WASHINGTON.

The Fight Against the Federal Election Laws.

THEIR REPEAL VOTED IN THE HOUSE.

Passage of the Contagious Disease Bill by the Senate.

THE POTTER INVESTIGATION.

Summary of the Chairman's Forthcoming Report.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

THE ELECTORAL INVESTIGATION—CHAIRMAN POTTER'S FORTHCOMING REPORT.

Mr. Potter has his report nearly ready and will, it is believed, present it to the House on Friday or Saturday. He has been engaged for a considerable time in making a thorough digest of the testimony and it is understood that his report will take the ground that the evidence taken shows beyond possibility of contradiction that Florida and Louisiana were rightfully carried by the democrats, and that the electoral votes of these two States were cast for the republican ticket wrongfully, illegally and fraudulently; that the course of the Louisiana Returning Board and the manner in which it conducted the scrutiny of the returns was in most important matters in violation of the law of the State under which it existed and acted; that its fraudulent and illegal acts were open, palpable and undeniable; that the manner in which protests were manufactured and returns altered and manipulated was all in defiance of the laws, and that every stage of the proceeding in Louisiana bears the mark of fraud, forgery and illegality.

Further, that these offences were in some cases furthered and in others silently approved by the republican visiting statesmen, and that the testimony establishes that in both the States of Florida and Louisiana, if the Returning Board had strictly observed the laws which were intended to rule their conduct, the electoral votes of those States must have been cast for the democratic candidates, and that it was only by the clearest and grossest violations of specific laws, and the most unblushing frauds and forgeries, that the purpose of the people and the result of the election was defeated. Further, that the testimony proves conclusively the low and debased character of the men who were the chosen agents of the republicans in Louisiana, as supervisors and election officers, to manipulate the election; that almost every one of these who had been called before the committee stands self-convicted of perjury and various villany, and that while the selection of such men by the republicans to conduct the election shows premeditated fraud, and the course of the Returning Board shows continued violation of the plainest provisions of law, as well as fraud and corruption. The fact that all who have on this investigation been shown to have been concerned in this corrupt and lawless stealing of the vote of the State have been rewarded with federal offices of varying importance by the administration, can be regarded only as a confession of secret and undue influence exercised by these worthless persons over members of the administration in securing pay out of the public treasury for their illegal and corrupt work; that this is especially a fair inference when it is remembered that the administration has constantly made professions of devotion to a reform of the civil service, and has repeatedly asserted that only persons of established character and fitness ought to be appointed to public office, but has conspicuously and unfailingly violated all its promises and pledges on this subject in its appointments in Louisiana; that the New Orleans Custom House and the other federal offices in Louisiana have been made by the administration places of refuge for the petty as well as the prominent agents in the election and Returning Board frauds, and that a list of names of prominent and obscure office holders will show that in no instance, so far as is known, has the claim of a person who was concerned in this move been unrecognized by the beneficiaries of it in the administration.

THE FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS—SUDDEN END OF THE STRUGGLE IN THE HOUSE.

The expected struggle in the House over the amendment to the legislative bill repealing the federal election laws came to a somewhat sudden close this afternoon. Mr. Hale had given notice of vigorous and prolonged opposition. When the ayes and nays were called the republicans declined to vote, supposing that thus there would be no quorum, but Messrs. Chittenden, Killinger and Fort voted no, and before the result of the roll call was announced it was discovered that it lacked but one of a quorum, whereupon Speaker Randall quietly cast his vote and the amendment was passed. Thereupon the bill was passed, the republicans voting.

To filibuster over it would have been in any case a mere waste of time and strength of the House. It is perfectly well understood that the majority of democratic Senators are opposed to the amendment, and it will be voted down when the bill gets to the Senate. The bill will then go to a conference committee, and when it returns to the House there are enough democrats there ready to support the report, which will leave this amendment out. It is understood that the test oaths will be repealed, the change in the manner of drawing jurors will be adopted, and the election laws will be left unrepealed.

STATIONING OF TROOPS AT THE POLLS—DEMOCRATS DETERMINED ON REPEALING THE LAW PERMITTING IT.

There is still a little nervousness about the clause in the Army bill repealing the few words in the statutes which permit troops to be kept at or near the polls. The Senate has struck out the repealing clause, but it is hoped and expected that in conference committee it will be again inserted and that the Senate will not in that case insist, but allow it to pass. If it should refuse, there is a general determination on the democratic side of the House to refuse to pass the Army bill, and so far as is known on this subject the democrats will be united and firm.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE ANTI-CHINESE BILL.

