WASHINGTON.

Grave Charges Against the President of the United States.

MISUSE OF THE SECRET SERVICE FUND.

Money Paid to "Johnny" Davenport by Order of General Grant.

HOW THE NEW YORK ELECTIONS WERE CARRIED.

Whitley's Story and Its Corroboration by Attorney General Williams.

THE ATTACKS ON BRISTOW.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1876.

STARTLING STORY AFFECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PRESIDENT—THE SECRET SERVICE MONEY USED FOR CARRYING NEW YORK ELECTIONS—THE MONEY PAID ON THE ORDER OF GENERAL GRANT—TESTIMONY OF WHITLEY AND EX-ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAMS.

An astounding development was made to-day in Mr. Caulfield's Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, the testimony involving in a very painful manner the President of the United States. The story relates to and confirms the charges made in New York in 1872 that the administration had interfered, in an improper and even corrupt manner, in the elections of that year. It will be remembered that in that year John I. Davenport became notorious for his conduct as federal Supervisor of Elections and United States Commissioner under the law giving the federal power authority to superintend elections of federal officers. It was shown to-day, first by the testimony of Colonel Whitley, ex-Chief of the Secret Service, and then by the confirmatory admissions of ex-Attorney General Williams, that Williams, through Whitley, sent to Davenport in all at different times $30,000 of the secret service fund of the Department of Justice; that all this was thus sent during the months immediately preceding the elections in New York, and that it was given to Whitley for Davenport by Williams on the direct orders of President Grant. The following is the story in its details:—

Some days ago Colonel Whitley, ex-Chief of the Secret Service, appeared before the Committee on Expenditure of the Department of Justice and testified to having furnished John I. Davenport, of New York, large amounts of money from the Secret Service fund on the order of Attorney General Williams, and stated that he believed that he had certain letters and vouchers at his residence in Boston to prove the fact. Upon the order of the committee he proceeded to Boston, and returned only to-day, when his examination was continued. He produced to-day receipts from Davenport amounting to something over $30,000, which money, he testified, he had paid to Davenport, about $6,000 on the order of Attorney General Akerman and the balance on the order of Attorney General Williams during the years 1871, 1872, 1873 and 1874, in the months immediately preceding the election in New York in each of those years and the most part during the Presidential campaign of 1872. He produced letters from Attorney Generals Akerman and Williams, which are in themselves suggestive specimens of political literature. He also stated that his information derived from Attorney General Williams was that the money was paid on the order of President Grant.

Attorney General Williams was then summoned before the committee and testified, in effect, that Whitley's statement was correct; that he had paid the money to Davenport at first on the written order of President Grant, being himself indisposed to make the payments; that he made the first payment upon the order or request of the President, and afterward saw the latter at the Executive Mansion, who informed him that Davenport was engaged in a great work, preparing some books, which, as Williams characterized it, were a kind of invention to prevent frauds in the elections. The President said that he had seen the books and commended very highly Davenport's plan.

Mr. Williams further testified that all this money was paid out to Chief Whitley and that no vouchers were ever retained in the Department of Justice to show that Davenport had received a dollar from this Secret Service fund, and that the money was paid to Davenport by Whitley without any agreement as to what it should be used for or how much should be used, Davenport's requisitions being always honored, and that the department has never received any information as to what the money was used for. Mr. Williams was carefully interrogated as to whether this expenditure was in the line of Davenport's official duty, either as Chief of Supervisors in New York or as United States Commissioner, both of which offices the latter held, and was unable to state that such was the case. Mr. Williams was explicit in stating that he would not have paid the money except by direction of the President, and that he never sought to ascertain the particular use to which the money was applied.

The President will probably be subpœnaed before the committee to answer these questions for himself. During the course of the examination of ex-Attorney General Williams he was asked what conversation passed between himself and the President when the latter ordered the first payment of money to Davenport, the object of the question being to draw from the witness the admission that he had, as the law officer of the government, advised the President that such a payment of money was illegal. But the witness answered that he could not recollect precisely what the conversation was; and, when the question was put in a more leading way, almost directly, in fact, he still failed to recollect what had been said.

The question whether the committee shall call the President before them or not, and in what manner they shall question him, will probably be discussed by the committee to-morrow. Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln appeared before committees of Congress to testify, and General Grant, it is believed, desires to appear, and will come as soon as he is summoned. In the Black Friday investigation the committee sent him a copy of the testimony, and requested him to send in such answers as he chose to make.

It is said that there has been uneasiness in administration circles for some days about a coming and embarrassing development. The committee have only begun the investigation of what has been done at different times with the Secret Service fund in the Department of Justice, and they are said to be on the track of other expenditures not different in kind from this made in New York, but in the aggregate very largely exceeding in amount.

