

BISMARCK AND THE HERALD.

German Opinion of the American Press Enterprises.

COMMENTS ON VON ARMIN'S CASE

The American Organ of the Ultramontanes.

Conspiracy and Slander Against the Kaiser's Empire.

[FROM THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

BERLIN, Dec. 30, 1874. The North German Gazette editorially praises the enterprise of the New York Herald in obtaining and publishing its comprehensive reports of the Kullman trial and in other matters, but attacks it strongly as being the organ of the ultramontanes in America.

THE HERALD DESCRIBED AS AN ULTRAMONTANE ORGAN.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]

LONDON, Dec. 30, 1874.

The Times this morning publishes a long despatch from Berlin, the greater part of which is directed against the Herald's course in the Von Armin affair. Quoting from the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung of Augsburg, the correspondent says the Herald is the American organ of Ultramontanism, which it specially favors, and that it has entered into a conspiracy with the late German Ambassador, Count Von Armin, to slander the German Empire.

BRITISH REGRETS AND CONSOLATION.

The Pall Mall Gazette, commenting editorially upon the matter, says it deeply regrets that the late founder of the Herald did not live to see the new dignity which has been conferred upon his journal.

It hopes the Chancellor will condescend to accept the consolation the Pall Mall Gazette thus tenders, and that after reflection he will submit.

IRONY FOR THE MAN OF IRON.

If all the newspapers took the right side, on their own statements it is proved that the German press bureau has revealed an immense amount of waste labor. But, fortunately, there are some journals which differ materially in respect to Bismarck's efforts to allure them toward his kindly German heart.

COUNT VON ARMIN AND THE PROSECUTOR APPEAL FROM THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT.

BERLIN, Dec. 30, 1874.

Count Von Armin appealed yesterday to the Kammergericht from the sentence in his case.

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S APPEAL.

The Public Prosecutor appealed before the Court.

SPAIN.

A MILITARY PROCLAMATION IN FAVOR OF ISABELLA'S SON—REPUBLICAN ACTION AGAINST THE CLAIMANT.

MADRID, Dec. 30, 1874.

General Martinez Campos has pronounced in favor of Prince Alfonso, son of ex-Queen Isabella, and, with two battalions of soldiers, is at Murviedo, in the province of Valencia.

A portion of the republican army of the Centre has been withdrawn from the pursuit of the Carlists to march against him.

ANTWERP.

THE PORT FROZEN AND NAVIGATION SUSPENDED.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]

ANTWERP, Dec. 30, 1874.

The port of Antwerp is frozen, and navigation suspended in consequence of the ice.

VENEZUELA.

PANAMA, Dec. 30, 1874.

The revolution in Venezuela is in full operation. On the 16th of November last the national forces left Caracas, under Generals Queredo and Pacheco. General Farrer had 500 men under arms.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

ARRIVAL OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ELECT—EXTENSIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 30, 1874.

Lieutenant Governor-elect Dorsheimer arrived at Congress Hall to-day from Buffalo. At twelve o'clock to-night he was serenaded by a number of liberal republicans of this city. He made a short speech in response to the compliment, thanking those assembled. He proposed a vigorous and successful policy on the part of the democratic party, and remarked that action was now required, not words. He also set forth the facts in relation to the alliance between liberal republicans and democrats, and asserted that nothing whatever could prevent them acting in common in the future. He was loudly applauded at the conclusion of his speech. Governor Tilden is expected here about five o'clock to-morrow, and extensive arrangements are being made for the inaugural ceremonies.

THE BLACK HILLS INVADERS.

SPOTTED TAIL'S BAND MEET A COMPANY OF MINERS WESTWARD BOUND.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1874.

Agent Howard, of the Weststone (Dakota) Agency, reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that some of Spotted Tail's band, on the 5th inst., met a party of twenty-one miners, with an outfit of ten horses, thirty oxen and six wagons, on Elk Creek, at the east base of the Black Hills. They were from the East and bound west to engage in mining operations on the reservation. The meeting was friendly and resulted in a good supply of rations to the followers of Spotted Tail.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ALABAMA.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 30, 1874.

Members Coburn and Beckner, of the Congressional Investigating Committee, reached here to-day. The remainder of the committee are still at Opelika, but will reach here to-morrow and remain several days.

MACMAHON'S ULTRAMONTANISM.

The Republican Governmental Reception at New Year.

WHAT WILL BE SEEN AT THE ELYSEE

The Archbishop of Paris to Take the Post of Honor.

