WASHINGTON.

Statements of Whitley and Hayes Regarding the Safe Burglary.

FURTHER IMPLICATION OF BABCOCK.

The Cardinal Point in the Defence of General Belknap.

ONE PRESENT TAKER AS GOOD AS ANOTHER.

Republican Fear of Establishing an Unpleasant Precedent.

PENNSYLVANIA AND THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1876.

GENERAL BELKNAP'S DEFENCE—AN OFFENCE AGAINST PROPRIETY SIMPLY—REPUBLICAN FEARS OF AN INCONVENIENT PRECEDENT—WILL THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT BE ENTERTAINED?

It is understood that the chief points which will be made in defence of Belknap by his counsel on the impeachment trial will be:—First, that his resignation placed him beyond the reach of impeachment, on the ground that this process is designed to remove a criminal from office and not to punish one who has already abandoned his place; and second, that the charges in the articles of impeachment, even if fully proved, do not constitute a high crime or a misdemeanor. It will be contended in behalf of General Belknap that all that is charged in the articles of impeachment is a matter of taste and propriety, not of criminality, and that the Senate has no jurisdiction to try a citizen for an infraction of mere decorum or official propriety.

A republican alarmist remarked to-day that the consequences of submitting Mr. Belknap to trial by impeachment might become very serious, as, he said, the democrats could and perhaps would in that case go on and impeach other persons. He said:—

"If they can induce the Senate to hold that a citizen may be impeached after he is out of office for malfeasance in office they will impeach ex-Attorney General Williams and several other ex-officials; and if they can induce the Senate to hold that the articles of impeachment against Belknap are sustainable they will impeach General Grant." He added:—

"The articles against Belknap, when carefully analyzed, amount simply to this, that he, as a superior officer, accepted presents from an inferior subject to his removal. If the Senate shall hold this to be an impeachable offence then the House could impeach the President for the present of a gold watch from General Ingalls to Mrs. Grant, and it remains to be seen whether the Senate will decide that receiving a present under these circumstances is a high crime and misdemeanor within the meaning of the constitution. If not Belknap must be acquitted; but if the Senate decides this question in the affirmative the democrats can impeach Grant. What are high crimes and misdemeanors the constitution does not declare, but all contemporary history and all commentators upon the constitution declare that the high crimes and misdemeanors contemplated by the constitution are those flagrant and enormous offences which endanger the life of the government and the security of the community, and it may well be contended that the offence charged against General Belknap does not rise to the magnitude and importance to justify an impeachment."

But it can be safely said that nothing is further from the thoughts of the democrats than to impeach the President, no matter how good a case they might be able to make against him. They hold that he is a burden upon the republicans, of which they do not mean to relieve them, and that, for this and higher causes, they would regard it as a calamity even to have to discuss the propriety of impeaching him.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION—GROWING FEELING IN FAVOR OF A FOUR PER CENT LONG BOND.

The currency question is not likely to be settled until late in the session, but there is good reason to believe that a bill substantially providing for the issue of a four per cent long bond, with which to extinguish the greenbacks, at a very moderate rate of a million or perhaps two millions per month, will become a law at this session. There is a growing feeling in favor of such a measure, and a belief that, while it would be very successful and cause no monetary derangement, but the reverse, the enactment of such a law would at once restore confidence all over the country and do very much to revive business and industry everywhere. There is no doubt that the plan is approved by prominent business men all over the country, a great many of whom are writing here to urge its adoption on the grounds above stated. They urge that such a measure, mild, yet effective, would improve our credit at once, give confidence to capitalists and lead them to begin new enterprises and thus give employment to labor.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL—USELESS ALARM OF MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS.

Importers and other merchants from different parts of the country are showing a good deal of anxiety about the tariff, and so many inquiries are made here about the shape in which this measure is likely to pass that it is evident commerce is already disturbed by the fear and anticipation of coming changes. These fears are needless. It is not probable that any Tariff bill will be passed at this session. It is quite possible that the bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means may, with further amendments, pass the House, but the republicans in the Senate are not likely to act upon it this session. They will probably lay it over until next December, when they can take it up as unfinished business and then do what shall at that time seem expedient to them. There is but little cause, therefore, for business men to make themselves uneasy about tariff changes, for it is not likely that the new Tariff bill can become a law.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1876.

THE SAFE BURGLARY CASE—CAREER OF THE CONVICT MILES—INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL WHITLEY—REITERATION OF THE STORY OF BABCOCK'S GUILT—MIKE HAYES' STORY.