There are fifteen or twenty receipts to Whitley from Davenport, amounting to $40,000; also letters from the Attorney General and Davenport. Attorney General Williams gave directions to Whitley as to the disposition of the money, which were to give it to Davenport. Some of the documents were already in the hands of the committee, and Whitley supposed that they were stolen from his office. Money was paid in sums varying from $1,000 to $10,000 each time. Williams said he was ordered to have it paid to Davenport by the President. Twenty thousand dollars of this money was paid to Davenport just before the elections of 1872. Witness did not seem inclined to give the facts, but they were forced out of him, and when he saw that they had the letters he gave up.

LABOR OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—THE SAVING IN THE NAVY AND POST OFFICE DEPARTMENTS—PROPOSED ABOLISHMENT OF CERTAIN NAVY YARDS.

The Appropriations Committee have completed their review of the Navy and Post Office bills and have effected a reduction in the two from last year's appropriations of about $8,000,000, a very important saving. For the naval establishment the appropriations last year were over $17,000,000. The estimates made this year by the Navy Department were nearly $21,000,000, and Mr. Randall has reduced these to about $14,000,000. He reduces the force of seamen from 8,500 to 7,500, which, of course, makes a proportional saving in all the items of expense. The principal economies aside from this are made in the Bureaus of Construction and Repairs and Steam Engineering. The committee are in consultation with the Naval Committee concerning some changes in the navy yards, and they think of temporarily closing the Kittery yard, abolishing that at New London entirely and surrendering the site to those who gave it; abandoning also the Pensacola Navy Yard and selling that at Boston. If they can agree upon these reforms they will probably establish a naval station, but no yard, at Port Royal.

For the Post Office the appropriations for the current year are $37,500,000, and the committee propose to cut this down for next year to $33,500,000, and thus make a reduction of a little over $4,000,000. The actual saving to the Treasury will, however, be larger than this. The receipts of the Post Office for the current year are $29,148,000; the estimated receipts for next year are $29,258,000; the deficiency or cost of the service over and above the income is, for the current year, $8,930,000, and for the next year it will be but $4,175,000. This would show an actual saving of $4,755,000.

The Appropriations Committee has been very hard worked, and Mr. Randall and his fellow committeemen are making all the haste they can consistently with the thorough and faithful examination of the bills before them.

Mr. Randall declared at the beginning of the session that he would take care not to attempt such retrenchment as would embarrass the government, and he has taken the gratest pains in the scrutiny of the estimates to make reductions only where they can be borne without injury to the public service. The committee are now well up with their work.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1876.

THE WAR ON SECRETARY BRISTOW—AN OLD SCANDAL REVIVED AND EXPLODED.

A story was quite widely circulated to-day involving charges against Secretary Bristow, to the effect that when he was Solicitor of the Texas Pacific Railroad Company, after his resignation as Solicitor General, he succeeded in inducing Secretary Delano to appoint R. C. Hopkins, of San Francisco, as a special agent of the government to proceed to Mexico to obtain transcripts of land grants which the company could not obtain without the authority of the government, and that this appointment and the service performed under it were solely in the interest of the Texas Pacific Company and at the expense of the government. This is a revival of a story which was printed at great length in newspapers of California and various other journals East in March and April, 1873. The story has this foundation, namely:—That the officers of the Texas Pacific finding that fraudulent Spanish land grants were being extensively located for the lands along the line of their road, which had formerly been ceded to the United States by Mexico, it was determined to send an agent into Mexico for the purpose of obtaining transcripts of all valid land titles in northern States of Mexico in order to preclude the possibility of fraudulent grants being brought forward to cover lands of the road. As the government was equally interested with the road in this matter, since it owned half of the land in question, the other half being granted to the road, the Department of the Interior was requested to give an agent selected by the company a letter of credit, which it was thought might facilitate him in his work. This was done, it being expressly stated in the letter of appointment transmitting this letter of credit that, as no appropriation for such purpose was at the command of the department, his services must be rendered without compensation. The agent selected for this work was Mr. R. C. Hopkins, of San Francisco, a gentleman well known throughout that section and to the Supreme Court here as an expert in all matters of Mexican titles. He performed the work entrusted to him and the railroad company transmitted copies of his report to the government for its use and information and the railroad company paid all the expenses of the agent.

As to General Bristow's connection with the securities of the road, at the time he became officially connected with it he purchased about $12,000 of its securities and held them up to the time that he was nominated Attorney General, and then, without even waiting for confirmation, he at once disposed of them at a very great sacrifice solely because he was unwilling to enter upon a public office in a position where he might be called upon to pass upon the interest of this company with any of its securities in his possession.

THE THOUSAND DOLLARS WHICH DID NOT GO TO BABCOCK—THE AMOUNT PAID BY A POST TRADER TO HEDRICK.