Citizen Comment—The Assembly Slighted.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]

PARIS, Dec. 30, 1874.

The published programme of the order which is to be observed on the occasion of President MacMahon's New Year's reception at the Palace of the Elysee is much commented upon, because it is the first time since the war with Germany of such an innovation.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS IN THE POST OF HONOR.

The Journal Official announces that the President will be attended by the marshals and generals on duty, and also by Mgr. Guibert, Archbishop of Paris, who will stand beside the President.

A NATIONAL SENSATION—THE ASSEMBLY SLIGHTED.

This is the first time since the reign of Charles X. that a prelate of Paris has been so placed, and the fact of the leader of the French ultramontanes holding the post of honor causes a great sensation. Marshal MacMahon thus inflicts indirectly a slight on the prerogative of the National Assembly, although he possibly never intended to do so.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S RELATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY—A WARNING TO THE LEGISLATURE.

PARIS, Dec. 30, 1874.

President of the Assembly Buffet, M. Dufaure, Depierre Leon Say, De Kerdril, Chesnelong and the Duke de Broglie and d'Audiffret Pasquier, leaders of the various groups in the Assembly, met to-day at the Elysee, at the suggestion of President MacMahon, to endeavor to arrive at an understanding concerning the constitutional laws.

The Ministry was represented by the Duke Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Chabaud Latour, Minister of the Interior.

A settlement of the differences upon these bills is hoped for.

A SOLEMN WARNING.

A significant note is published in Le Francais warning the Assembly to fulfil its engagements.

PROFESSOR PROCTOR'S DEFENCE.

AN UNJUST AND IMPARTIAL REVIEWER REPLIED TO—AN APOLOGY THAT IS NOT AN APOLOGY.

No. 2 NORTH ROAD, CLAPHAM PARK, LONDON, Dec. 12, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I received so much kindness from American journalists during my stay in the United States that I am sure you will help to do me justice against an anonymous attack by publishing the enclosed letter in the columns of the NEW YORK HERALD.

With warm recollections of my pleasant time in your country I am, sir, yours sincerely,

RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

THE PROFESSOR ON DISHONEST CRITICISM.

I desire to bring before the bar of public opinion in America an offence recently committed against the morality of literature.

A reviewer in the Atlantic Monthly for September last, after advancing the novel doctrine that to earn money by writing on popular science is dishonest (presenting the offence as aggravated in my case by the fact that I make original researches), denounced certain of my books by name. So far he was within his right. But he specifically vilified, as though read by him, a work on the stars which was announced two years ago, and is not yet, even, fully written (pamphlet because to make it complete original researches are required, which I have not yet finished). I am satisfied (from internal evidence in his review) that he has not read the other books any more than this work. But as to those books, I can prove nothing against him. As to respects the unfinished work, however, he has been detected, I regret to say, in his misstatements. He admits in the Atlantic Monthly for December that "was an undoubted slip," and talks about a striking peculiarity in my titles (which, it appears, are like parts of a watchman's watch, as though it had caused him to mistake an unpublished work for one he had read.

There are cases where one has no right to accept an apology. If a person detected in the act of stealing my purse were to offer an apology I could not accept it, even though he said "that was an undoubted slip," and explained that "a striking resemblance had caused him to mistake my pocket for his own." A good reason would be found in the interests of the honest public to reject such an explanation. The case of the Atlantic reviewer is similar. Detected in the commission of a grave offence against literary morality he offers an apology which I cannot accept, and an explanation which no man in his senses would believe.

I leave him to the judgment of his fellow countrymen, if, indeed, he is an American (which I am inclined to doubt, noting the date of my letter, August 3, and of his reply). I bear no animosity toward him. He is unknown to me even by name, and his name would doubtless be unfamiliar to me if I made known; he has done me no harm, nor could he, even though his dishonesty had remained undetected, and assuredly he has wronged the editor and publishers of the Atlantic Monthly much more seriously than he has even attempted to wrong me. I deem it my duty, however, to bring his offence before the bar of public opinion. That duty discharged, I shall take no further notice of him.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30, 1874.

The Lyceum of Natural History, in the city of New York, desiring to record and study the phenomena connected with the earthquake of December 16, 1874, has appointed a committee to collect and arrange the ascertainable facts. As chairman of this committee the undersigned therefore requests that all persons who have precise knowledge relating to that event will please to inform him by letter in regard to the following points, viz:—

- 1. The place of observation.
2. The time of the shock.
3. The duration of the shock.
4. The nature of the motion felt.
5. The direction of the motion.
6. Any other facts observed.