A telegram received here from San Francisco this morning states that at the Chamber of Commerce meeting which urged the President to sign the Anti-Chinese bill there were present less than forty members of a total membership of 250, and the resolution asking the President to sign the bill had even then a majority of only 7 votes.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

ENROLMENT OF BILLS—PROVISION AGAINST ANY MORE OMISSIONS.

The Clerk of the House, in order to avoid the possibility of the conduct of his office being called into question this session, has instructed the enrolling clerks to confine their labors strictly to the work of enrolling bills, and under no circumstances are they to assist in comparing the bills when enrolled. This duty will fall upon the members of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, and if any omissions occur in the acts passed at the close of this session the responsibility will rest upon the members of the committee themselves. Heretofore it has been the custom for the enrolling clerks to assist the members in the discharge of this duty, but under the present order it will cease.

NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT BOUNDARY LINE.

Attorney General Schoonmaker, of New York, yesterday entered his appearance in the Supreme Court as counsel for the State of New York in the case of Connecticut vs. New York, relating to the petition of the State of Connecticut to have the western boundary line of the State defined according to the claim of the petition already filed by Connecticut.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GREENBACK REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

The following address was issued by the greenback members-elect at their meeting in this city to-day:—

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:—The national greenback representatives elected to the Forty-sixth Congress, feeling the grave responsibility imposed upon them, have met in consultation, and deem it proper to advise you of the results.

The need of a more perfect organization engaged our serious attention. As against labor and capital invested in productive and commercial enterprises the money loaning interest is elaborately and thoroughly organized. This gigantic power embraces the national administration and legislature, the machinery and leadership of the republican and democratic parties, and more than two thousand national banks, forming a banking system, yet in the infancy of its power, whose operation has transferred the control of issuing and regulating the volume of the paper money from the government, where the constitution vests it, to these corporations whose directors are not responsible to the people. Back of this organization, inspiring and controlling it, is arrayed the colossal money power of Europe. It has controlled legislatures and executive officers, largely subsidized the press and endangered the purity of the judiciary. By means of usury and the appreciation of the value of money by contraction it has absorbed the accumulated wealth of the nation and gained a mortgage upon the productive power of the future. The indebtedness of the people—private, corporate, municipal, State and national—is more than the entire property of the country would bring in money. This indebtedness expresses the immense capital gained by the money brokers. Through the terrible pressure of its annual interest productive and commercial energy have been paralyzed, and the masses of our people have been plunged into a condition of increasing poverty, want and misery which is embittering them to a degree perilous to the peace of society and the stability of our government.

The agents of the money power have sought to blind the people to its spoliations by charging their distress to their extravagance, by a false clamor for "honest money" and by the promise of speedy relief through the resumption of specie payments. What they call resumption has come, but the distress intensifies and the prospect under their policy darkens. We have reached a dread crisis. It is the mission of our party to meet this crisis and avert the measureless ruin it threatens. To do this we must overthrow the powerful and intrenched banking system and restore to the government, where the fundamental law places it, the sole power to issue money, regulate its value and determine its volume. We must stop the increase of interest bearing indebtedness, and speedily as possible, in accord with the letter of the original contract, cancel that which has accrued. We must secure a volume of full legal tender money equal to the demands of prosperous productive enterprise.

Ours is a gigantic task. Only by the united efforts of those who suffer can we accomplish it. We are fully convinced that separation from the old parties whose leaders, machinery and press are mortgaged allied with the money power, is demanded.

Impelled by this conviction we have resolved to act together in organizing the next House of Congress that we may the better secure such legislation as will accomplish the desired result. We are assured that enough members entertaining our views have been elected to hold the balance of power. We propose to wield that power for the sole purpose of embodying our principles in law.

We call upon you to unite in precinct, town, city, county, Congressional and State organizations for the same end. We also invite all greenback and labor clubs, by whomsoever organized or chartered, to place themselves in communication with their respective county and State organizations, and through them with the headquarters of the National Executive Committee, Washington, D. C.

We earnestly caution the suffering against all who seek to inspire to disloyal acts, or even threats. Treason would be madness, because the ballot is in our hands.

The administration is what the votes of the people have made it, and within two years they can change it by the same peaceful process. We seek relief only through the ballot. The future is full of hope. Our party has gained more than a million of voters within the last year; and we are assured from all parts of the nation that the momentum which gave us that unparalleled advance is so increasing as to make success in 1880 certain.

Therefore let not the suffering yield to despair, nor the justly indignant resort to violence.

GILBERT DE LA MATYR,
Chairman Committee on Address.

BRILLIANT RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

The most brilliant reception of the season took place at the Executive Mansion this evening. Invitations had been sent by the President and Mrs. Hayes to the Cabinet, Supreme Court, the members of both houses of Congress, army and navy officers and the heads of the executive departments, who, with the ladies of their families, were invited to meet the members of the diplomatic corps.