Clymer's committee heard to-day the witness Reynolds, of Camp Supply, who was expected to swear that he had sent $1,000 cash to Babcock in purchase of post trading privileges. But he positively denied having done so, but admitted having paid Hedrick $4,500 instead of $2,100, which latter amount Hedrick admitted receiving. The question is, where did the difference go?

THE MOTH CONTRACT—GENERAL INGALLS EXONERATED FROM ANY CONNECTION THEREWITH—DONN PIATT AS A LOBBYIST.

George W. Brega, of the firm who had the government contract for the preservation of clothing from moth and mildew, in his testimony before the Clymer committee to-day, says that General Ingalls had no connection with the business, remotely or otherwise, or in any character or description whatever; that Donn Piatt was retained as agent merely to present the official reports to the Secretary of War and to ask him to read them to him. This was in 1872. Piatt subsequently presented a request to the firm for an unliquidated balance due on his contract with them. Piatt, it is alleged, got a consideration of five per cent on the contract for lobbying it through Congress.

THE REVENUE FRAUDS IN CALIFORNIA—GRAVE CHARGES AGAINST SENATOR SARGENT.

The report of Special Agent D. L. Phillips on the misconduct of Treasury and revenue officials in California and the monstrous frauds committed on the revenue in that State, an abstract of which was published in the HERALD ten days ago, attracts a good deal of remark here, especially because Mr. Phillips very plainly hinted that some Senators and Representatives from California, and especially Senator Sargent, have encouraged these frauds and stand behind the corrupt officials whom Mr. Phillips exposes. He charges directly that Senator Sargent had made charges of misconduct against Clarke, an honest and incorruptible officer, and endeavored to procure his removal and for the reason that Clarke ordered the seizure of a distillery owned by a political ally of Sargent. It has long been known here that revenue affairs were in a very disorderly condition in California, and it has been noticed that, as Mr. Phillips states, the revenue officers there are the creatures of the United States Senators, which makes reform very difficult. It is not known whether Senator Sargent will make any reply to Mr. Phillips nor whether the republican Senate will notice the grave charge made officially against one of its members.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1876.

VETO OF THE BILL FOR REDUCING THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY AND THE REASONS THEREFOR.

In the Senate, immediately after the journal of yesterday's proceedings was read, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Message:—

TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—

Herewith I return Senate bill No. 172, entitled "An act fixing the salary of the President of the United States," without my approval. I am constrained to this course from a sense of duty to my successors in office, to myself and to what is due to the dignity of the position of Chief Magistrate of a nation of more than 40,000,000 of people. When the salary of the President of the United States was fixed by the constitution at $25,000 per annum we were a nation of but 3,000,000 of people, poor from a long and exhaustive war, without commerce or manufactures, with but few wants and those cheaply supplied. The salary must then have been deemed small for the responsibilities and dignity of the position, but justifiably so from the impoverished condition of the Treasury and the simplicity it was desired to cultivate in the Republic. The salaries of Congressmen under the constitution were first fixed at $6 per day for the time actually in session, an average of about 120 days to each session, or $720 per year, or less than one-thirtieth of the salary of the President. Congressmen have legislated upon their own salaries from time to time since, until finally they have reached $5,000 each per annum, or one-fifth that of the President before the salary of the latter was increased. No one having a knowledge of the cost of living at the national capital will contend that the present salaries of Congressmen are too high, unless it be the intention to make the office one entirely of honor, when the salary should be abolished, a proposition repugnant to our republican ideas and institutions. I do not believe the citizens of this Republic desire their public servants to serve them without a fair compensation for their services. The sum of $25,000 does not defray the expenses of the Executive for one year, or has not in my experience. It is now one-fifth in value what it was when fixed by the constitution in supplying demands and wants. Having no personal interest in this matter, I have felt myself free to return this bill to the House in which it originated with my objections, believing that in doing so I meet the wishes and judgment of the great majority of those who indirectly pay all the salaries and other expenses of the government. U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, April 18, 1876.

On motion of Mr. Clayton it was ordered that the Message be printed and referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment.

SECRETARY BRISTOW AND THE DISTILLERY SCANDAL—A SHARP LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE ON EXPENSES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Secretary Bristow has addressed the following letter to Hon. R. G. Caulfield, chairman of the Committee on Expenses, Department of Justice:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19, 1876.

SIR—My attention has been called to the Washington despatches to the Baltimore *Gazette* of this date (copy inclosed), from which it appears that some time last week Mr. T. W. Bartley, of this city, appeared before your committee and detailed rumors under oath affecting my official integrity. This witness is represented as having sworn upon information and belief in substance, that while I was United States Attorney for the district of Kentucky a number of distilleries were seized at my instance, and that soon after, upon an offer of a large sum of money I resigned and procured the appointment of my assistant, Colonel Wharton, as my successor, became counsel for these distillers and, in accordance with the terms of the alleged agreement, procured the release of their property.

