# WASHINGTON.

## A Reaction on the Financial Question.

## NO ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION PROBABLE.

## Silver as an Aid to the Resumption of Specie Payments.

## THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

## Speech of Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, on the Finances.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1878.

THE SILVER MEN GROWING MORE CONSERVATIVE—EFFECT OF THE LAW UPON THE REFUNDING OF THE DEBT AND SPECIE RESUMPTION.

The leaders of the extreme silver movement have determined to rest content with the Silver act for a while and for the present will not attempt to push any further legislation in regard to silver. They admit that it is their duty to allow the results of the Silver act to work themselves out before urging the next step and they are as uncertain as almost everybody else of what may be its effect.

In administration circles the Silver act is not regarded as dangerous to the country. It has done its worst harm, prominent members of the administration say, in stopping the refunding process, for that has inflicted a large pecuniary loss on the taxpayers by preventing the refunding of the debt at a lower rate of interest.

The Secretary of the Treasury is understood to believe that the Silver act can be made helpful toward resumption next year. It allows him, of course, to resume in silver, and resumption in silver is likely to be an easy matter, because, beyond the dollars which will be used for paying duties, there will be very little demand for silver. The general public will prefer greenbacks to silver dollars, and the Treasury, having supplied the demand for dollars to pay duties with, may safely offer to redeem the greenbacks in silver, for there will be no run on its store.

At the same time the Secretary has it in his power to maintain the silver dollar substantially at or very near par with gold. To do this he needs only to retain as part of his surplus or resumption fund all the dollars which he will receive as customs dues. Suppose him to buy four millions of bullion per month and pay for it with silver dollars, he would then immediately have these dollars returned to him on payment of duties, and, locking them up, would buy more bullion with the four millions next coined. In this way he would receive four millions of silver dollars per month and the remainder of the customs dues must be paid in gold, and at the end of the year he would have a fund consisting of about two-fifths silver and three-fifths gold, the whole customs revenues amounting to about $120,000,000. Of course, so long as there is not enough silver coined to supply the entire demands for customs dues the dollar will remain at or near par of gold, and so long as the Secretary chooses to hoard his customs receipts there will be only the $4,000,000 of monthly issue of dollars out and available for customs payments But when he resumes specie payments and begins to redeem or offer to redeem the greenbacks then he will have to supply the whole demand for customs, and after the 1st of next January, therefore, supposing this to be his plan, the entire customs revenue would be paid in silver.

This is, of course, on the supposition that the resumption date is not repealed. It probably will not be. The silver men themselves, or at least some of them, concede that it would not be politic to do it, and it is doubtful whether a majority of both houses could be got to vote for it in the face of the fact that the Secretary can resume in silver, which is what the silver men have cried out for and which a large proportion of them sincerely wish to have done.

A MEASURE TO ECONOMIZE IN THE USE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Mr. Schleicher, of Texas, has introduced a bill for economizing in the use and construction of public buildings all over the country. He finds, he says, that the government has begun a large number of custom houses and other public buildings in the large cities East, West and South, work on many of which has been stopped for lack of appropriations which are passed in the annual appropriation bills. Meantime, he also finds that the government, while waiting for the completion of these buildings, is paying about $1,000,000 per annum as rent for private buildings which it needs. His proposition is to capitalize this $1,000,000 at five per cent, raise $20,000,000 on bonds, and with this sum complete all the needed buildings within a year. The $1,000,000 now paid out would then be paid as interest on these bonds, and a small sinking fund would extinguish the whole after some years and leave the government in possession as owner of the accommodations it needs. He urges that this would be, in the language of railroad men, separating the construction account from operating expenses; that it would cause an important economy, and that, both labor and building materials being now cheap, it is a time in which any capitalist needing houses would prefer to build. Mr. Schleicher means to push his bill, which finds a good deal of favor among Congressmen anxious to get work for their constituents at home, and it is not unlikely to pass.

MR. HEWITT'S REMARKS ON THE EFFECT OF THE SILVER BILL.

Mr. Hewitt, of New York, desires it to be known that the whole of his remarks on the effects of the Silver act were not printed in NEW YORK, and that the discussion of them in the HERALD failed to present his entire views. He held that while the Secretary could bring about a severe and disastrous contraction, his powers under the act are such that he can avoid this, and he foresaw that several ways were open to him to avoid—one by selling his hoarded greenbacks to buy gold, another by hoarding the silver he might receive, and thus retaining no greenbacks out of the circulation. It is most probable that Secretary Sherman will adopt the latter plan, as it will not in any peremptory way interfere with the natural course of the dollars, which will flow into the Treasury of themselves.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1878.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS—PROGRESS OF THE WORK BEFORE THE COMMITTEES.