All possible scientific knowledge or important discovery as to the causes and laws of such events must depend upon the careful collection and comparison of trustworthy observations. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that every person able to give any accurate information will take the trouble to forward it. Please address: Professor D. S. MARTIN, Butler's Female College, No. 459 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

THE BALLOT SOUTH.

The Congressional Investigating Committee at Work.

TAMMANY TACTICS ECLIPSED.

Farce of Republican Government in Louisiana.

EVIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES.

The Returns of a Parish Find Their Way to a Bagnio.

A Voter Registered in Fourteen Wards.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 30, 1874.

It is very evident that the troops in the city are making complete preparations to preserve the peace in case of any difficulty occurring upon January 4. Upon the other hand, the White League are perfectly quiescent, and it is now generally believed that, beyond a peaceable demonstration and solemn protest, the people will rely upon the justice of their cause for redress.

THE INVESTIGATION.

The Congressional Investigating Committee met at the Supreme Court room, in the Custom House, at two o'clock to-day and remained in session until five P. M. to-night. They resumed the investigation at half-past seven o'clock in one of the parlors of the St. Charles Hotel, where it is now progressing.

The proceedings were opened by an announcement by the chairman of the Committee that the first investigation would be the acts of the Returning Board, the next its organization and the third the conflict of the citizens with the police.

TESTIMONY OF A MEMBER OF THE RETURNING BOARD.

T. J. Anderson, a citizen of East Feliciana and a planter, was called and he exhibited a copy of the law governing elections and registration, and said:—We kept minutes of our proceedings and a statement of the returns after their examination; they are in the possession of the Secretary of State; no printed copy of minutes was made. The witness then explained the appointment of Arroyo after the resignation of Longstreet. The Board was elected by the State Senate in 1873 and the members were chosen from all parties. It was composed of one democrat, Arroyo; one conservative, Anderson, and three straight republicans. The democrats were represented by one committeeman and the republicans by another; the course of procedure was first to take the returns of the parish of Orleans, next the First and Second Congressional districts, and afterward the parishes in alphabetical order, except in cases of protested parishes.

COUNTER EVIDENCE.

F. C. Seacherie was then called and said he was selected to represent before the Board the conservative interests. General Anderson had claimed not to be a republican, but he acted with the Kellogg government. He had large pecuniary interests in the State—something like \$10,000 in bonds—which he had been assured the witness had to work through the Funding Board.

General Anderson, who was present, denied this statement.

Seacherie replied:—"You are mistaken. You told me of this circumstance yourself. You had evidently just been dining at the time and may have been excited; but the circumstance you narrated to me yourself. You said you had worked through the Legislature a claim for which you paid \$10,000. I told Mr. Arroyo of the circumstance three minutes afterward."

[Diligent inquiry develops a report that a claim for removing snags from one of the navigable rivers of Louisiana came into possession of General Anderson and was passed by the Legislature.—HERALD REPORTER.]

TRANSPARENT FRAUDS DETECTED.

The witness protested against certain judicial authority assumed by the Board and its failure to give the democratic party representation. The Board first desired to take up the parish of Orleans, on the plea that the officers desired their seats. This was met by a resolution of the officers elect declining to accept their offices until a full canvass had been made. The returns of Orleans were perfectly fair. The few votes excused did not change the result. Some frauds were attempted in the First and Second Congressional districts, but were so bunglingly done as to be easy of detection. After the two Congressional districts had been canvassed all the precedents which could have been established were detected.

Upon that every possible contingency which could have arisen must have come up. After this a change occurred. When a country parish came up for canvass all that was necessary was for a member of the Republican Committee to object, and the canvass was laid aside. The law requires that a protested return must be laid aside and the protest examined. If the protest was sustained the return cannot be counted. The Board, after entertaining the protest, proceeded to make the canvass. When objections were made they said it was not a canvass or a compilation, although the vote was put down like the rest and they were actually compiled.

EVIDENCES OF FRAUD ABSTRACTED.

During this compiling frauds were discovered. There were some in St. Helena, Sabine and Assumption parishes. Some of the papers were made out anew, and many evidences of fraud were abstracted.