The confession of the convict Miles in this morning's HERALD was deeply entertaining reading here in Washington, where the safe burglary case possesses such great local interest, and the account was devoured from beginning to end. Miles is a character in his own way, outside of his connection with the safe burglary conspiracy. He is a wealthy man, according to report, and is said to own about $100,000 worth of real estate in New York, including a brown stone house on one of the uptown fashionable avenues. He is known to fame and the police under the five different names of Miles, Bliss, White, Wilson and Williams. Under the name of Bliss he was convicted of complicity in the Ocean Bank robbery in New York a good many years ago, and was serving his time in Sing Sing when Whitley had him pardoned out to go to Washington and operate the safe burglary. This pardon was procured from Governor Dix, who was moved to grant it on a letter of Whitley and indorsed successively by Solicitor Banfield and Attorney General Williams, Whitley telling Governor Dix that Miles was wanted as a witness in some government cases of great importance warranting the exercise of clemency. Whitley had the pardon sent to himself and held it, as alleged, to stimulate Miles to perform the safe burglary. He got away from Washington, but was not long at liberty, one of his confederates in the Barre Bank robbery, in Vermont, giving him up as the principal in the transaction, and which led to his arrest and present incarceration.

Whitley was interviewed at the St. James Hotel to-night and made the following statement:—

The story that is told by Hayes is all a lie fixed up by Hayes in the first place, and he will say that he can back it up; but I will break it down by documentary evidence. My papers are not here, but I will get them. I want to say that I never keep dates, but in this case it is a matter of record and can be proved. I never saw Hayes in New York to my recollection. I only met him once and hardly know him, and do not know that I would be able to recognize him now. I did not come to Washington to back up Hayes's lories. I came to tell the truth and have no object in keeping anything back. All that he asserts about my being in New York with him is an intentional mistake. The dinner referred to by Collector Simmons was given by me at my house in Cambridge, and I was not in New York at all at that time. At first I did not remember about it, but when I went to work and got the facts and refreshed my recollection, as any detective would, I found there could be no doubt about the dinner and my presence at it. The guests must have stayed late after the dinner and it was utterly impossible for me to have got away. If I had taken the first train that leaves Boston in the morning I could have reached New York at five o'clock in the afternoon. I do not remember of meeting Mr. Hayes, but if I did it was later than five o'clock and could not have been in the morning as he says. But, to tell the truth, I do not remember of meeting him at all.

Whitley then went on to explain the difference between his statement of two years ago and the one made the other day. He said:—

My testimony in 1874 was a technical evasion, with a mental reservation made while I was under actual duress. I could not have testified to anything else. I was threatened that if I came out I would be made to suffer the severest penalties. I was obliged to testify as I did just as you would be to save your neck from the halter. When I first heard of the safe burglary I I thought it was in Shepherd's office. I got that idea from some of his connections, but not from Shepherd personally; and it was on this that I had ground for evasion, so that when they asked me in regard to the burglary I could save myself by technically evading it.

Whitley was asked in regard to Miles, the burglar, now in prison in New Hampshire, and whose statement implicating Babcock appeared in the HERALD yesterday. Whitley said:—

I know Miles. I believe that his statement is materially true. Of course I do not recollect his coming into my office in Bleecker street, New York. There is no use in hiding the facts. Babcock has been playing a double game all along. My testimony can be corroborated in more than twenty different ways. I want to say that the HERALD has been the best friend the Secret Service ever had, and it is the only paper that has recognized it. It will make a great mistake if it thinks that Babcock is innocent. I know what I am talking about. My record is good and can be sustained. I have dined and been intimate with the leading members of the government here, and they all know me. When I worked for them they called me an honest man and I was feasted and made much of, but now that I am telling all the truth they call me a States' Prison bird. I made more than 300 arrests while I was in New York, and the HERALD repeatedly published lists of them and acknowledged the value of my services. Babcock was one of the chief leaders of the safe burglary enterprise. Bluford Wilson came in, and I told Babcock that it was a dangerous thing to let new men come around; he might make damaging discoveries. Babcock said:—

"You (Whitley) throw sand in his eyes and I will work behind him. You work him in front and I will hug him to death. I think that I can handle him."

In fact, said Whitley, they did take Bluford Wilson to Long Branch, if I am not mistaken. I won't say that they wined and dined him but I will say that when he came back from Long Branch he told me that Babcock had a good many friends, strong friends, and must be all right and that he could not be in the safe burglary conspiracy as was alleged. The truth is Babcock and his friends at Long Branch pumped Bluford Wilson clean out, and I have no doubt if you go to him now he will confirm this. I do not care particularly about Babcock. I don't want to hurt him but I shall tell the truth and I have, your honors, and I have done so before the committee.