The House to-day passed the Fortification Appropriation bill, amounting to $275,000.

The Diplomatic bill will be taken up as soon as the Deficiency bill, now under consideration, is passed. The provision made in the latter for the prosecution of the alleged timber thieves is objectionable to several Congressmen from Southern States, and there may be several days' debate upon this bill on that account.

General Garfield will reply to Mr. Kelley's attack in his resumption speech to-morrow, and the issue made on the money question between the silver and anti-silver men may also protract the debate on the Deficiency bill into next week.

The House Committee on Commerce has felt itself compelled to adopt the strictest secrecy in preparing the River and Harbor Appropriation bill. At first the committee allowed certain statements to be given out as to what it was proposed to incorporate in the bill. The publication of these has brought imperative demands to nearly every member of Congress having a river or harbor or a pretence of one in his district, that liberal appropriations must be secured for their localities in order to appease the laboring class. The committee, therefore, will make no more announcements until the bill is ready to be reported to the House.

MR. KELLEY'S SPEECH ON THE SILVER QUESTION.

Mr. Kelley made a speech on the silver question to-day, occupying two hours and a half in its delivery. It was in reply to a speech of General Garfield made some weeks ago, and the democratic members were willing to give Mr. Kelley all the time he asked for to criticise the speech of another republican. General Garfield sat quietly through the remarks of Mr. Kelley and has the floor for one hour to-morrow to reply to him.

REPRESENTATIVE LEONARD'S MISSION TO CUBA—CURRENT RUMORS DENIED.

There is the highest authority for saying that no political significance is to be attached to the visit of Representative Leonard to Cuba. His mission is of a private, personal character. There is no truth whatever in the stories which have been circulated about the stealing of negroes from Florida to slavery in Cuba. The Cuban insurgent army which has surrendered to the Spanish authorities in Cuba did not number more than three or four thousand men at the outside, and was composed, it is here said, of deserters from the Spanish army, persons who were formerly slaves and Chinese.

THE NEW BROOKLYN POST OFFICE—FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to-day made a unanimous report in favor of the construction of a public building in the city of Brooklyn for United States purposes and the accommodation of the United States Court, Internal Revenue and Post Offices and recommending the appropriation of $500,000 for the purpose.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1878.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The Committee on Ways and Means to-day agreed to the following paragraph in the new Tariff bill:—

Books, periodicals, pamphlets, blank books, bound or unbound, and all printed matter, photographs, engravings, bound or unbound; illustrated books and papers, maps and charts, twenty per cent ad valorem. But books manufactured and printed more than twenty years shall be free of duty.

E. Y. Bell, of New York, appeared before the committee to-day and argued for the reduction of the tariff on burlaps and manufactures of jute.

THE UTAH ELECTION BILL.

Notwithstanding the passage of the election laws by the Utah Legislature, the House sub-committee on Territories, who had that act under consideration, to-day agreed to report the Utah Election bill introduced by Mr. Luttrell. They have shorn it, however, of its clauses disfranchising polygamists and women.

FIRST COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY CONFIRMED.

The Senate, in executive session to-day, confirmed the following nominations:—Albert G. Porter, of Indianapolis, Ind., to be First Comptroller of the Treasury, vice Robert W. Taylor, deceased.

THE NEW ENGLAND MAIL SERVICE—MR. CHENEY NOT REMOVED.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to-day continued the investigation of Thomas P. Cheney, Superintendent of New England Mail Service. Mr. N. D. Sperry, Postmaster at New Haven, Conn., testified that Mr. Cheney, for the past four or five years, had left his entire business to his subordinates, in consequence of which the whole system of railway mail service in New England is demoralized.

Theodore N. Vail, General Superintendent of Railway Mail Transportation, Post Office Department, stated that no written charges and specifications had been presented to the department against Mr. Cheney upon which an investigation could be based. In reply to a question Mr. Vail said the service in Mr. Cheney's division was in good order and did not appear to have suffered any neglect on the part of its management.

Both Postmaster General Key and the General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service (Mr. Vail) deny the truth of the report that Thomas P. Cheney, Superintendent of New England Mail Service, has been removed from office.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1878.

Mr. CRAPO, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the bill supplementary to the act to carry into effect the convention between the United States and China, concluded in 1858, and to give the Court of Claims jurisdiction in certain cases. The bill authorizes any person or persons having any claim against the balance of the fund designated as the Chinese indemnity fund for losses sustained by the plunder of the bark Caldera in 1354 to commence within twelve months of the passage of this act proceedings in the United States Court of Claims.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, asked whether this bill made any disposition of the balance of the fund.

Mr. CRAPO replied that it did not.