Upon the arrival of the guests they were shown to the second floor of the mansion, where arrangements had been made for depositing their wrappings—the rooms of the eastern or official end of the building being set apart for the gentlemen and the residence portion of the building for the ladies, whence they proceeded by the private stairway to the lower parlors and East Room, in the centre of which the President and Mrs. Hayes received the guests, surrounded by the diplomatic corps.

The East Room is tastefully decorated with flowers and tropical plants, and the walls gracefully draped with the flags of all nations. Refreshments were served in the State dining room, the private dining room, and many little cosey nooks in the hall of the second floor were occupied by lunch tables.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

The session of the Senate of yesterday was continued up to the hour of twenty-five minutes to five this morning. The bill under consideration was the one to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases. Before midnight it was observed that a quorum was not present, and after a prolonged debate on parliamentary points touching the power of the Senate to compel the attendance of its members, the Sergeant-at-Arms was directed to request the attendance of Senators. A long time of weary waiting followed, and at a quarter to three o'clock A. M. a roll call on a motion for adjournment disclosed the presence of less than a quorum, there being only 7 yeas and 28 nays. Shortly afterward the Sergeant-at-Arms presented the following report:—

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:—

SIR—In obedience to the second order of the Senate in regard to the attendance of absent members, messengers communicating the command of the Senate have waited upon Senators Davis, of West Virginia; Conkling, Saulsbury, Blaine, McDonald, Morrill, Dawes, Anthony and Patterson. Senators Davis, Morrill, Dawes and Anthony have reported in person; Senator Blaine promised immediate attendance; Senator Conkling would give no assurance of attendance; Senators McDonald and Patterson were found at their lodgings sick, and Senators Bayard, Butler, Hamlin, Barnum and Chandler did not open their doors. Other messengers have not reported.

JOHN R. FRENCH, Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. EDMUNDS (sotto voce)—That's what you call compelling the absentees, is it?

Mr. HARRIS, (dem.) of Tenn., inquired if the Senate had not power under the constitution and its own rule to compel the attendance of its members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—That is for the Senate to decide. The Sergeant-at-Arms has made his report.

Mr. HARRIS—But has he executed his order?

Mr. COCKRELL, (dem.) of Mo.—He is in process of executing it now.

Mr. HARRIS—Very well. If he needs more time I make no complaint.

The PRESIDING OFFICER—The Sergeant-at-Arms desires to know if it is his duty to force an entrance if upon applying at the residence of a Senator he is refused admittance.

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I. (sarcastically)—I suggest that this is one of the few instances in which the use of the military has not been prohibited.

Mr. ANTHONY then inquired whether the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Harris) would have the Sergeant-at-Arms intrude into the chambers of Senators and take them by force.

Mr. HARRIS replied that no Senator had the right to absent himself from the transaction of public business. If he did so without leave the Senate had power under the constitution and the rules to compel his attendance; and if this required an invasion of his residence the power should be exercised.

Mr. MORGAN, (dem.) of Ala., said he desired to present to the attention of the Senate the case of Senator Conkling, who would give no assurance of attendance, and to inquire how long the Senate of the United States should have to wait for the attendance of that Senator. He moved that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to bring Mr. Conkling into the Senate. He made the motion special, because he had not heard of any other Senator who had defied the power of the Senate and refused to comply with its demand. He wished to know if one man should dominate the Senate or should the Senate exercise its authority.

Mr. EATON, (dem.) of Conn., thought it was not proper to single out a Senator in this way. It would be better to make a general order to enforce the attendance of all Senators able to be here.

Mr. HARRIS agreed with him, and moved to amend Mr. Morgan's resolution accordingly.

Mr. KERNAN, (dem.) of N. Y., expressed his belief that none of the Senators who had not yet arrived intended to defy the constitution or this body. Gentlemen waked up at three o'clock in the morning, after perhaps leaving the Senate chamber paired, were not likely to discuss matters very precisely with the Sergeant-at-Arms' messengers.

Mr. THURMAN, (dem.) of Ohio, called attention to the language of the constitution that the rules shall be enforced in such manner and under such penalties as either house shall provide, and after pointing out that the Senate has provided no penalty for cases like the present, he expressed grave doubts as to the existence of any authority for the Sergeant-at-Arms to break through a door, as had been suggested. Besides, such a thing as breaking down a door and dragging a Senator here would be inexpressibly disgraceful, and he shrunk with horror from the idea. Although he then believed there was practically no power to enforce the rule in question, and although he did not believe the Senate would gain any time for the proper transaction of public business by continuing the present proceedings, he nevertheless felt that as the effort to obtain a quorum had been pushed thus far it should be completed.