Mr. Whitley was asked if the burglar Miles was pardoned so that he could be used in the safe burglary transaction. Mr. Whitley said:—

Miles was pardoned a year or eighteen months before the safe burglary was committed; his pardon was a fair, square, straightforward transaction; he was pardoned at my request; the facts are these:—In 1869, or 1870, $20,000 had been stolen from the United States Treasury; I worked up the case and traced part of it down to Miles; I don't mean that he stole the money, but I knew that he had it in his possion; part of the money was in the Stuyvesant Bank in New York and I got out an estoppel; it was doubtful whether I could hold it; finally Miles, through his counsel, explained to me that he did not steal the money, but received it from another party and was willing to give it up, and also to give me the information that would lead to the detection of the parties who did steal it; I recovered $8,500; Miles agreed to turn the guilty party over to justice and to get the money; then at my suggestion the man was pardoned.

In conclusion, Whitley repeated that Babcock was not only deeply and personally implicated in the safe burglary, but he was guilty of the other offences of a similar nature and in each case he was the chief conspirator. Colonel Whitley said that the facts concerning them would be brought out and corroborated by documentary evidence in due time, showing that a plot was laid to kidnap not only Dana, but other well known gentlemen who were not friendly to General Babcock's management of District affairs.

MIKE HAYES IN DEFENCE OF HIMSELF AND HIS STATEMENT—THE BOSTON ALIBI EXPLAINED.

Mike Hayes, who claims to have been employed by Whitley to conduct the safe burglary, was found to-night at a small hotel in Pennsylvania avenue, and interviewed on the subject of the great conspiracy. By mistake he has been confounded with Miles, in the representations made to Proctor Knott's committee, and is very indignant at the statement which appears in the papers, and states most positively that he was never convicted of a crime in his life and never was in any Penitentiary, and consequently was not pardoned out. The only difficulty Hayes was ever mixed up with was on account of a charge of murder in 1872, during the spring of that year in New York city, from which he was promptly acquitted by the jury, who never left their seats. Hayes further says that in the charge Recorder Hackett stated that the only doubt in his mind was whether such a crime was ever committed at all.

The great regret of Hayes now is that he ever had any connection with Whitley, as he was doing a lucrative business in No. 80 Henry street, New York city, keeping a respectable public house. He says that he has ample corroborative evidence to prove that what he has heretofore stated in his testimony in regard to Whitley and the important telegram of April 7, 1874, is true, and that in due course of time, at the proper moment, he will show the integrity of his position so far as he has made declarations, no matter what construction may be placed upon them. He has nothing at stake but his reputation, which he can take care of, but he will show that Whitley, in view of his perjury and falsifications, if justice is meted out to him, will have great difficulty to keep out of the Penitentiary himself. He reiterates in a very clear manner that everything he has done heretofore in this investigation, coupled with his statements, have been consistent. He does not desire to go into the merits of the case technically now, as it may interfere with the successful conduct of the investigation by the Grand Jury here and the Congressional committee.

He avers that the action of Whitley is inspired by the hope of saving himself from going to the Penitentiary by making some one else a scapegoat. Further, he argues that the point which is made by Whitley that, on account of his having been at a dinner with Mr. Simmons and his friends in Boston on the 5th, he could not therefore be in New York to receive the telegram of the 7th of April is simply absurd, as he could readily in the meantime be in New York.

Hayes exhibited his diary showing that the telegram was sent at 3:45 P. M., charges forty cents, on the 7th of April, which was directed to Hiram C. Whitley, No. 56 Bleecker street, New York, and which he receipted for, as shown by the messenger's book of the Western Union Telegraph Company at the Metropolitan Hotel, which was exhibited on the witness stand during the trial, in November, 1874.

When asked what he thought about the statement of Miles, the burglar, now in a Vermont prison, as published in the HERALD of to-day, he said in reference to his interviews with Babcock previous to the burglary it is not so. * "I do not seek to exonerate Babcock in the matter, but I do not like to see people covered with dirt. I have no doubt that his statements in regard to other persons mentioned are correct, but I do not, of my own knowledge, know such to be the case."

He closed in a firm, apparently frank and straightforward manner by saying:—

"I make this statement to you the same as if I was under oath. It does not do for a man to make statements in an affair of this kind which he cannot substantiate.

THE TAXATION OF NATIONAL BANKS—A REDUCTION SOUGHT FOR BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—THE EXISTING INJUSTICE AS STATED BY THEM.

A number of bankers appeared before the Committee of Ways and Means to-day, representing national banks in different sections of the country. The following named gentlemen appeared:—Messrs. John E. Williams, of New York; E. G. Spaulding, of Buffalo; William H. English, of Indianapolis; Charles B. Hall, of Boston; D. J. Fallis, of Cincinnati; R. C. Calhoun and George F. Baker, of New York; E. B. Judson and Andrew G. White, of Syracuse; S. J. Norris, of Baltimore, and F. B. Loomis, of New London. The first five named gentlemen addressed the committee on the subject of reduction of the government tax on deposits of banks. The points of the argument they submitted were as follows:—

The taxation of war times is still imposed on the banks, while taxation on all other business was removed years ago. The banks are feeling the burden of taxation heavily, on account of the several reasons of the panic of 1873, the prostration of business, the shrinkage of values of stocks, of goods and of almost all kinds of property; the large number of failures all over the country, entailing heavy losses upon the banks, and the great loss of interest by the banks in being compelled to keep twenty-five per cent of all deposits locked up without interest.