The Supervisor of De Soto parish, with the returns giving a democratic majority of 1,000, failed to put in an appearance. Duplicate returns were obtained from the Clerk of the Parish Court, but the Board declined to receive them. The originals, it is said, were in the possession of a prostitute, who offered them to the Democratic Committee for \$1,000. A mandamus was taken before Judge Hawkins, but he declined to grant it. The box in the parish of Atchoula was not counted. The republicans claimed 123 majority. The democrats thought it about even. The Board gave 150 republican majority.

INTIMIDATION.

After the Board canvassed and compiled the entire State it went into secret session, when were considered the general charges of intimidation. No opportunity for offering rebutting testimony was permitted. Affidavits were abstracted and they proceeded to throw out the largest democratic polls. By the democratic returns we had a majority of only 31 in the House and 4,000 for Treasurer. By the returns there were 52 democrats, 54 republicans and 1 independent in the House.

The witness referred to intimidation and fraud, in which conservative negroes were driven from the polls. The witness thus cast doubt upon the local offices, but not counted in aggregate. The United States marshals, by threats of arrest, drove many white men from the polls, when protests were made and one case was given where colored republicans armed themselves and drove conservatives away, but the latter was not considered. Some of the parishes thrown out were overwhelmingly democratic.

In Natchitoches over fifty affidavits

DISPROVING INTIMIDATION

were offered and rejected. Offers were made to prove that the parties swearing to intimidation did not reside in the parish, but the evidence was not received.

A REPUBLICAN ATTORNEY.

John Kay, a republican attorney, was then sworn and said the Board followed what they considered

to be the law. Great informality was exhibited in all the returns of the parish of Orleans. If exceptions had been taken the entire vote would have been thrown out. A rule was adopted where no intimidation or fraud were used to waive informalities. There were no protests from this parish and but one charge which was not proved in examining. In country parishes where there were objections to the polling places the returns were laid over for a final canvass. The object of the laws was to first ascertain whether the protested polls would affect the general result. All the affidavits showed the Evergreen poll to be largely republican. The De Soto vote was not counted, because the Supervisor made no return. The Board declined to receive a duplicate, because it did not come through the proper channels. The Supervisor retains other papers not entrusted to the clerk. The primary being settled, four returns from Grenville were also refused; can't say where the missing Supervisor is or what became of him.

Question by committee—Suppose that a majority of a very large number of supervisors were to fail to send in their returns, what would be the result?

Answer—Under the precedent established the vote could not be counted. The reason why the Court did not grant the mandamus is because there are but two modes of procedure here in election cases under the intrusion act, in which the certificate of the Board is prima facie evidence of authority and by writ of quo warrantum, in which testimony is taken concerning the conduct of the election. A motion was made, and unanimously adopted, to strike from the record that portion of the testimony relating to the status of General Anderson, that gentleman admitting that for two years he had affiliated with the Kellogg government.

MR. ARROYO'S EVIDENCE.

Oscar Arroyo, being sworn, described his connection with the Board and the plan adopted up to the canvass of the First and Second Congressional districts. He complained that protests were offered by the republican counsel which had never been thought of by registrars, many of these were unsupported by affidavits. At this Judge Dibble stated that their defence was made on the hypothesis that since the war and at the present time the republican party had a majority of from 10,000 to 20,000, no positive means could be taken that majority be overcome. All violence, bloodshed, fraud and rascality has been in an attempt of the democrats to effect this. He promised to establish this fact to the satisfaction of any three fair-minded men and upon this rest his case.

AFTER A SHORT DEBATE

the committee took a recess. He offered to telegraph when the returns of De Soto were found missing, but the proposition was refused. When he produced the duplicate returns the Board refused to open them. They were found to be signed by the Supervisor and identical with the originals during the entire canvass not a protest was read after the canvass was made. The President would say, "There is a protest; lay it aside." And such was done. In executive session Wells was the most arbitrary man I ever saw in my life. I had to be taken in the most outrageous manner. He would take his gun and walk up and down the room, threatening; I heard nothing but what all the time. We were surrounded by police, and might have been murdered without my friends knowing it.

EVENING SESSION.