It is difficult to credit the statement that an officer of the government who could be reached by your committee in a few minutes, should be allowed to remain in ignorance of the exact character of such testimony for nearly a week, and that no opportunity to meet charges of so serious a nature should be afforded him. In the absence of any definite information from your committee in regard to what the witness really stated under oath, and without reference to the alleged denial of these statements by another witness, I must promptly meet the slander as I find it in the public prints, even at the risk of appearing to reflect upon the methods of your committee.

The story, whether testified to by Mr. Bartley or anyone else before your committee, is absolutely and unqualifiedly false. I trust your committee will recognize the propriety of giving me the opportunity to meet this baseless slander promptly, and for this purpose I request that the officers of the court, including the Judge thereof, be brought before your committee and subjected to public examination touching all of the matters alleged by the witnesses in question, either by direct statement or innuendo, and, if need be, that the records of the court be examined for the purpose of showing that no such cases existed, at least, that I had no connection with any. Furthermore, I claim the right to be heard personally before your committee, under oath, touching all of the matters referred to by any of the witnesses who have been examined on this subject. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, B. H. BRISTOW.

TILDEN MEN CHOSEN.

HUDSON, N. Y., April 19, 1876.

The Democratic Convention of Greene county to-day elected as delegates to the State Convention A. P. Jones, James Wilson and John Avery, all for Tilden.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., April 19, 1876.

The Third Assembly district of Westchester met here in convention to-day and elected W. J. Ackerly, C. C. Childs, Jr., and George H. Sutton delegates to Utica. They are pronounced Tilden men.

THE NEWPORT ELECTIONS.

A REPUBLICAN MAYOR ELECTED—REJOICINGS AND ILLUMINATIONS.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 19, 1876.

For the first time in ten years Newport has elected a republican Mayor. To-day the municipal election occurred and unusual excitement prevailed. The candidates were the present incumbent, Stephen P. Slocum, and Colonel Henry Bedlow, the owner of the famous Malbone Place. The latter is elected by upward of 500 majority. He is well known to all of the summer residents, and to that class especially will the news of his election be received with joy. The city is illuminated and the rejoicing is general, fireworks, firing of cannon, &c., making the old town ring.

At about eleven o'clock Colonel Bedlow was escorted from the republican headquarters by a band of music and a procession numbering upward of eight hundred citizens. Arriving at his residence, the extensive grounds were found illuminated with tar barrels, Chinese lanterns, &c. All were invited in. The rejoicing was kept up until long after midnight. Business, owing to the interest in the election, was partially suspended, and Newport has never had such an exciting election day before.

CHICAGO'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 19, 1876.

Almost complete returns from the city election show a sweeping victory for the republican and municipal reform ticket. The following were elected:—Clinton Briggs over Clarke Lipe, for City Treasurer, by a majority of 5,018; Sutrill over Adams, for City Attorney, by a majority of 4,778; Autz over Hauting, for City Clerk, by a majority of 5,390; Best over Bonfield, for Clerk of the Police Court, by a majority of 6,068. Of the above mentioned Briggs is the only name on the democratic ticket. Hayne had no opponent for Mayor. His vote was about 32,000. But few of the new Common Council are elected from what is commonly known as the "bummer crowd."

JERSEY CHARTER ELECTIONS.

The Board of Canvassers of Hudson county, N. J., met at the Court House, Jersey City, yesterday, to declare the result of the election for the Board of Freeholders. The following members were declared elected:—First district, Messrs. Hall and Farrier; Second district, Messrs. Harper and McPhillips; Third district, Messrs. Blackwell and McLaughlin; Fourth district, Messrs. Feller and Ginnochio; Fifth district, Messrs. Frost and Speer; Sixth district, Messrs. Smith and Startup; Seventh district, Messrs. Cook and Curran; Eighth district, Messrs. Cox and Johnston. The Board stands, eight republicans, seven democrats and one independent (Cook). As the latter gentleman has in nearly every instance voted with the republicans there will be a republican working majority of two in the Board.

TAMMANY PRIMARY.

The Tammany delegates from the election districts of the Twentieth Assembly district met at Fifty-third street and Third avenue last night and elected the following delegates to the State Convention at Utica:—Delegates, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Manton Marble and Owen Moran. Alternates, Robert Van Wycke, Isaac Sommers and Levi Samuels.

ANTI-TAMMANY PRIMARIES.

The anti-Tammany delegates from the election districts of the Fifth and Eleventh Assembly districts met last night and elected the following delegates to represent them in the State Convention at Utica:—

Fifth Assembly District—Delegates, Gershon Cohen, David S. Paige and Charles W. Baum. Alternates, George Haggerty, John Purcell and Herman Stemmerman.