The committee went on to suggest that if the bank acts were amended as asked for the banks would still have to pay on circulation $3,000,000, more or less. Bank franchises, under the present burden of taxation imposed by the federal government and the States, are getting to be of little value. About 600 banks had voluntarily wound up or had deposited equivalent legal tenders for the purpose of retiring their circulation.

It will be seen that the committee's views of the national banking business are not what the public in general entertain of it.

SENATOR CAMERON ON THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION—PENNSYLVANIA FOR HARTRANFT "IN EARNEST—A GENERAL GOOD FEELING TOWARD EVERYBODY EXCEPT GRANT.

Senator Cameron, who has just returned from Pennsylvania, where he has been looking over the political field, in a conversation to-day expressed himself somewhat guardedly on the subject of the candidacy for the next Presidency. He said that of course his State was for Hartranft solid, and that this was a sincere and positive expression of the political feeling of Pennsylvania, as was manifested in the unequivocal instructions given to her delegates to the National Convention. Hartranft, he added, was a very shrewd, cautious and sensible man; having made no mistakes, he had given great satisfaction to the people of Pennsylvania, and, added Mr. Cameron in positive terms,

I am, of course, therefore, for Hartranft. But it is wonderful how much strength Senator Conkling has been developing within the last few days, and so does Governor Morton display strong evidences of a hearty support. I like Morton very much; he has stood up so handsomely and done so well. I have admired him a great deal and so do my people; of course, Senator Conkling will make an excellent President, and if he has the support of President Grant and the White House influence, of course it will give him a good, strong start. But I am not satisfied that Conkling has yet fully and unequivocally secured the influence of President Grant. I, of course, expect nothing of Grant; he has behaved so badly to my State and acted so indifferently in my own relations with him.

Mr. Blaine has some friends also in Pennsylvania who are about equally divided between him and Mr. Hartranft, but I am for General Hartranft and as he is the choice of my State and her people I am bound to support him.

Running over the field, then, of general political matters which were discussed and commented on in conversation with your correspondent, the aged statesman expressed freely. Senator Cameron is quite alive to the merits of the various candidates and being in excellent health, weighing forty pounds more than he ever did before, will undoubtedly take a lively part in the pending canvass for the selection of a nominee.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER CASE—THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BE LOOKED AFTER.

The Credit Mobilier matter is to be revived and an effort will be made to ascertain and secure the interests of the government in its inferential claim against the Union Pacific Railway Company. A resolution to this effect was offered to-day by Mr. Hoar, the Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member, being instructed to advise what action is necessary in this direction, as well as to report whether the charter of the road has not been forfeited. Some proceedings in the Credit Mobilier suit on the part of the United States were taken in one of the courts of New Haven a year or two ago, but the case appears to have been dropped or gone to sleep. Mr. Hoar's resolution will give the democratic House a chance to order a prosecution of this suit to a conclusion of some sort.

THE RECEPTION OF THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.

As Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, has positively declined any public ceremonies or reception in his honor on his arrival in this country, the government has decided to make no demonstration beyond a mere recognition of his rank and presence. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy will go to New York and await his arrival. After he has rested a few days they will return with His Majesty on a special train composed of the finest drawing room coaches on the Continent. The only ovation to be tendered him here will be a dinner, given by the President, at the White House.

THE HOSPITALITIES OF THE NATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF PERU.

A resolution was introduced in the House to-day and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs to consider the proper measures for receiving and entertaining the President of Peru on his visit to these shores. General Banks says that he has conversed with several leading democrats to-day about the matter, and he finds that they are inclined to be liberal, and he has no doubt that Congress will authorize the committee to use the funds necessary to pay the expenses of extending the hospitalities of the government to both its distinguished guests.

LECTURE ON THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

President Andrew D. White, of Cornell University, lectured to-night at Willard Hall on the currency question, to a very select audience.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1876.