Mr. GARFIELD said that he had always believed, as a matter of good faith, that the United States ought to pay the balance back to China. He felt ashamed every time he remembered that there were several hundred thousand dollars in the State Department that did not belong to this country.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., said that that subject was now being thoroughly considered by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. HEWITT, (dem.) of N. Y., agreed with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Garfield) and said that this bill would remove the only known claims against that fund. The bill was then passed.

Mr. RIDDLE, of Tennessee, from the Committee on Territories, reported back adversely the bill to establish the Territory of Pembina. Laid on the table.

At the conclusion of the morning hour a half-hour's discussion arose as to the business to be next considered. After a great deal of amusement, and while Mr. Townsend, of New York, was on the floor, the Speaker announced that the discussion was entirely out of order and that it seemed to him that the public business should be proceeded with, which called for the remark from Mr. Townsend that he did not want the Chair to lecture him in public.

THE SPEAKER—The Chair will lecture the gentleman in private.

Mr. TOWNSEND—You had better. I do not want any public lecture, and, further, I will not submit to it. (Great laughter.)

THE FORTIFICATION APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House then, at twenty minutes past two o'clock, went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Potter, of New York, in the chair) on the Fortification Appropriation bill. The bill appropriates $100,000 for the protection of fortifications and other works of defence, $125,000 for the armament of fortifications and $50,000 for torpedoes for harbor defence.

The bill was read, and without amendment, was laid aside to be reported to the House.

EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERKS.

The committee then took up for consideration the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to employ temporary clerks, and making appropriations for the same; also, making appropriations for detecting trespassers on public lands, and for bringing into market public lands in certain states.

Mr. DURHAM addressed the House in explanation of the bill, and in the course of his remarks had read a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating that ninety-five clerks in his department would have to be discharged if an appropriation were not made for them.

Mr. FRYE, (rep.) of Me., suggested that behind each of these clerks there were two Senators and half a dozen representatives insisting on the appointment of other clerks and that there would be no remedy for such a state of things until members of Congress were prevented from spending their time with the assistant secretaries of departments demanding that their claims shall be acceded to.

Mr. EDEN, of Illinois—Cut off the money and this will be prevented.

Mr. ELLSWORTH, (rep.) of Mich, wanted to know whether the temporary clerks, who had been discharged, had not been engaged on useful work, and work that ought to be done.

Mr. DURHAM replied that there was no immediate necessity for the work being done.

Mr. ELLSWORTH inquired whether it had not better be done now than ten years hence.

Mr. DURHAM inquired in reply whether Mr. Ellsworth would buy this year an overcoat that he would not want for ten years.

Mr. ELLSWORTH suggested that the work should be done now when the people were suffering.

Mr. DURHAM—It is not the country that suffers and it is not the department that suffers, but it is the members of Congress who are suffering and the women clerks who are suffering. Mr. Durham then proceeded to explain the portion of the bill relating to the prosecution of depredators on the government timber land.

MR. KELLEY ON RESUMPTION.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., took the floor by unanimous consent and proceeded to make a speech on the resumption question in reply to Mr. Garfield's speech of some months ago. He admitted that Mr. Garfield's speech was not worth the attention that he was paying to it. It was a gush of unrestrained enthusiasm, a rhapsody. The author of it had indulged in a poet's license, and had bodied "forth the forms of things unknown," and given "to airy nothings a local habitation and a name." But the speech had been welcomed by the bullionist press throughout the country as the sufficient answer to all that had been or might be said against the robber theories of the contractionists and demonetizers. He denied the truth of Mr. Garfield's opening statement that 1860 was a year of peace and prosperity, and said that, on the contrary, the agriculturists of the country had been in that year sadly stricken in their baskets and their stores.

Mr. REAGAN, (dem.) of Texas, added that in his State in was the most calamitous year in its history to the agriculturist.

NOT A YEAR OF PROSPERITY.

Mr. KELLEY asked whether 1860 was a year of peace, and he reminded the House that John Brown's invasion of Virginia occurred in October, 1859, and that when the sun of 1860 rose "John Brown's body was mouldering in the grave, but his soul was marching on" and animating the enthusiasts of both sections of the country. The sun of 1860 had risen upon a year dedicated to turmoil, strife, want and general ruin. The coming war had cast its shadow on that year. It was in 1860 that South Carolina had seceded from the Union, and on the night following that event the leading cities of the South had been illuminated in honor of the act. It was in 1860 that Anderson found safety for the flag and the troops of the United States against the assaults of the army of South Carolina by passing covertly in the darkness of the night from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter. To prove that 1860 was not a year of unusual prosperity, he read the answers to a series of inquiries propounded by him to the proprietors of iron mills in Pennsylvania. He also read the report of the Philadelphia Mercantile Beneficial Association for 1860 to show that that was not a year of commercial prosperity. In further corroboration of his position he referred to the fact that in the leading savings institution of Philadelphia there were on the 1st of January, 1860, 21,265 depositors, with $4,083,450 deposits, and that on the 1st of January, 1861, the number of depositors had shrunk to 12,662 and the amount of deposits to $2,251,646. He also referred to the statistics of immigration, of railroad building, &c., and concluded that Mr. Garfield's description of the year 1860 was not correct. He then proceeded to show that in a financial point of view the year 1860 was far from being a prosperous one, and said that there was an air of exaggeration in Mr. Garfield's statement about it. In reply to Mr. Garfield's assertion that no President or statesman had favored any more money but standard gold and silver, he said that Jefferson and Madison were exceptions to that sweeping assertion and that Alexander Hamilton had favored a resort to greenbacks under the name of Treasury notes. He also contradicted the assertion of Mr. Garfield as to the hesitation and unwillingness of Senators and members to pass the Legal Tender act, and he quoted Thaddeus Stevens, Mr. Hooper, of Massachusetts, and Senator Sherman in commendation of that measure. He denied Mr. Garfield's assertion that the greenback currency was a forced loan, and said:—"A forced loan is a debt; greenbacks are money with which we pay debt. If the gentleman's assertion had been made in 1862 it would have been denounced as the hissing of a venomous copperhead."

SPECIE RESUMPTION.

Coming down to the question of specie resumption he said that with $65,000,000 in gold in the Treasury, with none in the hands of the people and with $700,000,000 to be redeemed, the proposition was a measure of insanity. It was a proposition the enforcement of which was driving the people to pauperism, to lunacy and to suicide, and was creating a moneyed oligarchy, whose wealth, compared with the body of the people, would be greater than that of the moneyed oligarchy of England. As to the prosperity of England (eluded to by Mr. Garfield) he said that the exports from England for 1877 were less than they had been in 1870, and that while want and starvation (pauperism did not cover the word) was spreading among the laboring classes of England the banks had increased their dividends during that fatal year of 1877. He defended the reputation for financial ability of Sir Archibald Alison and Mr. Doubleday against the flings made against them by Mr. Garfield, which, he said, partook more of the incoherence of an irate and illogical fishwoman than that of the argument of a great statesman in the councils of the first nation of the world:—

A DOLEFUL PICTURE.

In conclusion he said:—

"The elements referred to as with us are against us. No returning wave of prosperity carries the nation forward; we are being welled in the slough of despond. Instead of business reviving, everywhere prices continue to shrink, wages to fall, employment for skilled or unskilled labor becomes more difficult to obtain, and the nation is appalled by a more profound gloom than has ever overshadowed it since the gentleman's other prosperous year of 1860. This sad condition will continue, and will from month to month intensify, until that menace to confidence—the Resumption act—shall be repealed. It cannot be otherwise. The Silver bill was an act of justice, not of relief. Its good influence cannot be felt appreciably until restored confidence will justify an enlargement of the circulation of money and credit. Bonds have not fallen nor gold risen since its passage over the President's impotent veto. Its enemies have been confounded by experience, and so too will its friends be if the Resumption act be permitted to disgrace our statute books."

Mr. KELLY spoke for two hours, but much of his time was occupied in reading extracts. Mr. GARFIELD rose to reply to him, and will have an hour for that purpose when the House again goes into committee on the bill.

The committee rose, and Mr. FORT, of Illinois, introduced a bill to authorize the preparation of fine or standard silver bars of the value of $100 and $1,000, the deposit of the same in the United States Treasury, and the issue of certificates thereon. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

The House then, at a quarter to six o'clock, adjourned.

## ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1878.

Major Godfrey Weitzel, of the Engineer corps of the army, in granted four months' leave of absence, with permission to go beyond the sea.

The following nominations were sent to the Senate by the President to-day:—

First Lieutenant David A. Irwin, Fourth cavalry, to be captain; Additional Second Lieutenant Matthias W. Day, Tenth cavalry, to be second lieutenant, Ninth cavalry; First Lieutenant William E. Dougherty, Fifteenth infantry, to be captain; Second Lieutenant Charles A. Booth, First infantry, to be first lieutenant.

## NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1878.

Midshipman James T. Smith is ordered to the Portsmouth, at New York.

Charles F. Nagle, passed assistant engineer, is ordered to the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H.

Ensign Bradley A. Fiske is detached from the Plymouth and ordered to equipment duty at the Navy Yard, New York.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations:—

Medical Inspector George Peck, of New York, to be a medical director in the navy from January 7; Surgeon Christopher J. Cleborne, of Pennsylvania, to be a medical inspector in the navy from January 7; Passed Assistant Surgeon Joseph G. Ayres, of New Hampshire, to be a surgeon in the navy from January 7.