Eleventh Assembly District—Delegates, Charles W. Brooke, Samuel B. Garvin and Oliver P. Buel. Alternates, J. Henry Ford, Thomas Lynch and Michael Riley. The above delegates are unpledged.

STATEN ISLAND DEMOCRATS.

The Richmond county democratic delegates assembled in convention yesterday at Antone Heil's Hall, Tompkinsville, and succeeded in selecting the following delegates to the State Convention:—Frederick White, Samuel R. Brick and Gilbert C. Dean. Alternates, Hon. Erastus Brooks, Theodore Treson and Stephen D. Stephens.

THE INDIANA DEMOCRATS.

STATE NOMINEES—PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES—CONTRACTION OPPOSED—A SAFE PAPER CURRENCY ADVOCATED.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 19, 1876.

The following is the ticket nominated by the Democratic State Convention to-day:—

Governor—James D. Williams, of Knox county.
Lieutenant Governor—Isaac P. Gray, of Randolph county.
Judges Supreme Court—First district, S. H. Buskirk, Monroe county; second district, A. G. Downey, Ohio county; third district, John Pettit, Tippecanoe county; fourth district, James L. Worden, Allen county.
Secretary of State—John E. Neff, Randolph county.
State Auditor—E. Henderson, Morgan county.
State Treasurer—Benjamin C. Shaw, Marion county.
Attorney General—C. A. Buskirk, Monroe county.
Superintendent of Public Instruction—J. H. Smart, Allen county.

The following is the platform adopted:—

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

The democracy of Indiana declare their fidelity to all the provisions of the federal constitution, to a perpetual union of the States, to local self-government in every section, to all public trusts and obligations, to the honest payment of the public debt, to the preservation of the public faith, to the maintenance of free schools and to the pure and economical administration of the federal, State and municipal governments. They contemplate with alarm the distress that prevails, the widespread financial ruin that impends over the people and the corruption that pervades the public service, and they charge that these evils are the direct results of the personal government, unwise legislation, vicious financial policy, the great contraction of the currency and the extravagance and selfishness of the party and its officials who have so long held unchecked control. They invite all who believe in and earnestly desire official purity and fidelity, the adjustment of financial questions upon a sound basis, having a regard for the interests and welfare of the whole people and not a class, and the recognition of the final settlement of all questions submitted to the arbitration of the sword to unite with them; thus declare

First—That the civil service of the government has become corrupt and is made the object of personal gain, and it is the first duty which the people owe to themselves and the government to restore the tests of honesty, capacity and fidelity in the selection of persons to fill all public positions.

Second—The repeated exposures of corruption in the administration of every branch of public affairs call for continued and thorough investigation, not only that corrupt practices may be brought to light and guilty parties to punishment, but also that it may be made clear to the people that their only remedy for reform is by making a general and thorough change.

Third—That retrenchment and economy are indispensable in federal, State and municipal administration, as an essential means toward lessening the burdens of the people, and we commend the efforts of the majority of the House of Representatives for the reduction of the expenses of the federal government to a just standard, and their determination to lessen the number of useless offices.

Fourth—We believe in our ancient doctrine that gold and silver are the true and safe basis for the country, and we are in favor of measures and policies that will produce uniformity in value in the coin and paper money of the country, without destroying or embarrassing the business interests of the people.

Fifth—We oppose the contraction of the volume of our paper currency and declare in favor of the adoption of measures looking to the gradual retirement of the circulation of the national banks and the substitution therefor of circulating notes issued by authority of the government.

Sixth—We recognize with patriotic satisfaction the vast recuperative energies with which our country is endowed, and we observe that, in spite of the interference with the laws of commerce which has been practised, our currency has improved in proportion as our wealth has increased, and the sense of national and local security has been confirmed. We are, therefore, of the opinion that a natural return to specie payments will be promoted by the increase of national wealth and industries, by the assurance of harmony at home and peace abroad, and by strengthening our public credit under a wise and economical administration of our national affairs.

Seventh—The legal tender notes constitute a safe currency and one especially valuable to the debtor classes because of its legal tender quality, and we demand the repeal of the legislation enacted by the republican party providing for its withdrawal from circulation and the substitution therefor of national bank paper.

Eighth—The act of Congress for the resumption of specie payments on the 1st of January, 1879, was a party measure devised in secret caucus for party ends and forced through the House of Representatives without the allowance of amendment or debate under party discipline. It paralyzes industry, creates distrust of the future, turns the laborer and producer out of employment, is a standing threat upon business men and should at once be repealed without any condition whatever.

Ninth—As democrats we may indulge in laudable pride at the great success of our common school system, which had its origin in democratic policy and its development in democratic measures. We will stand by and forever maintain our constitutional provision which guarantees our common school fund from diminution and misappropriation, and its use only to support non-sectarian common schools, and we denounce as enemies of the schools the republican politicians who, for party ends, have sought to bring them into political and sectarian controversy.