Mr. VOORHEES, (dem.) of Ind., ironically deprecated any further efforts to bring Senators here to attend to their duties and remarked that he had never known a more contemptible farce at four o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Harris' amendment was adopted—yeas 32, nays 10, and the motion of Mr. Morgan, as thus amended and made of general application, was then agreed to.

Mr. KERNAN, of New York, moved to dispense with further proceedings under the order. Rejected—yeas 15, nays 24.

A QUORUM AND THE BILL PASSED.

Pending the execution of the order (the presence of a quorum being disclosed by the last two votes), the Senate proceeded with the consideration of the bill to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States, and to establish a bureau of public health.

Mr. Kernan's amendment, offered last evening, was rejected—yeas 17, nays 24, and the bill, without further discussion, was read a third time and passed.

The Senate then took up the Deficiency Appropriation bill, and at twenty-five minutes to five A. M. adjourned to meet again at one o'clock this afternoon.

REASSEMBLED.

The Senate met at one o'clock. Mr. SARGENT, (rep.) of Cal., moved to dispense with the reading of the journal of yesterday's proceedings, as it was very long.

Mr. EDMUNDS, of Vermont, objected, and said there were so many Senators absent yesterday that it would be well for them to know what was going on during their absence.

Messrs. Bayard of Delaware, Kernan of New York and Ferry of Michigan were appointed the conference committee on the part of the Senate on the bill to amend the internal revenue laws.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATORSHIP.

Mr. CAMERON, (rep.) of Wis., moved to take up the resolution reported from the Committee on Privileges and Elections declaring David T. Corbin duly elected United States Senator from South Carolina for six years, from March 4, 1877, and as such entitled to have the oath of office administered and take the seat in place of M. C. Butler, the present incumbent.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., said this was not legislative business, it was business pertaining exclusively to one branch of Congress, and could be settled by the Senate at any time. The question now was whether the Senate would lay aside legislative business for the purpose of entering into a long discussion of a matter which could be settled hereafter.

The motion of Mr. Cameron was rejected—yeas 25, nays 36—as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Blaine, Booth, Cameron of Wisconsin, Chandler, Conkling, Dawes, Dorsey, Edmunds, Ferry, Hamlin, Hoar, Howe, Ingalls, Kirkwood, McMillan, Mitchell, Morrill, Oglesby, Paddock, Plumb, Rollins, Wadleigh and Windom—25.

NAYS—Messrs. Bailey, Barnum, Bayard, Beck, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Cockrell, Coke, Conover, Davis of Illinois, Davis of West Virginia, Dennis, Eaton, Garland, Gordon, Grover, Harris, Hereford, Hill, Jones of Florida, Kernan, Lamar, McCreery, McDonald, McPherson, Matthews, Maxey, Merrimon, Morgan, Patterson, Ransom, Saulsbury, Shields, Voorhees, Wallace, Whyte and Withers—36.

Messrs. Randolph and Chaffee, who would have voted in the negative, were paired with Messrs. Spencer and Teller, who would have voted in the affirmative.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

The Senate then proceeded with the consideration of the Deficiency Appropriation bill.

Amendments proposed by the Committee on Appropriations were agreed to as follows:—

Allowing $7,000 of the contingent fund of the Southern Claims Commission to be used for payment of salaries of investigating agents and their expenses.

Appropriating $58,258 to pay the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company for carrying the mails; $5,000 for the salary of Chargé d'Affaires to Greece; $7,000 for the widow of Bayard Taylor, late Minister to Germany; $2,000 for the widow of Justin E. Colburn, late Consul General to Mexico; $2,693 to pay John C. Myers his salary as Consul General to Shanghai; $4,220 for legislative expenses in Arizona; $5,680 for legislative expenses for Dakota, and the same amount for similar expenses in Idaho and Montana; $25,000 for detecting and bringing to trial and punishment persons guilty of violating the Internal Revenue laws; $3,500 to settle the accounts of Henry C. De Alma, late Collector of Customs at Sitka; $40,000 for the survey of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts; $35,000 for the survey of the Pacific coast; $15,000 for pay of various employes in the Patent Office; $25,000 for photolithographing and drawings for that office; $12,000 for the Hot Springs Commission; $13,375 to pay John W. Bigelow for provisions furnished the navy; $12,353 to pay W. Cramp & Sons for iron furnished the Bureau of Construction and Repairs; $7,830 to pay A. H. Lindsay for timber furnished that bureau; $4,000 for the preservation of specimens of United States surveying and exploring expeditions in the Smithsonian Institution; $27,500 for various expenses of the Senate and its committees; $10,000 for the contingent fund of the Senate, to be applied toward defraying the expenses of such investigations and inquiries as have already been or may hereafter be directed by the Senate during the Forty-fifth Congress.