S. P. Packard, United States Marshal, sworn, said:—I am chairman of the Republican State Committee; I was a member of the Advisory Board organized by the two parties after September 14, which continued some time after the close of the registration; this Board had charge of all matters of registration and election. We attempted to secure a fair registration and election, if possible. I heard several complaints from different parts of the State. I know that it was an endeavor to have a fair registration and the Governor agreed that the opposition should have a clerk at each office. Certain parties were removed upon the complaint of the democrats. There were generally satisfactory reports from the republicans. The registration complaints came from St. Martin's and the Red River parishes. In the latter locality there were numerous complaints. There were about 15,000 more black men registered. From St. Martin's reports came to me that the parish was being patrolled by white men at night. One of my marshals with some United States troops were met and halted by the patrol. It is claimed that this diminished the registration 300. In the Red River parishes it can be shown that large numbers were prevented from voting through fear. In that locality there are four Congressional districts. The Fourth Congressional district in 1870 went about 5,600 republican majority in 1872 the vote was about the same as at this time. There was not so much intimidation used as at that time. The tactics of the two years were entirely different. I had a deputy marshal in Natchitoches for several weeks after the election. He reported a very bad condition of affairs. I sent to these parishes—St. Martin, Rapides and Natchitoches—some of my most trusted men. At St. Martin one man was arrested. Express instructions were given that no interference should be made with their votes, but of course the deputies had

NO CONTROL OVER THE PARTIES

who gave ball. The parties are all under bonds to appear before the United States Court. There were no arrests made for the purpose of intimidation, although the charge was very generally made. Complaints were made in the parish of St. Martin because the registrar failed to confine himself to the white settlements. I am not aware that there were any general complaints; but there were some in Lincoln parish. I regard the marching and drilling of an organization known as the White League as being cause for intimidation among both white and black republicans. For some time after the election it is impossible to form an accurate idea of the results. Republicans thought they had carried the State. A disagreement caused the resignation of the umpire of the Advisory Board, who had charge over registration, the Governor agreeing to act upon their suggestions. My impression is there was a representative of the democratic party in every registration office in the State, and certainly at every polling place. Bienville, which in 1872 gave 400 republican votes, did not give one this year. My information is that the blacks who were registered were afraid to vote. They have no doubt that some blacks voted the democratic ticket and some white republicans failed to vote. Previous to the late outbreak it was plainly apparent that an organization, known as the White League, existed. They drifted in the streets generally without arms. The attention of the Advisory Board was called to the fact, and, at the suggestion of the democratic members, the drilling ceased. The organization has never been disbanded, but very many have joined it since September.

WITNESS BELIEVES THAT NO REPUBLICANS BELONG TO IT, AND CERTAINLY NO COLORED MEN. THEY

DRILLED CONSIDERABLY.

After the 14th day of September there were three regiments of federal troops in the State and three or four troops of cavalry. There was a review of the troops very early one Sunday morning before the election. The White League occupied the State House after the Kellogg government got out of it. There was only one company here on the 14th, who came at my instance from Jackson. Had the troops now here been here then there would have been no change in the government. It is reported that the White League exists throughout the State, and particularly in Cadeo and St. Martin. It consists of companies, regiments, brigades and divisions. Some are organized as militia under the McHenry government. I stated before a Congressional committee more than a year ago that in all States wherein the blacks were in the majority it required the presence of troops to sustain them on election day. Troops were stationed at the Marine Hospitals, at police stations and at the Custom House. The idea was to keep the peace, but prevent the soldiers from going near the polls. Affidavits were made against parties at Shreveport threatening to discharge

laborers for voting the republican ticket. Has heard that intimidation had been used in Cadeo, LaCrouche, Iberia and St. Mary's by threats of discharge. The press here are endeavoring to arrange which would advance the interests of their party.

A SENATOR'S EVIDENCE.

W. G. White, recently elected Senator, from New Orleans, was then called, and said:—"During registration canvassers were placed at each registration office to follow persons home and ascertain if their statements were correct. Three hundred persons between Canal and Esplanade streets were found to have given their residences in vacant lots. Two colored clubs of 150 each voted the conservative ticket. His information is that between 1,500 and 1,600 colored men voted the conservative ticket. One hundred and eighty white men in one ward were arbitrarily stricken off the roll, all of whom were deprived of a vote. The witness' testimony went to show that general dissatisfaction prevailed in the country parishes.

BALLOT BOX STUFFING.

Clay K. Noblock, a resident of Thibodaux parish, Lafourche, was then sworn, and said that at the election in his parish a detachment of troops was within twelve yards of the polling place, who remained during the whole day. The republicans stuffed the ballot boxes before six o'clock in the morning. He knew of over 120 colored men voting the conservative ticket. These frauds did not affect the local result. Eight months ago the blacks armed themselves, but two years before we had armed ourselves with Winchester rifles.