INDICATIONS OF PUTTING THE MONITORS OUT OF COMMISSION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

NORFOLK, VA., March 5, 1878.

The marine guards from the monitors Mahopac, Lehigh, Ajax, Manhattan and Catskill at the fresh water anchorage in James River have been removed and leave in a few days for Washington, in charge of Captain William B. Remey, who is also detached from this station. This is thought to presage putting the monitors out of commission shortly altogether and place them in charge of reliable ship keepers and machinists.

## THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

EXAMINATION OF THE CLASS OF 1875 FOR PLACES ON THE LIST OF ENSIGNS.

ANNOPOLIS, March 4, 1878.

The Naval Board of Examiners of the class of midshipmen of 1875, consisting of Commodore F. A. Parker, president; Captain James A. Greer, Commanders J. A. Howell, A. T. Mahan and O. E. Batcheller and Chief Engineer A. J. Kiersted, has completed its work. As determined by this examination the midshipmen will stand in the list of ensigns of the navy as follows, unalterable except from death, resignation or dismissal:—

A. C. Hodgson, Georgia; J. M. Helm, Tennessee; W. G. Cutler, Nevada; C. M. Winslow, Massachusetts; C. Laird, Ohio; C. H. Amsden, Ohio; W. S. Hughes, Iowa; F. S. Carter, Illinois; F. F. Fletcher, Iowa; Alexander Sharpe, District of Columbia; G. H. Worcester, New York; C. A. Corbin, Michigan; H. H. Hosley, New Hampshire; F. E. Beatty, Minnesota; C. M. McCarthy, Pennsylvania; M. L. Wood, Missouri; R. H. Townley, Nebraska; D. Daniels, Massachusetts; J. A. Shearman, New York; R. M. Doyle, Tennessee; E. D. Bostick, South Carolina; H. J. Hunt, Rhode Island; F. B. Vinton, New York; G. Storey, Alabama; F. W. Coffin, Massachusetts; H. M. Hodges, Illinois; W. B. Caperton, Tennessee; J. T. Smith, North Carolina; R. Hunt, Louisiana.

The examination made many changes in the standing of the members of the class since their graduation in 1875. In one case one midshipman fell twenty numbers, another nine; some went up from one to seven places. Three held their old numbers.

## NEW YORK EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

"The poor from all parts of the State are entitled to its privileges" is the proclamation of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, the fifty-seventh annual report of which has just been issued. Two hundred and fifteen thousand indigent sufferers from diseases of the eye, ear and throat relieved during the existence of the institution is a record of which it is justly proud. During the year just closed no fewer than 10,530 patients were treated, including eighty-six cases of cataract. With a portion of $50,000 given by Mr. John C. Green for the purpose a building adjoining the present infirmary, on Second avenue, has been purchased, and so much of the remaining amount as may be necessary will be used in making such alterations in it as are necessary to adapt it to the requirements of the institution. Besides the regular work in the institution the surgeons have rendered help to two other charitable institutions. In St. Joseph's Industrial School and in the Protestant Orphan Asylum there occurred some time since an outbreak of disease of the eyes so extensive as to cause the managers to send to the infirmary for relief. Surgeons were sent to visit them and help in treating the cases. The epidemic in the first named institution was severe, there being 125 cases, out of which three eyes were lost and three badly injured.

The managers of the infirmary have appealed to the public for discarded or unused glasses for their poor patients, and, as a result, about one hundred and fifty pairs of spectacles and glasses were received during the past year. In many cases glasses are essential to a cure, and of the 7,211 cases of eye disease treated during the past year 547 required their aid.

## THE ERIE WAR.

MOTION TO CHANGE THE PLACE OF TRIAL IN THE LANGLEY SUIT—CHARGES AGAINST THE COMPANY AND OTHERS.

Motion was made in the Supreme Court, Kings county, before Justice Pratt, yesterday, to change the place of trial in the matter of the suit brought by De Witt C. Langley, a stockholder, against the Erie Railway Company, Receiver Hugh J. Jewett, S. L. M. Barlow, Jay Gould and the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, trustees. The motion was made on behalf of the defendants, Barlow and the Erie Railway Company to change the venue from Orange county to New York county.

THE COMPLAINT.