The committee reported an amendment authorizing the accounting officers of the Treasury to accept the vouchers of chairmen of committees for money expended by such committees in the discharge of any duty imposed by the Senate.

Mr. EDMUNDS, of Vermont, raised the point of order that it was new legislation, but the Senate decided it was in order, and the amendment was agreed to.

The committee also reported an amendment "That Senators elected, whose term of office begins March 4, 1879, and whose credentials in due form of law have been presented in the Senate, or may be deposited with the Secretary of the Senate, may receive their compensation monthly from the beginning of their term until the beginning of the first session of the next Congress."

Mr. EDMUNDS also raised the point of order that this was new legislation, but the Senate decided that the amendment was in order, and it was agreed to.

An amendment of the committee, increasing the amount appropriated by the House for transportation of mails by railroads from $166,392 to $284,799, was agreed to.

The committee reported an amendment to the clause of the House bill in relation to adjustment of accounts between the United States and the Pacific railroads, so as to provide that it should not prevent the payment of moneys found due said companies under decisions of the courts, and that nothing in the paragraph should be construed to be a disposition of any moneys due or to become due to or from said companies, or to in any way affect their rights under existing laws, it being only intended to enable the proper accounting officers of the Treasury to state on the books of the department the accounts between the government and said companies.

Mr. EDMUNDS, of Vermont, submitted an amendment to that of the committee above stated, "That it shall not affect the rights or duties of the companies or the rights of the United States under existing law." Agreed to.

The amendment was agreed to as amended.

An amendment increasing the appropriation for railway postal clerks from $17,000 to $25,000 was agreed to.

The Committee on Appropriations asked that the amendment appropriating $83,333 33 to pay the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for carrying the mails in 1877 between San Francisco, Japan and China be not concurred in, and it was so ordered.

Other amendments of the committee were agreed to as follows:—

Allowing the unexpended balance of $40,000 of the appropriation of June 14, 1878, to refund internal revenue taxes erroneously assessed, to be made available for the payment of all claims to which the appropriation is applicable, and appropriating $7,012 for incidental expenses of the Quartermaster's Department.

The Committee reported an amendment striking out the House clause making it unlawful for the same person to hold the offices of clerk of the District and Circuit Court of the United States, and that no such clerk or deputy shall be appointed a receiver or master in chancery. The amendment was agreed to and the clause struck out.

The amendment appropriating $250,000 for expenses of courts and defraying the expenses incurred under the Enforcement act was laid over until to-morrow, at the request of Mr. WHYTE, of Maryland, and others, when it will be discussed.

Mr. JONES, (rep.) of Nev., from the Committee on Finance, reported back the resolution recently introduced by Mr. Sargent, of California, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information relating to fermented and alchoholic liquors passing through custom houses, and another resolution of the same Senator calling upon the Secretary of State for information received from consular officers in regard to foreign fermented and alcoholic liquors exported from such countries, together with written reports on the subject, and recommending the adoption of the resolutions. Ordered that the report be printed and placed on the calendar.

THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE WELCH.

Mr. PADDOCK, (rep.) of Neb., at five o'clock called up the House resolution announcing the death of Frank Welch, late a representative from the State of Nebraska.

Suitable remarks upon the life and character of the deceased were made by Mr. Paddock and Mr. Saunders, of Nebraska. Resolutions of respect to his memory were agreed to, and the Senate, at twenty minutes to six P. M., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, adjourned until eleven o'clock to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

The House met at ten o'clock in continuance of Monday's session, and the time between that hour and eleven o'clock, when Monday's session ended and Tuesday's began, was consumed in the disposal of private bills reported from the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. MONROE, (rep.) of Ohio, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill providing for the payment of arrears of pensions. It provides that the act "to authorize the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of refunding the public debt" be so amended as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to apply such portion of the proceeds of the sale of certificates of deposit provided for in said act as may be necessary, not exceeding $20,000,000, for the payment of claims for arrears of pensions.

Mr. ATKINS, (dem.) of Tenn., called attention to the fact that the House had already passed a bill appropriating $26,000,000 for the payment of arrears of pensions.

Mr. MONROE replied that his bill was to provide the ways and means.

Mr. EWING, (dem.) of Ohio, desired to have read his bill for the payment of arrears of pensions by the reissue of United States Treasury notes, but this was objected to.

The motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill was defeated—yeas 116, nays 125.

Mr. HARRIS, (dem.) of Va., chairman of the Committee on Elections, reported resolutions in regard to the contested election case from the Third Congressional district of Missouri, declaring that R. G. Frost, the contestant, is not, and that L. S. Metcalfe, the sitting member, is, entitled to the seat. Laid on the table.