Tenth—We believe that a license law properly guarded is the true principle in legislation upon the liquor traffic.

Eleventh—It is not the right of any political party to make the just claims of Union soldiers, their widows and children, the subjects of partisan controversy, for such rights are more secure when protected by all the people, and are endangered only when thrown into the political arena by demagogues. We will stand by and maintain their rights to honors, to pensions and equal bounties, not as partisans, but because it is our pleasure and duty as citizens.

Twelfth—That the jurisdiction of the federal courts in civil causes has been so extended as to become a burdensome to the people by increasing expenses and compelling them to try their causes at places remote from their homes.

Thirteenth—We approve the bill which recently passed the House of Representatives prohibiting members of Congress and all officers and employes of the United States from contributing money to influence elections.

Fourteenth—We are opposed to the assumption by Congress of the debts of the District of Columbia, which were contracted by the late corrupt ring, and we believe the government should pay her equal and just proportion for local improvements, the same as other owners of property, and no more.

Fifteenth—That the people of Indiana recognize with pride and pleasure the eminent public service of the Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks; that in all public trusts he has been faithful to duty, and in his public and private life pure and without blemish. We therefore declare that he is our unanimous choice for the Presidency of the United States.

Sixteenth—That the delegates to the Democratic National Convention this day appointed are hereby instructed to cast the vote of this State in said Convention as a unit in such manner as the majority of the delegates may determine.

Seventeenth—That we are opposed to the payment of any part of the rebel debt or any payment whatever for emancipated slaves or the property of rebels destroyed in war.

THE LABOR CONVENTION.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTED DENOUNCING CONTRACT CONVICT LABOR, CHINESE IMPORTATION, AND ASKING FOR A HOMESTEAD LAW.

PITTSBURG, Pa., April 19, 1876.

There was a large attendance at the National Labor Convention to-day. Among the resolutions receiving unanimous adoption was the following:—

That we are emphatically opposed to the contract system of convict and pauper labor, as practised by State and national governments, and ask its abolishment; that we owe a debt of gratitude to Governor Tilden, of the State of New York, for his acts in regard to the Pauper bill; that our national and State Legislatures be required to pass laws binding all corporate bodies engaged as common carriers to furnish means of transportation at regular fixed rates, and that no discrimination shall be made in favor of any citizen or class of citizens; that this society sympathizes with its fellow workmen in California in their efforts for the repeal of the infamous Burlingame Treaty and consider it one of the very worst treaties ever made by the government of a free country; that we urge upon N. P. Banks, member of Congress, to introduce the Homestead bill now in his hands there.

Much discussion was evoked by the resolution, political in complexion, and George Blair, of New York, stated that the Workingmen's Assembly of the State of New York, had no sympathy in the effort to declare for independent political action and emphatically protested against any such action. There was a long and bitter discussion on this matter, and the voices of the representatives of labor from seventeen States were heard. It was finally decided by a good majority to have nothing to do with politics, amid the wildest enthusiasm.

POLITICAL NOTES.

It is the opinion of the Boston *Express* that General Hancock, of Pennsylvania, has many friends. He is a democrat and a gentleman. But of generals both parties are pretty well tired. A statesman in the army and a soldier at the head of civil affairs are alike distasteful.

The Boston *Herald* is quite sure that Mr. Blaine never was, is not and never can be a reformer. It has faith enough in his ability to believe that he would, if elected, make a strong, if not a brilliant administration. No doubt he would call about him able men, and he would avoid the horse jockey business which has disgraced the administration of President Grant.

The people of Texas are in the midst of a heated controversy over the Senatorial succession to Morgan C. Hamilton's seat. From all the advice we have received the contest has narrowed down to a choice between Richard Coke, the present Governor, and Hon. John Hancock, the sitting member in Congress from the fifth Congressional district. Both of these are excellent men, but present themselves to the people of Texas in attitudes not generally appreciated by the Union at large.

The Raleigh (N. C.) *News* says that ours is theoretically the government of civil law. It is time theory was restored to practice. The storm of military furor has passed by, and we must go back to the civilian class for our rulers. We must select men skilled in affairs, conversant with the laws, obedient to the constitution, honest in purpose and pure in morals. Such men are to be had and they are to be chosen.

The New Orleans *Picayune* says that Senator Bayard begins to loom up as a candidate for the Presidential chair.

The Atlanta (Ga.) *Times* says that of all our public men at the North during the war, excepting ever the glowing Vallandigham, Judge Black most firmly maintained and most powerfully defended the great doctrines of popular liberty as inculcated by the fathers of the Republic. Threats could not intimidate him; bayonets he despised. The storm of civil fury which swept before it almost everybody and everything did not shake him. He stood like the hemlock in the hurricane's path, unmoved and unscarred. It is glad that such a man so fully indorses the general opinion of the South as to the effect of the Enforcement act, so called.