COMPULSORY PILOTAGE—AN ADVERSE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE—INJUSTICE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

Representative Pierce to-day submitted a report from the Committee on Commerce on the several bills and memorials which had been referred to it relating to compulsory pilotage. The report discusses at length the powers of Congress under the constitution to legislate on the subject, and cites existing State statutes to show there is a great want of uniformity in the laws and the regulations to which sailing vessels entering our ports are subject, in the matter of pilotage. In many of the States the laws still continue to discriminate in favor of vessels sailing between certain ports, which is clearly contrary to the provisions of the United States statute of 1866. In New York, although there is no law on the subject the pilots have an understanding by which vessels owned in Suffolk county are exempted from the payment of fees unless for services actually rendered. In some States there is a discrimination against national armed vessels which is also contrary to the act of 1866, and in a bill now before the Assembly of New York, revising the charges for pilotage at Sandy Hook, national armed vessels are charged $6 per foot for draught.

The principal, in fact the only, argument upon which the opponents of any change in the present system or want of system rely is that the pilot organizations which at present exist at the principal ports cannot be maintained in a state of efficiency unless the compulsory payment of fees is continued. That there would not be a sufficient inducement for trained pilots to hold themselves in readiness for service when called upon, and that, as a consequence, those vessels which required the services of a pilot could not depend on having their requirements met, and navigation would be attended with greater risks to life and property than it is at present. But it has been shown by the experience at New York during the period between 1845 and 1853, when vessels entering by the way of Sandy Hook were not subject to any regulations, concerning the employment of pilots, that the compulsory system is not needed to secure efficiency in the service. The experience on the coast of Maine, the most dangerous on the Atlantic seaboard, has also demonstrated the fact that even in the less frequented ports it is not necessary to tax vessels which do not require pilots in order to maintain an organization for those who do require them. The vessels engaged in the coastwise trade and the fisheries are owned largely by persons of moderate means, and the master generally has an interest in the vessel or the cargo. Where there is any doubt on the part of the insurers as to the capacity of the master to judge of the expediency of employing a pilot on entering or leaving a harbor, they can insert a provision in the policy of insurance requiring the vessel to take a pilot.

It is stated that the average capacity of vessels engaged in the coastwise trade is about 350 tons each. On that basis the charges for pilotage would be from $35 to $45 each time a vessel enters or leaves a harbor. It is a tax which, in the present depressed condition of the shipping interests, bears heavily upon a class of people who are specially deserving of consideration and encouragement, and it is sufficient in many cases to change the adventure from one furnishing a moderate return on the capital invested to one in which there is a positive loss. From the statements presented in the report regarding the unnecessary charges upon the coasting trade for pilotage when no pilots are taken and none required, the Commissioner says it is evident the time has arrived for the government to again interpose its authority and remove the restrictions and burdens which have been imposed upon commercial intercourse between the several States. It is certainly time for Congress to interfere when thousands of dollars are annually collected at Hell Gate from vessels merely passing through Long Island Sound from ports south of New York to ports north, or *vice versa*, for which no service whatever is rendered.

POSTAGE ON THIRD CLASS MAIL MATTER.

The bill fixing the rate of postage on third class mail matter passed the Senate to-day in the following form:—

Be it enacted, &c. That mail matter of the third class shall embrace all pamphlets, occasional publications, regular publications devoted primarily to advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal subscription rates, prices current, catalogues, annuals, handbills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectuses, books bound or unbound, book manuscripts, proof sheets, maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples of merchandise, sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes and wrappers, cards, plain and ornamental paper, photographic representations, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law as third class matter, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law which are not from their form or nature liable to destroy, deface or otherwise injure the contents of the mail bags or the person of any one engaged in the postal service. All liquids, poisons, glass, explosive materials and obscene books or papers shall be excluded from the mails.

SECTION 2.—That packages of matter of the third class shall not exceed four pounds in weight, and shall be subject to examination and the rate of postage hereinafter provided. The postage on mail matter of the third class shall be at the following rate:—For all distances one cent for each ounce or fractional part thereof. Every package of the third class of mail matter shall bear the post mark of the office at which the same shall be mailed for transportation.

SEC. 3.—That postages on third class matter shall be prepaid by stamps. If, however, the postage on third class matter mailed at an office shall be less than the full amount above prescribed in cases where the sender is known, such sender shall be notified of the fact, and the amount of postage due shall be collected from such sender before the same shall be transmitted by mail. In case the sender is not known and it has not been the evident intention of the party so depositing the package to place less than the full postage thereon, such package shall be forwarded and double the amount of the deficient postage shall be collected from the party to whom it is addressed or delivered at its proper destination.

SEC. 4.—That the sender of any article of the third class of mail matter may write his or her name on the outside thereof, with the word "from" above or preceding the same, or may write briefly or print on any package the number and names of the articles enclosed.

Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers the time to which such subscription therefor has been paid.

SEC. 5.—That transient newspapers and magazines shall be admitted to and transmitted in the mails at the rate of one cent for every three ounces, or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof.

SEC. 6.—That this act shall take effect on and after the 1st day of July, 1876.