The House then, at five minutes to twelve, went into Committee of the Whole (Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, in the chair) on the Legislative Appropriation bill—the question being on Mr. Southard's amendment repealing the law creating the office of election supervisors, &c.

Mr. HAYES, of Illinois, characterized the attempted amendment as a note of alarm and a signal of distress from the democratic party. That party was in trouble and this House was called upon to help it out. If these laws were enforced the democratic party knew that the penitentiaries would be filled with democratic voters.

SPEECH OF MR. HEWITT.

Mr. HEWITT, (dem.) of N. Y., said that the opposition expressed by gentlemen on the other side showed how impossible it was for them to understand the motives which govern the democratic party in their desire and fixed determination to erase from the statute books every provision which infringes upon the personal liberty of the citizen. All such provisions had been placed upon the statute books during or since the close of the war. Once only had an attempt been made to violate the principles upon which Mason and Jefferson and Madison and Hamilton had planted free government, and that obnoxious law had been swept from the statute books. So democrats planted themselves on the old stronghold that there was no safety in centralizing power; that the only security for liberty was in the people themselves. If abuses occurred they could be much more readily and effectually remedied by the people than by a centralized power. When the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Frye) a few days ago alluded to corrupt judges in New York he seems to have overlooked the fact that Judges McCunn and Barnard had been driven from the Bench, not by the federal power, but by the indignant voice of the people of New York. The gentleman from Maine had also said that these laws must be repealed in order to enable the democrats to carry New York in the next election. Did not that gentleman know that the election of 1876 had been an honest election in the State of New York, and had not Governor Tilden received a majority in that State of over 30,000?

MR. DAVENPORT'S INVENTION.

The democrats had carried the State with constantly increasing majorities ever since those laws had been enacted, and would have continued to do so to the end of time but for the invention of Mr. Davenport by which free citizens were prevented from voting. Mr. Davenport, following an example which had been set him in New Orleans, had, on affidavits of his own party, issued in one night warrants which resulted in the arrest of 4,000 free citizens of New York.

Here Mr. Hewitt's time expired and he asked leave to print the remainder of his remarks, but Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, objected, saying that Davenport was a friend of his and he did not want him abused.

MR. HALE'S DEFIANT SPIRIT.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of Me., said that the House might as well understand exactly how this matter stood. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Southard) in pressing this amendment had thrown down to the republican side of the House the gage of battle. The gentleman from New York (Mr. Hewitt) had taken the position this morning that the democratic party stood here to-day, and would stand, in favor of sweeping from the statute books all that body of law which he said interfered with the operation of State governments and State laws in the matter of elections. There was a plain and a distinct challenge. As strong as the feeling was on that side of the House equally strong was it on the republican side. These laws for the protection of the ballot would not and should not be repealed in an appropriation bill. His side of the House would never consent to the project being pushed forward and carried through to repeal. Gentlemen might as well understand that now as hereafter. (A voice on the democratic side—"You said that before.")

Mr. HALE went on to state the efforts which the republican side of the House had made during the last week to have the Legislative Appropriation bill proceeded with, and showed how those efforts had been antagonized by the democratic side. In conclusion he said:—We have done everything in our power to push this bill, and at some stage of the proceedings between now and the final adjournment of Congress the other side of the House must yield its position, for these laws cannot be repealed and shall not be repealed. (Applause on the republican side and derisive laughter on the democratic side.)

Finally the vote was taken, and the amendment was adopted—yeas 135, nays 110.

On motion of Mr. CALDWELL, (dem.) of Ky., the item of $15,000 for three Assistant Attorneys General was amended by making it $18,000 for four Assistant Attorneys General, at $4,500 each, one of whom shall be for the Post Office Department.

ACTION OF THE HOUSE.

The committee then (at ten minutes to two P. M.) rose, and the bill and amendments were reported to the House.

All the amendments were concurred in (in gross), except a few on which separate votes were demanded.

The amendment increasing the pay of the principal examiners of the Patent Office from $2,000 to $2,500 was rejected. The amendment increasing the item for contingent expenses of the Bureau of Education from $11,400 to $19,100 was agreed to—yeas 140, nays 111.

The next vote was on the amendment, the effect of which is to continue in force the present system of public land surveys and the offices of surveyors general. The amendment was agreed to—yeas 121, nays 62.

The next vote was on the amendment fixing the pay of jurors at $2 per day, prescribing the method of drawing them and repealing the jurors' test oath, and it was agreed to without a division.

FAILURE OF REPUBLICAN TACTICS.

The next vote was on the amendment repealing the laws in regard to United States supervisors of election.

On a division there were 107 votes in the affirmative, but the republicans refused to vote and raised the point of "no quorum."