The plaintiff alleges that a few months prior to March, 1872, Mr. Barlow entered into a conspiracy with the firm of Bischoffheim & Goldsmith and James McHenry, of London, to get control of the railway, and that to carry out the objects thereof the firm and McHenry advanced $700,000 to be used in bribing certain directors of the company to resign, that other persons should be elected in the places thus vacated. It is alleged by the plaintiff that part of this sum was paid by Barlow to certain directors and part was retained or paid to the law firm of which he was a member. The persons elected were, it is alleged, tools, and obeyed his instructions; and aided by them, in March, 1872, he succeeded in ousting Jay Gould from the presidency of the company, and procured John A. Dix to be elected in Gould's place, but that Mr. Dix remained only four months, for which period he was paid $15,000; that in July, 1872, Peter H. Watson was elected in place of Dix; that when Gould ceased to be president he was indebted to the company over $9,000,000, for the recovery of which Watson caused suit to be commenced on behalf of the company, Barlow acting counsel for the plaintiff. The plaintiff alleges that he is informed and believes that a conspiracy was entered into between Gould, Barlow and Watson to cheat and defraud the company out of the money due to it by Gould, and that a fraudulent settlement was made by which Gould was permitted to pay the sum in worthless or nearly worthless stocks, securities and property, on which little or nothing has been realized by the company; that it was announced at the time that Gould paid the sum in full, and thereby the stock was greatly enhanced in market value; that this was effected by Barlow, who was then a director and counsel of the railway. The plaintiff alleges that in July, 1874, Jewett was elected president through the influence of Barlow, and that the company was then insolvent and unable to meet its expenses; that Gould and Barlow, fearing that application would be made for a receiver, they conspired with Daniel Pratt, Attorney General of the State of New York, and with Jewett for the appointment of Jewett as such receiver; that Jewett was appointed receiver on May 28, 1875, but that the latter has neglected to repudiate or set aside the fraudulent settlement with Gould, or to collect any part of the indebtedness or to call him to account in any way, but fraudulently settled an action against Gould, and refused to hold Barlow responsible for the acts set forth; that Barlow procured the company to make a contract with Bischoffheim & Goldsmith in 1872, by which they were to act as agents and to sell the bonds at a commission of two and a half per cent, beside one-fourth per cent brokerage, although the company then had a contract with a London firm to perform the service for one-half per cent.

OTHER ACTS CHARGED.

That so far as the commission was intended to repay the firm for advances to Barlow, it was illegal and fraudulent; nevertheless the contract was carried out and the firm now holds from the proceeds of such sales $1,400,000, the greater part of which they claim to retain for their services. The plaintiff alleges that Barlow has prevented any action to recover the money, but has insisted that it belongs to the firm. The plaintiff alleges that the company has consented to this.

The plaintiff further alleges that the contract of Mr. Jewett for president of the Erie road was illegal, fraudulent and void; that one Hitchcock was appointed receiver of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company, in an action against it in which the Erie was a party, and that by the advice of Mr. Barlow and of Jay Gould, a settlement was effected by which the Erie paid a large sum of money in satisfaction of all claims, but that afterward Barlow, when a director of the Erie, procured, or assisted in procuring the settlement to be opened, and, by his conduct, caused to be paid in resettlement to the Atlantic and Great Western $400,000 and $25,000 to one Burke. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Barlow had procured some interest in the claims before the settlement was opened.

ERIE CAPITAL STOCK.

The plaintiff alleges that the capital stock of the Erie consists of 780,000 shares of common stock and 85,369 of preferred stock, of the value of $100 each; that the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to receive a dividend of seven per cent of the par value out of the net earnings of the company before the holders of the common stock are entitled to any dividend; that the gross earnings for years prior to February 11, 1873, did not equal by many million dollars its current expenses and losses, and in no one of said years had the company earned any net profits whatever, but there was a heavy deficit, and the company had no money out of which to pay any dividend. Notwithstanding these facts, which the plaintiff alleges were known to Barlow, the directors, and Barlow among them, passed a resolution directing a dividend of three and a half per cent on preferred and one and three-fourths per cent on the common, amounting to over $1,600,000, which dividends were paid. Plaintiff says they were so paid out of money received from the sale of convertible bonds of the company and not out of the funds from which they ought to have been paid. Barlow at the time was, it is alleged, a large holder of stock and shared in the dividends, and fraudulently conspired with certain of his co-directors to effect the passage of the resolution for speculative purposes so that he might, as he did, profit thereby, and to cover this it was announced that the dividends were paid from the earnings of the company. Plaintiff further alleges that through the instigation, advice and procurement of Barlow, director and counsel of the railway, the company in January, 1873, paid to John A. Gray, a director, and to certain other persons, $700,000 for the purchase of 5,000 shares of capital of the Buffalo, New York and Erie Railroad Company; that the market value of the stock did not exceed $50,000, and that the $300,000 was divided between Barlow and other directors of the company and persons who conspired with him to procure the resolution for the purchase of the stock. Plaintiff alleges that the company had no right to make such purchase, and that the money was wholly lost. Plaintiff alleges that by the articles of incorporation no new mortgage could be created on the property, unless the intention to do so were first properly published for ten weeks, and that no floating debts should be created except for ordinary supplies, &c., unless authorized by a vote of three-fourths of the directors at a meeting called for the purpose. Plaintiff says that in 1873 the Erie company issued 10,000 convertible bonds of $1,000 each, payable with interest at seven per cent in gold, and sold them in England at about ninety cents on the dollar; that said bonds were not issued for any of the purposes mentioned in the articles of association; that three-fourths of the directors did not vote thereon; that the meeting was not called therefor, &c.