THE SILVER BILL IS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

The Silver bill having been passed by both Houses of Congress now awaits the President's signature. It is as follows:—

Be it enacted, &c., That there be and hereby is appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of $163,000 to provide for engraving and printing and other expenses of making and issuing United States notes, and the further sum of $48,000 to provide for engraving and printing national bank notes, to be disbursed under the Secretary of the Treasury.

SECTION 2.—That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to issue silver coins of the United States of the denominations of ten, twenty, twenty-five and fifty cents of standard value in redemption of an equal amount of fractional currency, whether the same be now in the Treasury awaiting redemption, or whenever it may be presented for redemption, and the Secretary of the Treasury may, under regulations of the Treasury Department, provide for such redemption and issue by substitution at the regular Sub Treasuries and public depositories of the United States until the whole amount of fractional currency outstanding shall be redeemed, and the fractional currency redeemed under this act shall be held to be part of the sinking fund provided for by the existing law, the interest to be computed thereon as in the case of bonds redeemed under the acts relating to the sinking fund.

GENERAL BABCOCK ON THE CRACKSMAN'S STORY—POSITIVE DENIAL OF ITS STATEMENTS.

General Babcock referring to the story of White or Miles published this morning, in which he seeks to connect him with the Washington safe burglary, authorizes the statement that he is not aware he ever saw the man; never had such conversation with him and Mr. Harrington or anybody else about the burglary, as White alleges; never met him on the cars between Washington and New York, and therefore could not have conversed with him on that subject.

General Babcock knew nothing about the man's trial except what he saw in the newspapers. In brief, General Babcock characterizes the convict's story as unqualifiedly false from beginning to end.

SECRETARY ROBESON ON THE FOREIGN NAVAL ACCOUNTS—A TARDY RECOGNITION OF THE LAW.

The Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department to-day examined Secretary Robeson concerning the financial transactions of the department abroad through its agents, Seligman Brothers.

Representative Beebe, the chairman of the committee, directed the Secretary's attention to section 1,550 of the Revised Statutes, chapter 7, under the head of "General Provisions Relating to the Navy," which reads as follows:—

No person shall be employed or continued abroad to receive and pay money for the use of the naval service on foreign stations, whether under contract or otherwise, who has not been or shall not be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Although this provision was originally passed by Congress in June, 1844, no instance is known where a special fiscal agent abroad for this department or any other has been appointed by the President concurrent with the Senate, as required by law. Secretary Robeson informed the committee that Seligman Brothers had been nominated to the Senate by the President within a week past as special fiscal agents at London. This is true, but the Senate has not yet acted upon it.

ALABAMA CLAIMS—PAYMENT OF THE AWARDS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

The awards of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims are now in process of settlement in the Treasury Department. Interest will be computed thereon to May 1, and the drafts made payable to the order of the claimants, it is expected, will be ready for transmission to the attorneys of record on that day. The award may also be collected by persons authorized by transfers, assignments or powers of attorney duly executed by the claimants after the issuing of warrants for their payment, which transfers, assignments and powers of attorney must recite the warrant of pay.

UNFORTUNATE FOR BRISTOW.

[From the Detroit Free Press.]

It is unfortunate for Bristow that the duty should devolve upon him of announcing to the people the unpleasant results of republican stupidity and mismanagement—to call it by no worse name—in respect to the appropriation for fuel, light and water in the public buildings. It may be that Bristow is not to blame personally in this matter. It may be that the entire amount of the appropriation has been honestly applied to the purpose named, and that no portion of it has been diverted into political channels or used for carrying elections in the interest of the administration. But even though these facts should be clearly established, the "bottom" fact will still remain that a republican Congress is responsible for the insufficiency of the appropriation; and the man whose duty it is to apprise the public of that insufficiency, and to point out the unpleasant consequences thereof, will always be connected, in the public mind, with those consequences. Thoughtful persons, with time to give attention to the subject, will look behind Bristow to the really responsible cause of the trouble, the republican Congress; but the masses, recognizing simply the annoying fact that their mail facilities are interfered with by an order from Bristow, will regard Bristow as the cause of their annoyance. They will be all the more likely to do this in those cities where the custodians of public buildings have understood Bristow to mean that the public is to be annoyed in any event, and have refused the voluntary offers of citizens and gaslight companies to furnish light without charge. In such cities Bristow will be unhesitatingly condemned not only by the masses, but by thinking men as well; for there are few, even among the most violent of partisans, who care to have their business interests interfered with for the obtaining of a possible partisan advantage.

It is to be regretted on many accounts that Bristow has put himself in this unfortunate position. Heretofore Bristow has stood remarkably well with men of all parties, being obnoxious only to extreme administrationists in and out of the Whiskey Ring. Now, by what may be the mere accident of his position, he has suddenly become obnoxious to business men of all parties, whose interests he seems to have trifled with. He may show, perhaps, in time, that he has done nothing more than his duty; but he has lost his hold upon popular favor, and it is doubtful if he can ever fully regain it.