The vote was then taken by yeas and nays, and again the republicans declined voting, the only exceptions being Messrs. Chittenden, of New York; Fort, of Illinois, and Killinger, of Pennsylvania, who voted in the negative.

The vote stood, yeas 143, nays 3—one less than a quorum.

The SPEAKER thereupon voted "aye," making a quorum, and declared the amendment agreed to, amid great demonstrations of applause on the democratic side.

Then Mr. HALE, of Maine, resorting to dilatory tactics, moved that when the House adjourn it be until Thursday. The motion was greeted with derisive laughter on the democratic side, and Mr. Hale was asked, jeeringly, whether he did not want to have the Appropriation bill passed.

The motion having been voted down (only one vote being cast in the affirmative),

Mr. HALE moved to lay the bill on the table, remarking that he wished to see whether the democrats could (without any republican votes) pass the bill, and that he hoped no republican would vote.

The only republicans who voted were Mr. Brogden, of North Carolina, in the negative, and Messrs. Brentano, of Illinois; Patterson, of New York, and Dunnell, of Minnesota (the latter having voted by a mistake, which he tried afterward, without avail, to rectify), in the affirmative.

The vote was then announced as—yeas 3, nays 143, one less than a quorum.

The Speaker again made a quorum by voting in the negative and declared the motion to lay the bill on the table defeated.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A QUORUM.

The SPEAKER then stated that his vote made 147, a quorum of a full House, but he did not think that it needed 147 votes to make a quorum, as there were two vacancies.

Mr. HALE, of Maine—Is the Speaker determined to make a ruling that less than a majority of a full House constitutes a quorum?

The SPEAKER replied that he did not desire to make any ruling; there was no necessity for it. He, however, had read a decision, adopted by Speaker Grow, to the effect that a majority of members chosen constituted a quorum.

Mr. HALE said that the point on which that decision of Speaker Grow had ruled was not analogous to the present case, and he was glad the Speaker had not made a precipitate decision. So if this matter did not end here, he (Mr. Hale) reserved all points as to a quorum.

The SPEAKER said that he had had that decision read during a moment of calmness, so that if this matter came up again it could not be said that the decision had been made precipitately.

The bill as amended was then passed—yeas 143, nays 117.

On motion of Mr. HEWITT, of New York, a committee of conference was ordered on the Army Appropriation bill, and the House at five o'clock adjourned until to-morrow.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE POWHATAN AT HAVANA.

HAVANA, Feb. 25, 1879.

The United States man-of-war steamer Powhatan has arrived here from Port au Prince. All on board are well.

CHANGES IN THE DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1879.

Assistant Surgeon C. W. Deane has been ordered to the Naval Hospital at Chelsea. Assistant Surgeon J. M. Steele has been ordered to the Naval Hospital at Philadelphia. Assistant Surgeon E. H. Marstellos has been ordered to the Naval Academy, and Assistant Paymaster Collender J. Lewis to temporary duty at Portsmouth, N. H. Past Assistant Surgeon J. A. Hawke has been detached from the Naval Hospital at Philadelphia and placed on waiting orders.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Legislators Anxiously Discussing Future Political Issues.

HOLAHAN'S EXCISE BILL.

Loew and Gumbleton Still Under Investigation.

INSURANCE LEGISLATION.

Slight Filibustering in the Senate Over Apportionment.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25, 1879.

The advent of the legislator here after recess has initiated the usual political discussion on State and national issues. The HERALD interviews from Washington and Albany occupy a good deal of attention. In conversation with Mr. George B. Sloan on the prominent subjects treated upon in these articles, that gentleman expressed himself to me emphatically in opposition to the idea that he had ever been or would be a candidate for Governor next fall. Mr. Sloan seemed very positive in his assertions as to this position, and, although adverse to the publication of an interview on the subject, evidently felt the necessity of being placed clear on the record as to gubernatorial issues. Notwithstanding such direct antipathy on the part of the gentleman from Oswego to have his name used in this connection I can see a strong faction in the republican party in Albany anxious that he should be the State standard bearer in 1879, when so much depends upon the success of the whole ticket in New York as the pivotal State.

GOVERNOR ROBINSON'S PECULIAR POSITION.

The charges preferred against County Clerk Delmar, of Brooklyn, have, too, given rise to considerable speculation in a political sense. It is asserted by several gentlemen with whom I conversed to-night that the initiation of such charges has come through Tammany agencies.

"Why so?" I asked.

"Because the Kings county democratic machine is known to be with Tilden. The plan is to present further charges against other officials in that section of the State. If Governor Robinson should then conclude to remove New York officials, in order to be consistent, he will have to chop off the heads of Tilden's friends at the other side of the river. The scheme consequently seems to be to thus encumber the Governor so that he will be compelled to dismiss all complaints in order to save the partisans of those with whom he and Mr. Tilden are closely identified."