THE CONVERTIBLE BONDS.

In 1874, it is further alleged, the Erie company executed to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, as trustees, a new mortgage to secure the payment of the convertible bonds and $30,000 other bonds, whereby the company agreed to pay $10,000 on each bond and seven per cent, gold, and thereupon recorded the mortgage in each county through which the railway passes. No notice, it is alleged, was published of the intention to create this mortgage, and the execution of it and the issue of the $30,000 bonds were in direct violation of legislative acts and the articles of the association constituting the charter of the company, and so known to be by Barlow, who advised and procured the same to be done.

Plaintiff further says that in 1875, through Barlow, Jay Gould and Jewett—the latter as receiver of the company—failed to pay the interest on the said bonds, although he had funds sufficient, in order to procure the foreclosure of the mortgage and the sale of the Erie property thereunder, as part of a scheme to dissolve that company and organize a new one to purchase its valuable franchise and property, so that the wrongful and fraudulent acts set forth might be concealed and the conspirators relieved from liability, and that the stockholders and creditors might be defrauded of their just rights and the conspirators reap profit.

Plaintiff alleges that in pursuit of such purpose the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, under the control of Gould, Barlow and Jewett, commenced an action to foreclose the mortgage, and Jewett was appointed special receiver therein, and November 7, 1877, a decree of foreclosure and sale was entered; and that the sale has been fixed for March 28, 1878, unless restrained by an order of the Court; that by this means the scheme to prevent the recovery of the property and moneys fraudulently appropriated and used will be aided and the company defrauded, &c.

Judgment is demanded by the plaintiff that the settlement with Gould be set aside and that he be directed to pay over to a special receiver, to be appointed in this action, the money and property decreed to be due to him by the company; that Barlow be also required to render an account; that Jewett be directed to pay the same receiver $175,000 on such sums as he may, on accounting, show himself entitled to, and that the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company be enjoined and restrained from selling under foreclosure, and that said decree be opened and the mortgage set aside; that a special receiver of the Erie Railway Company be appointed, and that the plaintiff have such relief as may be just.

The Erie Railway in its answer admits the salaries of the officers, and that Gould was indebted in a certain sum, which was compounded and adjusted, &c., and denies all other allegations. An injunction is in operation restraining the sale under foreclosure.

Judge Pratt reserved his decision on the motion to change the place of trial. L. W. Emerson appeared for the plaintiff, and Shipman, Barlow and Larocque for defendant.

## ANTI-TAMMANY.

The anti-Tammany democracy, represented by Messrs. Bixby, Hart and Shafer, had a meeting yesterday afternoon at No. 52 Exchange place to hear the report of the Committee of Conference on the issue of the late interview with the Everett House party, but owing to engagements elsewhere of the members of the committee—consisting of Mr. Ira Shafer, Judge Murray, Assemblyman Hayes and Alderman Power—the matter was postponed until the assembling of the Executive Committee, this evening, at No. 211 Union square.

## BROOKLYN POLITICS.

STORMY MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMITTEE—A NUMBER OF EXPULSIONS.

The regular meeting of the Kings County Democratic General Committee was held last evening at their headquarters, corner of Remsen and Court streets, Brooklyn. The rooms were densely packed with members of the committee and their friends and a great deal of excitement reigned throughout the entire proceedings. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Carroll, who maintained order to the best of his ability. A report on contested seats presented by Joseph I. Bergen was adopted. A report on permanent organization, with James B. Craig as president of the committee, Jacob I. Bergen as vice president and Thomas Carroll as treasurer was also adopted. General Craig being absent the chair was taken by Mr. Bergen. At the previous meeting held by the committee Thomas Carroll moved to amend the constitution, declaring all the seats of appointed members vacant, and providing that hereafter all delegates be elected. Last evening the matter was taken from the table, when Mr. Freeman, a member who was appointed in 1876, stated that the appointees were all good democrats, and offered a substitute to the effect that permission to serve out their terms be given to the appointees. Mr. Carroll then arose and announced that if it was the wish of the committee he was willing the substitute should be adopted. The amendment was opposed by Boss McLaughlin, who stated in a very pointed speech that the members were appointed and he would suggest that they go back and offer themselves for election. The motion, with Mr. Freeman's amendment, was then voted upon and lost by 104 to 6. The amendment of Mr. Carroll, which turns out of the committee fifty members, was afterward adopted. Great confusion followed, during which several of the expelled members left the room.