LITERATURE AND ART.

THE ROYAL COPYRIGHT COMMISSION IN ENGLAND—NAMES OF THE COMMISSIONERS—NOTES ON THE FORTHCOMING ACADEMY—WHAT THE ARTISTS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

LONDON, April 1, 1876.

The meeting of the Royal Copyright Commission still continues to be postponed, chiefly on account of a difficulty in selecting properly representative men to fill the vacancies created by the resignations of Lord Roseberry, Mr. Bourke, Sir Louis Malet and Mr. Farrer. As far as regards the discussion of any project having reference to an international treaty with the United States, the facts of any interest up to the present would appear to be these:—If the commission was to be of any material benefit in altering the present unsatisfactory state of things between English authors and American publishers, it was clear that it was of the very essence of the inquiry that the authors most interested in securing an American copyright should present their own case. This, I am given to understand, they expressed an intention of declining to do, because, as they alleged, of the non-representative character of the commission. In effect they declared that no one on the commission was sufficiently well versed in literary matters to understand the complications of the present copyright law, and that to all intents and purposes the commission would prove a dead letter so far as they were concerned. Hence the recent resignations made, I believe, in response to urgent remonstrances laid before Mr. Disraeli. The

PRESENT CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMISSION

is as follows:—Lord John Manners, chairman; Sir Henry Holland, M. P.; Sir John Rose, Sir Charles Young, Sir Julius Benedict, Sir Drummond Wolff, M. P.; Mr. Daldy, Mr. F. Herschell, M. P.; Mr. Jenkins, M. P.; Mr. Fitzjames Stephen, Q. C., and Dr. William Smith, with Mr. Leybourne Goddard, barrister-at-law, as secretary.

The four vacancies will be filled by gentlemen more intimately connected by actual work with literature and the drama. The difficulty seems to be in selecting from such class men of sufficient influence, position and business capacity to be of any practical use on the commission. In the whole range of dramatists there is probably no better man than

MR. TOM TAYLOR,

but his appointment would not altogether conciliate dramatic authors; nor would Mr. Reade's nor Mr. Wilkie Collins' appointment be acceptable to English authors. And so the matter stands. Lord Carlingford has been offered a seat at the commission in place of Lord Roseberry, but for what reason no one precisely knows. As a dispenser of magnificent hospitality His Lordship is best known to English society, and, as the third husband of the Countess of Waldegrave, he no doubt possesses strong claim to recognition as a liberal patron of science, literature and the arts. Besides which he was once Chief Secretary for Ireland. While these complications have arisen to the due assembling of the commission it seems not unlikely that the London publishers will

FORCE AMERICAN PUBLISHERS

into suing for an international copyright treaty against their will, and before English authors are made aware of it. It has been a common practice for years past for the publishers in America to arrange with the publishers in England to take a set of stereotype plates of an author's book at cost price, the publisher in America paying to the author or publisher in England a royalty on the retail American sales of the book of ten per cent. The English publisher has just found out that he can drive a better bargain than this, and has insisted that the American publisher shall pay not only the cost of plates, but half the cost of composition as well. It is easy to foresee where this rather clever move is likely to end.

NECESSITY OF REFORM IN COPYRIGHT.

What with the protective American duty, cost of plates, half cost of composition and ten per cent on retail sales, the New York publisher will find himself in a better position dealing for the author's work in manuscript than in electrotype; and, consequently, in self-protection, will be driven to recognize English authors' rights without consideration of any collateral issue arising between himself and the London publisher. Any one versed in book making and book printing can easily see that if "half the cost of composition" is made to involve "authors' corrections" and "authors' additions," an international copyright treaty between England and the United States will be brought about without the interposition of any English royal commission. The only alternative will be for American publishers to open printing establishments in England.

ACADEMY NOTES.

The last day is past for sending in pictures for the forthcoming exhibition of the Royal Academy, and I am enabled to send you the following few particulars of the art prospects of the year. On the whole, the exhibition, which opens at Burlington House on the first Monday in May, promises this year to be beyond the average. Mr. Leighton, who probably stands first among the academicians for scholarly culture in art, high refinement and bold departure from the accepted traditions of the English school, sends a magnificent offering in the shape of a processional picture representing the Daphnephoria, or festival in honor of Apollo, celebrated at Thebes in every ninth year. This picture is certain to be one of the chief centres of interest in the Academy. A long train of maidens and children, models of Grecian grace and beauty, accompany the chosen young noble, who acts as the high priest of Apollo, to the temple where the services in honor of the god are to be held. Mr. Leighton's great learning and academic skill have enabled him to paint a classical picture of rare beauty, abounding in evidences of careful study and masterly ability in depicting the human figure, destined, I hear, to serve as a mural decoration at the country seat of Mr. J. Stewart Hodgson, at Lythe Hill, Haslemere. In fit company with the above is another charming classical piece, from the studio of