LOEW AND GUMBLETON NOT DISPOSED OF.

It is not yet known when the cases of Register Loew and County Clerk Gumbleton will be disposed of by the Governor. To-night a rumor was started that he had decided to remove Mr. Gumbleton. This story was contradicted by the Governor, who stated that he had not yet had time to take up all the papers submitted in connection with those subjects. This gossip is furnished for what it may be worth.

RAPID TRANSIT AND CHEAP FARES.

Mr. David Dudley Field and other gentlemen connected with rapid transit in New York city appeared before the Senate Railroad Committee this afternoon for the purpose of arguing against Senator Ecclesine's bill reducing the fare on those roads to five cents at all hours of the day and night. Mr. Wagner was the only member of the committee present and the argument was postponed for two weeks.

PROPOSED METHOD OF TAXING CORPORATIONS.

It is understood that the sub committee of the Committee on Ways and Means, consisting of Messrs. Wadsworth, Fish and Grady, will to-morrow draft a bill in accordance with the Pennsylvania system, by which all corporations will be taxed directly by the State, and not, as at present, by local authority. Statistics have been received from boards of supervisors, State assessors and other officials, giving the amount of taxes paid by large corporations and the method of collection. These figures prove that the new system suggested will operate very advantageously to the State, and also go far toward doing away with much of the abuses now alleged under present methods in the collection of corporation taxes.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The legislators came together in Senate and Assembly this morning at ten o'clock and immediately plunged into business. The Chinese excitement has reached us here, as Mr. Hamilton Fish, soon after the opening of proceedings in the Assembly, presented a resolution in opposition to the measure just passed by Congress upon this subject. Mr. John Galvin, member from the Fourth Assembly district (Seventh ward) of New York city, rose to debate the resolution so that it was laid over under the rules. Mr. Galvin, who is understood to be a countryman of Kearney, the California agitator, was in possession at the time of a resolution directly in conflict with that introduced by Mr. Fish. He evidently does not believe in the proposition to permit those "slimy imps," with their "leprous tendencies," to overrun our free and enlightened Republic. At least this is supposed to be the sentiments of the gentleman's constituency in the Seventh ward.

AN IMPORTANT INSURANCE BILL.

Mr. Hepburn's bill providing for the incorporation of life and health insurance companies was ordered to a third reading in the House. The main effects of the bill if it becomes a law are explained as follows by the supporters of the measure:—As the statute stands to-day a life or casualty company organized under the laws of this State may have an impaired capital to the extent of fifty, sixty, seventy or eighty per cent, or it may be almost entirely lost, and yet no authority is given to the Insurance Department to call on the stockholders to make the capital good. The trustees and directors of such companies, who are holding the several offices by reason of their being stockholders, continue in the management of the affairs of the company, although the interest or capital that gave them power has ceased to exist. If this proposed bill had been the law from the organization of the department there would have been no grievous loss to policy holders and less failure of companies. Under the present law there is no standard fixed for the reserve fund of a casualty insurance company, and such company may receive $200,000 premiums in a year and not reserve a dollar to protect the policy holders for the risk. It is true that the department arbitrarily requires the companies to set aside a certain amount, but the point is here raised that if such authority was questioned the department would have to recede. This act makes the reserve fund of such companies the total amount of the unearned premiums. For instance, all risks are written for one year. If the policy has run six months one half the premium has been earned by the company; if the policy has run three months one quarter has been earned and so on in proportion. As the life act stands to-day if a company has sufficient assets to reinsure its risks it cannot be closed up; its capital may be gone and it may have $500,000 in death losses and unpaid endowments, but if it has sufficient assets to reinsure its outstanding risks without regard to providing for the death losses and endowments the department cannot act. This bill compels each company to be in possession of funds equal in amount to its reserve fund or reinsurance fund and all other liabilities unpaid.

THE EXCISE QUESTION.

It will be recollected that last year Mr. Maurice F. Houlahan succeeded in pushing through an excise bill in the Assembly which relieved the trade from a despotic and muddled condition of the liquor question in New York city. This bill was afterward strangled in the Senate. An energetic effort will now be made to pass it in both houses. As it is of interest to every dealer in liquors in the metropolis, I again give the text, as follows:—

AN ACT to amend chapter 175 of the laws of 1870, entitled "An act regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors," passed April 11, 1870. The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

SECTION 1.—Section 6 of chapter 175 of the Laws of 1870, entitled "An act regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors," passed April 11, 1870, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—

SEC. 6.—The act entitled "An act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors