

WASHINGTON.

A Committee Appointed to Investigate the Vicksburg Troubles.

OUR KINGLY VISITOR.

Pacific Mail Personalities in the House.

EXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS.

The Insurance Claimants of the Geneva Award.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1874. Lively Times in the House—Effort to Repeal the "Gag Law" Postponed—"Side Meat Charlie," of Alabama—The Democrats Asking Disagreeable Questions.

The House had a lively though brief day, which began with the rejection of Mr. Phelps' motion to suspend the rules in order to consider the repeal of the "Gag Law."

Prospects of the Cotton Crop. The cotton product of 1874, as estimated by the cotton growers in their returns to the Department of Agriculture, somewhat exceeds 3,500,000 bales.

Health of the President. President Grant is in his usual health and attended to official business to-day. A large number of callers were received, including many members of both houses of Congress.

The Pacific Mail Inquiry—Irwin's Anticipated Developments—Suspicious Intimations of Facts. Richard Irwin to-day arrived here by the afternoon train and will be examined to-morrow before the Committee of Ways and Means.

Some of the republicans were not well pleased with the day's work and thought that the party ought not to be placed in the false position of avoiding exposure. Others, too, were really anxious to know something about the "side meat" case and about the relations of distinguished persons to the principal actors in it.

The Senate spent the greater part of the day in quiet conversation or letter writing, while the Clerk was reading aloud the 150 or more pages in which the proposed government for the District of Columbia is described.

The Proposition to Raise the Tax on Whiskey—Its Unpleasant Effect Predicted. The proposition to raise the tax on whiskey ten cents a gallon is found to be about as good a means of increasing the revenue as Mr. Kelley's intention is of resuming specie payments.

Amount of Southern Claims to Be Paid. The report of the Southern Claims Commission to-day sent to Congress is in favor of paying \$770,000 and rejects \$4,440,000 of claims.

Exclusion of Colored Children from the Common Schools in Indiana—Appeal to the Supreme Court Through Congress. Senator Morton to-day presented a lengthy memorial from the colored citizens of Indiana, praying Congress to take cognizance of the late decision of the Supreme Court of that State, excluding colored children from the common schools.

New Railroad Projects Seeking Subsidies from Congress. The Senate Committee on Railroads were in session to-day and heard an argument from Colonel Thomas A. Scott in favor of the Texas Pacific Subsidy bill, recently introduced by Senator Scott.

The Freedmen's Savings Bank. Report of the Commissioners in Charge of the Property of the Institution—A Melancholy Exhibit of Affairs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1874. The Commissioners of the Freedmen's Savings Bank and Trust Company having prepared their report it will be presented to Congress to-morrow.

Mr. Conkling to-day introduced into the Senate a bill to amend the act for the distribution of the Geneva Award. It proposes to repeal that portion

of the twelfth section which bars the claims of insurance companies, except for the excess of losses over premiums or other gains or war risks, and provides that any insurance claimants excluded by this prohibition, shall have the like period of time within which to present and prove their claim as they would have had if not so excluded.

chaser or purchasers thereof, in whatever State, District or Territory the same may be. The bill is reported to the Treasury Department by the Finance Committee, and is now in the hands of the Senate.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS. SENATE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1874. Senator Fenton, (R. rep.) of N. Y., having called Washington yesterday, occupied his seat in the Senate to-day.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., presented a petition of the colored men of Indiana, protesting against the recent decision of the Supreme court of that State, claiming that, by the force of that decision, they are deprived of the rights of citizenship and their children of the benefits of an education, and asking that the proper law officer of the government be directed to appeal the case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, called up the bill to amend the existing customs and internal revenue laws, and to provide for the collection of the same. The bill was read and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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Mr. HANNA, (dem.) of Ga., offered a bill allowing payment of one-half of all import duties in legal tender notes or national bank notes. On a motion of Mr. Sherman, the bill was also referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., presented a memorial from the colored citizens of New York, praying Congress to take cognizance of the late decision of the Supreme Court of that State, excluding colored children from the common schools.

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AMUSEMENTS.

Booth's Theatre. The new play from the pen of Paul Féval, about which so many brilliant things were prophesied, was produced at this house last night before a crowded audience.

PROTECTION OF GAME. Monthly Meeting of the New York Association—Action to Prevent Encroachment Upon the Game Laws. The regular monthly meeting of the New York Association for the Protection of Game was held at the residence of Mr. Charles E. Whitehead, No. 64 West Thirty-third street, last evening.

Whereas Mr. William J. Hays, the Secretary and Treasurer of this association, has tendered his resignation, and has requested that the same be accepted, and that the duties of the office be discharged by the undersigned, I do hereby resign, and the same is accepted.

Resolved, That in accepting said resignation the Association is sensible of the great loss that will result from the departure of a man whose industry and energy have been so long and so faithfully devoted to the interests of the association, and that the same be accepted, and that the duties of the office be discharged by the undersigned, I do hereby resign, and the same is accepted.

Resolved, That the President be requested to convey to Mr. Hays the sincere regards of the members of the association, and to request him to withdraw temporarily from among them, and to resign the position of secretary and treasurer, the duties of which he has so long and so faithfully discharged, and to express their hope of his speedy and entire recovery.

After considerable minor business the association adjourned until the next meeting, which will be held at the residence of Mr. Charles E. Whitehead, No. 64 West Thirty-third street, on the 22nd inst.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. The New England Society held their annual meeting last evening at Delmonico's, corner of Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue. Mr. William H. Webb was elected chairman, and Mr. L. P. Hubbard acted as secretary.

The Treasurer reported that the receipts from members for the year 1874 amounted to \$3,900, and the interest on the society fund to \$2,111, making a total of \$6,011. The amount expended by the charity committee was \$2,635.50, and was for the benefit of 250 persons.

The following gentlemen were then elected officers of the society for the year 1875—President, Isaac B. Seelye; First Vice President, William Borden; Second Vice President, Daniel P. Appleton; Secretary, (for 1875) Samuel S. Constant; Treasurer, Luther B. Wyman; Secretary, L. P. Hubbard.

After the election of some forty new members Mr. Elliot C. Cowdin read a glowing eulogy on the memory of the late President, and then, in an eloquent tribute of respect to the lamented statesman, and a vote of thanks was offered by the society, and a resolution passed that the address of the President be published in the Herald.

The President then announced that the anniversary dinner would be given at Delmonico's on the 22nd inst., and that the same would be given in honor of the late President Grant, Postmaster General Jewell, Senator Conkling and Henry Ward Beecher.

THE MEMPHIS COMMITTEE. The committee appointed by the General Convention of the city of Memphis, consisting of Messrs. E. M. Apperson, G. A. Hanson, P. C. Bethel, A. J. Keilar and J. M. Keating, have arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel, where a meeting will be held at noon to-day, to confer with the holders of the city bonds.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY. The following report will show the changes in the temperature during the past twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year, as recorded at Hudson's Pharmacy, 114 Broadway, New York:—

Table with 4 columns: Date, Temperature (1874), Temperature (1875), and other weather-related data.

Richard B. Irwin, the witness in the Geneva Award case, testified yesterday for the Government in the case of the House of Representatives. It is to be hoped some relation may be elicited before that body which shall be commensurate with the trouble taken to secure this consummation of justice.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR. Richard B. Irwin, the witness in the Geneva Award case, testified yesterday for the Government in the case of the House of Representatives.