MR. ALMA-TADEMA,

representing "An Audience of Agrippa," one of the best of the many good works which this artist has given us. In this painting, as in all of Alma-Tadema's work, one's attention is absolutely riveted to the extraordinary imitative detail displayed in the drawing of the marbles. The painting of stone columns and steps seems to be an especial forte of the artist's, and most wonderfully natural are the results of his skill with the pencil in this direction. There is no story told in the painting, which is simply a truthful representation in oil of an everyday scene at the palace of the Roman King of the days of Paul and the Apostles. It is pleasing to be able to record the fact that two of Mr. Alma-Tadema's most famous paintings, the "Death of Claudius" and the "Vintage Procession," are now

ON THEIR WAY TO THE CENTENNIAL

building at Philadelphia. Millais contributes, besides one of his usually charming studies of children, a Scotch landscape piece, fellow to his last year's "Fringe of the Moor." Mr. Herkomer, whose "Last Muster" (pensioners in Chelsea Hospital chapel) must have become familiar to every one through the admirable full-page illustration of the London *Graphic*, sends to this year's Academy "At Death's Door," representing a scene in the Bavarian Alps. The afflicted family of some sick person are assembled on their knees outside a poor looking Tyrolese hut, while a priest who is ascending the road is preparing to administer the sacrament of extreme unction. Leslie furnishes this season another study from girl life, bearing on the wholesome discussion by governess and children of duty toward one's neighbor. Mr. Yeames, one of the most rapidly rising of English artists, sends a scene suggested by the old days of English watering places, wherein the occupants of two sedan chairs, a lady and a gentleman, are discussing

"THE LAST BIT OF SCANDAL"

from the opened tops of their primitive conveyances. "A Year After Saarbruck" is the subject of Mr. E. M. Ward's chief contribution. Mr. Marcus Stone paints the story of an incident in the Reign of Terror. Mr. Calderon furnishes some pretty sketches from the late recollections of a recent visit to Arles. W. P. Frith again resorts to the chapter of some familiar piece of fiction as his subject, and depicts "Squire Thornhill's Morning Visit to the Primrose Family," from the "Vicar of Wakefield." And that very excellent and most pathetic of painters, Mr. S. L. Fildes, sends a picture which will draw tears from the eyes of many a person who views it—a rough laborer, splashed with mud and worn with toil, is nursing his dying child. The mother is peacefully at rest under the turf in the churchyard. The brothers and sister, engaged in their occupations about the homely dwelling, show no sympathy for the anxious father, whose agonized look plainly tells of the irreparable loss he has sustained in the death of the faithful and loving wife. There is plainly a big and affectionate heart thumping under the man's rough exterior which makes us long to offer him our consolation and sympathy.

THE NEW LANDSEER.

Mr. Briton Riviere, on whom the mantle of Landseer seems very worthily to have fallen, for he appears to reign in the world of animals, goes to the country lane, at foot of a farm, for a humorous inspiration. "A Stern Chase Is Always a Long Chase" represents a wily white duck, of generous proportions and undeniable physical strength, who has just succeeded in arresting a plump speckled frog in his exit through the osiers. A clamorous and greedy crowd of young and old ducks following the swirl of the lucky duck suggest the possibility of there being no knowing who will have the frog after all. Mr. Riviere sends two more paintings of animals rendered with all the truth and strength of Landseer's drawing.

THE BLAINE SCANDAL.

The Record in the Union Pacific Railroad Books.

MR. ROLLINS' EXPLANATION TO MR. HARRISON.

POLITIC REASONS FOR SILENCE.

Positive Denial by the Ex-Speaker of the House.

HIS FORMER EXPLANATION

A Little Transaction For a Mythical Constituent.

BOSTON, April 12, 1876.

A communication to the *Herald* from New Hampshire states that the telegrams in the morning papers concerning the alleged payment of $64,000 to James G. Blaine by the Treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad Company naturally create a sensation in Concord, where, for some time past,

MYSTERIOUS HINTS

have been thrown out that Mr. E. H. Rollins, the present Treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad, was in possession of information concerning a money transaction to which Mr. Blaine was a party, and which, if it became public, would render his defeat as a candidate for any office absolutely certain. Latterly these hints have been given out with more freedom, and a few days ago it was positively stated by a prominent republican that Mr. Rollins had it in his power to

KILL OFF MR. BLAINE

whenever he might choose to do so. The circulation of this remarkable statement among a few prominent republicans and the vague suspicion which has become general that Mr. Bl