WOMEN'S CENTENNIAL UNION.

GRAND MEETING OF PATRIOTIC WOMEN AT THE COOPER INSTITUTE LAST NIGHT.

A large meeting on behalf of the New York Women's Centennial Union was held last evening in the great hall of Cooper Institute. About 1,000 ladies were present. Mrs. Dr. French presided. The meeting was opened by music by a brass band, the members of the band being little boys ranging from 10 to 16 years of age. Their performances were excellent. After welcoming the ladies Mrs. French introduced Mrs. Webb, who recited an original poem, dedicated to Mrs. Gillespie, called "Freedom's Invocation," which was applauded very heartily. After this two young ladies, one representing 1776, and the other 1876, played a duet of our national airs. The young lady of 1776 was dressed in old-fashioned brocaded silk, made with long pointed waist and sleeves tight to the elbow. Her hair was rolled up over a high cushion and powdered. The young lady of 1876 was dressed in a handsome pink silk dress, made in the prevailing fashion. Mrs. French then said:—"I take great pleasure in introducing Mrs. Gillespie, of Philadelphia, great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, the pioneer in the centennial work of women, who will tell us how much they have accomplished."

Mrs. Gillespie then rose and said:—"I am glad to be here and very glad to see so many who, if mankind are called the bone and sinew, are the no less valuable part of humanity, the tissue and nerves. That is the part you play, and as much depends on you as on the men. I am glad to see you under this roof, which was raised by one who has done so much for women. I have come to tell you of what we are doing. In 1873

THIRTEEN WOMEN WERE CALLED TOGETHER

and asked to get up some interest in this matter among women. We did not know exactly what to do. We began stumbling and have gone on stumbling, but we hope to stand erect. A main portion of our hall is reserved for women's inventions. On the 8th of June the Director General told me that foreigners were demanding so much room that if we wanted our exhibition in full we would have to have a separate building. We found it would cost $30,000. We have established organizations in twenty-nine States. The Southern States are all so reduced that they can give us little but their sympathy. I wrote to the ladies in the several States and we raised the money. The building was commenced on the 12th of October and turned over to us complete on the 29th of February 'the women's day.' In our department for woman's work will be exhibited some of Queen Victoria's work and also some work of her daughters. I am sure we ought to feel graceful for this. Nearly all the foreign countries have promised to send us exhibits. I don't believe you know half that woman has done. A woman invented the car punch. (Laughter.) She little knew what beautiful verses would be written on it. Hitherto women have been too poor to take out their own patents. I hope something better for them in the future will come out of this Exhibition. We have not accomplished so very much, but there is a good deal of smoke, and where there is so much smoke there must be a fire, and we depend on every woman present to help kindle the blaze."

Stereopticon views of the Centennial buildings were then shown and explained by Mrs. French. A collection for the centennial fund was afterward taken up, and all the ladies were requested to send in their names on slips of paper previously handed to them to be sent to Philadelphia and enrolled there. While this was going on the youthful band "discoursed sweet music." More recitations and music followed.

MILITIA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The following circular has been issued to the various National Guard organizations in this city in relation to the intended visit of some of them to the Centennial Exhibition:—

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS STATE OF NEW YORK, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, ALBANY, April 17, 1876.

CIRCULAR NO. 1.

To the end that all the organizations of the National Guard may be informed of the arrangements made by the State of Pennsylvania for the encampment of the organized militia and National Guard in Fairmount Park on the occasion of the Centennial Exhibition the following communication from the Adjutant General of that State is published:—

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, HARRISBURG, April 11, 1876.

General FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, Adjutant General of New York, Albany, N. Y.:—

GENERAL—About two hundred and sixty acres of land within the limits of Fairmount Park and about a mile in its farthest distance from the Exhibition buildings have been designated by the Park Commissioners for the encampment of the organized militia and National Guard. The Governor of Pennsylvania is charged by the Commissioners with the allotment and assignment of grounds to the military bodies who may visit Philadelphia during the Centennial. It is intended to set the land apart by States, and it is consequently desirable that as early as practicable you report—first, what if any organizations from your State intend to visit the Exhibition for the purpose of encampment and when; second, the number of men in each organization who are expected to be present, and third, the name of each regimental battalion and company commandant, and the designation by name, letter or number of the several bodies. It is understood that all bodies must come provided with camp equipage and arrange for and provide themselves with their subsistence. As some inquiries may be necessary before the detailed information requested can be given, it is, in view of the near approach of the opening of the Exhibition, earnestly desired that, if possible, in the acknowledgement of this communication, you furnish such probabilities as you may deem sufficiently reliable for immediate advice. Very truly yours,

JAMES W. LATTA, Adjutant General Pennsylvania.