MESSRS. SHANNON AND O'REILLY.

Timothy Desmond then offered a resolution to expel from membership of the committee Aldermen O'Reilly and Shannon, who were elected to the Common Council on the independent ticket, for not voting in the interest of the democratic party in the Common Council. So great was the noise in the room when the resolution was read that the gavel of the President could scarcely be heeded, and in fact very little attention was paid to it. Some of the members of the committee declared that two weeks' notice had to be given. These points were declared out of order and the roll was called. Mr. Shannon, in explaining his note, said he was driven to his course in the Board of Aldermen by the treachery of the democrats. He denounced Boss McLaughlin, and said they might expel him from the committee, but they could not beat him in his own ward. Robert Furey said that he could prove Shannon was a traitor, and that he would go through the world with the brand of traitor on his brow. The resolution expelling Messrs. Shannon and O'Riely was adopted by a vote of 97 to 2.

KINGS COUNTY REPUBLICANS.

The Kings County Republican General Committee held their regular meeting last night at the rooms of the committee, on Court street, Brooklyn, with President Cook in the chair. The report of the committee appointed to inquire into the late disturbances in the Twelfth Ward Association was read by the Chairman of the committee, Mr. C. W. Goddard. It set forth that the primary held on November 27, 1877, was irregular. A series of resolutions offered by the committee to the effect that a sub-committee be appointed to reorganize the ward association was adopted. A resolution debarring certain republicans claiming seats in the association from membership was, after considerable excited discussion, laid upon the table.

## THE LECTURE SEASON.

PROFESSOR D. G. EATON ON ASTRONOMY AND THE CALENDAR.

Professor D. G. Eaton, of the Packer Institute, lectured last evening in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn, on the subjects—"Astronomy and the Calendar."

There are three great natural units, he said, necessary to the measurement of time. These units are found in the movement of the celestial bodies. The first is the revolution of the earth upon its axis, which measures day and night. This is the foundation of all measurement of time. The rising and setting of the sun is not uniform, but the time of the rising and setting of a star, such as Sirius which may be seen near the meridian to-night is the same throughout all ages. It was the same a thousand years ago and will be the same a thousand years hence. The other natural units of time are the month and year. Such an adjustment of the civil to the natural year as shall cause the perpetual recurrence of the seasons upon the same month is what constitutes the calendar. The artificial units of time are the week, hour, minute and second. The account of the origin of the week can be found nowhere except in the books of Moses, though it is a division of time that was known to all the civilized nations of antiquity. It was not, however, until after the time of the Emperor Theodosius, that it was introduced among the Romans. The lecturer at this point gave an explanation of the way in which the days of the week were named by the ancient Egyptians and renamed by the Saxons. He also gave an account of the confusion which was caused in the Roman calendar by the vanity of the Emperor Augustus, who, after having the eighth month of the year named after himself, caused another day to be added to the number which it contained before, that the month of July (named after Julius Cæsar) should not exceed it in length. To regain the balance of days in each month one day was taken from both September and November. English jealousy of the Papal power also caused confusion in the uniformity of the calendar by hesitating for more than two hundred years to accept the change in the old style of reckoning recommended by Pope Gregory and accepted at once by all Catholic countries. It was in 1752 that the new style was adopted in England by act of Parliament, and it has not yet been introduced into the Russian Empire. The motive which induced Pope Gregory to make this important change, which for a long time created so much confusion, was merely to regulate the recurrence of Easter Sunday. Though the motive was apparently of such slight importance, yet the result has been of great good to mankind. It is still a matter of difficulty for chronologists to settle the date of events which occurred in the remote past, and their task has not been lightened by the changes made in the calendar by some of the Roman emperors and the pontiffs of the Catholic Church.

Professor Eaton's lecture was illustrated by off-hand sketches on the blackboard and enlivened by several little anecdotes, which gave much pleasure to his audience.

REV. DR. STORRS ON THE OTTOMAN AND THE MUSCOVITE.

The first of Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs' lecture on "The Ottoman and the Muscovite—Their Long Duel" was delivered in the Brooklyn Academy of Music last evening. The lectures are for the benefit of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library Association. The Academy was well filled by an intelligent and interested audience. Dr. Storrs spoke for over two hours, and was listened to with untiring attention. Upon the platform were seated several members of the association, including Rev. Drs. Budington, Cuyler and Charles H. Hall, Messrs. Henry C. Murphy, Henry E. Pierrepont, Samuel McLean and many other. Dr. Storrs said that the subject was a large one. We have become accustomed during the last twenty-five years to the reverberations of European wars. Up to that time, after the battle of Waterloo, it seemed as if the era of peace had come. In 1853, however, a war began between Russia and Turkey, which lasted