York by Scribner, Walford & Co, in 1869, I find on the fifty-first page these words, in a letter written by the Duke to Lieutenant General Sir R. Hill:—"I have never been more annoyed than by —— ——'s affair, and I entirely concur with you in the necessity of inquiring into it. It is occasioned entirely by the trick our (British) officers have acquired of galloping at everything, and *their galloping back as fast as they gallop on the enemy.*" The italics are my own, but I consider this pretty good evidence, coming as it does from Wellington himself.

On the 351st page of Roemer's "Cavalry; Its History, &c.," published by Van Nostrand in 1863, I find General Sir Charles Napier's opinion of a British regiment of cavalry to be as follows. He says:—"A British regiment of cavalry on parade is a beautiful sight; give it six months' hard work in the field, and while the horses fail the men lose confidence. The variety of dress supersedes efficiency."

"How comes it," says Captain Nolan in his book, "if our (cavalry) system is good, that such men of less physical and moral courage, mounted on inferior animals, should have been able to cope with our English dragoons, and not seldom successfully? for at the battle of Chillianwalla they tell of a Sikh horseman *challenging the English to single combat*, and unhorsing three dragoons before he was cut down." "And what," he asks, "does a charge resolve itself into but a *mêlée* or series of single combats?"

I am sorry I have stepped inadvertently upon the corns of our English cousins, but before they write more upon this matter I would advise them to become better acquainted with the subject. I am yours, very respectfully,

ALBERT G. BRACKETT,
Lieutenant Colonel Second United States cavalry.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE BISHOPS.

The following circular letter has been addressed by the Minister of Public Instruction to the French Episcopate:—

PARIS, Dec. 26, 1873.

MONSEIGNEUR—Some of your venerable colleagues, examining the present situation of Europe and judging late events in their relations with the Catholic Church and in their action on contemporary society, have recently published pastoral letters containing expressions of views which could not fail in certain points to attract the attention of government. Occasionally, indeed, they seemed calculated to excite susceptibilities abroad which it is always regrettable to awaken. The eminent prelates who addressed to the faithful of their dioceses the letters of which I speak would be, it is true, the first to regret consequences absolutely contrary to the intentions which animate them. As a guarantee of this I need only look to the tried patriotism of which the French Episcopate have constantly offered such striking and glorious evidence. Nevertheless the government has been obliged to take notice (*a du s'émouvoir*) of these facts, Monseigneur, and it earnestly desires that they may not be repeated. Your Greatness is aware how much sympathy it entertains for the Church and the Holy See in the midst of their trials. It understands as well the anxieties of Catholic consciences, and the sorrows of which the Catholic bishops make themselves at this moment the interpreters. But these sentiments, Monseigneur, can be expressed with all the liberty and force which are suitable to them, without its being necessary to resort to attacks which might furnish ground for alarm to neighboring governments. There are between States mutual courtesies which cannot be forgotten. We are obliged everywhere to profess respect for established Powers, as we wish to claim it in our turn for the government instituted in our country by the sovereign will of the National Assembly. Is there any need to add, Monseigneur, that in the midst of the grave conflicts which to-day agitate the world it is especially by their moderation that the bishops add to the legitimate influence of their opinion, and contribute most effectually to that work of conciliation and general pacification which should be the object of our common efforts? It would be unbecoming in me to further emphasize considerations which recommend themselves to the attention of Your Greatness. I am, besides, assured that you will not mistake the motive which inspires this letter, of which I confide the purport to your prudence. Receive, &c.,

DE FOURTOU.

POLISH REVOLUTIONARY CELEBRATION.

A large meeting of Polish residents in this city was held last night at the Casino, in Houston street, to commemorate the loss of their fatherland and also in honor of the inception of the last Polish revolution in 1863. Over the platform were entwined the flags of the United States and Poland. The latter, which bore the emblem of the Polish eagle, was draped with mourning. A large number of the women present were dressed in black, and the occasion was evidently a painful one to all present. The meeting was opened by Mr. Du Laurens being appointed President, who introduced to the meeting Mr. J. E. D'Alionce, who spoke in Polish, and told at length the history of Poland's almost supernuman struggle for liberty and her eventual dismemberment. He said Germany had helped in this matter more than Russia.

Mr. M. F. Dowley then said in substance:—Countrymen of Kosciusko, your cause, like his memory, is dear to every American heart. Your meeting here to-night shows that the Polish patriots, even in exile, love their fatherland. Remember that agitation is the surest method to redress grievances, and that

Better to bleed for an age before Liberty's shrine
Than sleep but one moment in chains.

Poland, which has been erased from the list of nations, contained 15,000,000 of inhabitants. Its boundaries extended from the Bosphorus to the Danube and from the Euxine to the Baltic. Prussia, Moravia, Bohemia, Hungary, Kurland and Livonia are all remnants of Poland's several kingdoms. I need not call to the recollection of this audience the bitter and burning wrongs imposed upon Poland by its ruthless oppressors. You know too well its history and character. (Cheers.)

He was followed by Mr. Emile Raveaud, who spoke in French, and proposed that the French and the Poles, situated at the extreme points of Europe, should shake hands across Germany. He ridiculed the crumbling fabric of European powers, and advocated the solidarity of oppressed nations.

Mr. M. Markowitz then made a powerful address in German, in the absence of General Sigel, who had promised to attend. He recapitulated the struggles for liberty made by the Poles in 1831, 1846 and 1863, and hoped that in the future unhappy Poland might once more gain her liberty. With reference to the '63 revolution he mentioned its commencement at Cracow and spoke in pathetic terms of the 60,000 Poles who were slaughtered by the Russian hordes.

Before the meeting adjourned subscriptions were taken up by the Secretary for the statue of Kosciusko which is to be erected next year in Central Park. There are about 5,000 Polish residents in New York.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT SING SING.

While a number of boys were amusing themselves by "coasting" at Sing Sing on Wednesday night, two of them—one white and the other colored—in attempting to glide across the