A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

E. A. Burke, sworn, said:—I was at one time a member of the Advisory Board. I remained until the returns of registration compelled me to take charge of the other committee. I had a plan prepared of every block in New Orleans, containing every house, church, schoolhouse and vacant lot. I had a duplicate registration and 175 men constantly employed. I discovered 6,000 fraudulent votes registered. I found one man registered in fourteen wards, others in five and six wards, and in one case a man was registered five times in one ward. Affidavits were prepared and the registrars were requested to strike names from the list. They refused to do so, but I heard of the names of 1,500 white persons being stricken from the list. It was agreed in the Advisory Board to have a revision of the registration, charges to be preferred of fraud on either side, but no action was taken. The only check he had on the registration was the presence of a democratic clerk to every office, but none were put out and they gave them any insight into workings of the registration.

FIRST CASES TO BE TAKEN.

The committee then went into a discussion of a proposition before made, that two or more parishes be selected as test cases, witnesses from each ward being selected, whether they be listed or not. Rapides and Cadeo parishes were decided upon. The committee here went into executive session.

WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1874.

THE PACIFIC MAIL DEVELOPMENTS.

The Pacific Mail investigation attracts more and more interest here, and private despatches are received giving the salient points of the day's work. People who pretend to know wondered to-day why the committee limited their inquiries made of Mr. Rogers so strictly to the year 1872, and why they did not require him to produce the conditional contract to build two new steamers of 4,000 tons each, referred to in the testimony of Hatch and Sage, the condition being either expressed or implied that the subsidy should be "saved." It is said that the company claim that this contract expired November 2, while Hatch claims that it is absolute.

THE FALSE SYNOPSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE GIVEN BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS—A MYSTERY.

Reuter's New York agent having justified himself for his false report of the paragraph in the Message relating to Cuban affairs, by showing that he took it from the synopsis of the Message sent out by the Associated Press, a good deal of curiosity is felt here to know how the head of the Associated Press was deceived. No one suspects him of doing wrong. Everybody is sorry that he was the victim of what proved to be a grand fraud. He will not give up his authority to inquire here, pretering, it is supposed, to answer only to his employers, the members of the Associated Press in New York. To those who question him here he replies that he has friends; that the President speaks freely with his own intimate friends, and that it was, on the whole, a very sensible synopsis of the Message. He adds a solemn assurance that the statement did not misrepresent the Message and did not seek to have it made; but when asked by a person who was strongly desirous to have the President and his associates entirely cleared of suspicion to say that he did not get his information from the White House, the agent plumply refused to make such a statement. It is unfortunate that he cannot or will not give a satisfactory assurance on this point. That the President should confide to the agent of the Associated Press the contents of a forthcoming Message is not an unusual proceeding. Such a thing has been done with two previous annual Messages, and each time the synopsis was correct. It is the more remarkable that this time the Associated Press agent should have been deceived, and should have been used to deceive the public.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MAIL SERVICE FOR NEW YORK CITY—ADDITIONAL TIMES OF DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF LETTERS.

Postmaster James, of New York, was here to-day, by order of the Postmaster General, to arrange for the more frequent collection of letters from the mail boxes in New York, and it has been determined that there shall also be two more daily letter deliveries—at seven in the morning and seven in the evening. Besides these there will be, as soon as arrangements can be made, a Sunday morning delivery above Canal street, which will be a great convenience to the residents and to visitors at the hotels. The letters will be delivered about nine o'clock Sunday morning. There will also be an additional Sunday collection in the afternoon made of mail boxes in New York, and it has been arranged by general proclamation that a sixty page pamphlet, which will be as soon as the additional force can be put on, New York will enjoy a more prompt delivery of letters than any other city in even London. The Sunday afternoon collection of letters will enable all letters then gathered to go by the Sunday evening mails.

THE NEWSPAPER POSTAGE REGULATION.

Stamps for prepaying printed matter in bulk will be sold to publishers and news agents, to be applied by them to the bags containing their mail matter, under the new law.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1874.

PACIFIC RAILROAD LIABILITIES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The respective dates of service of the demands made by the Treasury Department upon the various Pacific railroad companies for payment to the United States of the five per cent on their net earnings, required by the act of July 1, 1862, were as follows:—

On the central branch of the Union Pacific Company, November 11, 1874; Sioux City and Kansas Pacific, November 11, 1874; Union Pacific, November 12; Pacific Coast, November 14; and the Central Pacific Railroad Company, November 24, 1874.

The companies have, respectively, sixty days from these dates within which