Organizations of the National Guard intending to visit Philadelphia during the Centennial Exhibition will make a report to these Headquarters at the earliest moment practicable, giving the information desired by Adjutant General Latta, and also make a requisition for the necessary number of tents, which is all the aid that the means at the disposal of the Military Department of the State will admit of.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, Adjutant General.

POISON AND THE PISTOL.

TERRIBLE DOUBLE SUICIDE IN PHILADELPHIA—A PHYSICIAN AND HIS WIFE END THEIR LIVES—JEALOUSY THE SUPPOSED CAUSE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19, 1876.

A terrible domestic tragedy took place in this city this morning, resulting in the death by suicide of a husband and wife under circumstances as shocking as they are mysterious.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schuk resided until this morning at No. 1,602 Bouvier street, in a part of the city called Francisville. But little was known of them by the neighbors except that the man was a physician, both were *emigrées* from Prussia and that they were apparently well to do, their house being furnished in good style and the doctor seeming to have a good practice. There was a disparity in the ages of the two, the doctor being about fifty years old and the wife less than twenty-four, but they seemed to live together, notwithstanding, in much harmony and affection. A few of the more intimate of the neighbors, however, say that in the privacy of their own home the doctor exhibited the most intense jealousy of his wife, who was a very pretty young lady. It this is true it is the only key that has been found to the mystery surrounding the suicide of the pair.

The facts attending the double tragedy, to which there was no witness, seem to be about as follows:—

THE CRIME.

Shortly after breakfast the doctor went into the front parlor, where he found his wife lying on a sofa suffering the most intense agony. On the table was a small bottle which had contained prussic acid, and was taken from the doctor's study. It was half empty, showing a portion of the contents had been swallowed by the unfortunate woman. The doctor rushed out of the house and into a Mrs. Kilney's, on the opposite side of the street, begging her, for God's sake, to go for a physician, as his wife had poisoned herself. The lady immediately left to comply with the request, and brought a Dr. Crandel to the house. On entering the parlor the horrible spectacle was presented of the wife lying on the floor dead, as though she had rolled off the sofa, and alongside of her lay her husband, also dead, with a bullet wound over the heart. One of his hands was pointed toward the wife, while between them lay a seven shooter Derringer.

The supposition is that soon after having requested Mrs. Kilney to go for a physician for his wife the doctor had returned to the parlor, and finding his wife on the floor dead had, in a moment of ungovernable excitement, fired the fatal shot which took his own life. No explanation was left to show the cause which induced the wife to poison herself. In the dining room the breakfast table was still set, showing they had partaken of that meal together. A couple of letters written in German were found, one of which was from a New York solicitor. From what can be ascertained there is reason to believe that while the husband treated his wife with uniform kindness in public their bickerings through jealousy in private were frequent. A brother of the lady lived with them, but, being employed at the Centennial grounds, was absent when the affair occurred.

SCIENCE.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1876.

The National Academy of Science began its session at the Smithsonian Institution yesterday and will continue in session several days. Among those in attendance are Professors Silliman, Barnard, Mayer, Guyot, Loomis, Thurston, Hilgard, Baird, Coffin, Hayden, Marsh, Hill and Newcomb.

THE RHINEBECK STRIKE.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., April 19, 1876.

It appears that the Rhinebeck strikers were reinforced by fifty strikers from Rondout, who returned to the latter place at three P. M. without having committed violence. Subsequently the Rhinebeck constables made five arrests and to-night all is quiet.

Across the river, at Rondout, where another strike is in progress, affairs have assumed a more serious aspect. Brigadier General George Parker, of this city, has received a telegram from Captain Tremper, of the National Guard at that place, saying the Sheriff has ordered out a battalion of military, and asking for orders. General Parker has ordered Captain Tremper to obey the Sheriff and telegraph further particulars, but as the telegraph office at Rondout closed at nine o'clock for the night it is doubtful if any further intelligence can be obtained. It is believed, however, that up to this time (eleven P. M.) all is quiet.

THE STATE CAPITAL

The Struggle Over the Supply Bill in the House Ended.

THE BROOKLYN CHARTER DEFEATED

Grave Rumors of Corruption in the Killing of the Measure.

Appointment of Banks of Deposit for New York City's Public Moneys.

THE EMIGRATION COMMISSION.

ALBANY, April 19, 1876.

The call of the House ordered Tuesday evening, and subject to the operation of which the Assembly adjourned, very naturally created quite a commotion among the absentees, who only learned of their predicament on waking up this morning. The doors were all locked against them when they put in an appearance at the Capitol, and there was much speculation as to what degree of punishment would be meted out to