THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

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CLOSING RATES

Yesterday of cotton and gold: New York, cotton, 12¼; Memphis, 12¼ New York, gold closed at 114¼; Memphis, 113½

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1 a.m.

For the gulf States, Tennessee and Ohio valley, clear or fair, and slightly warmer weather, winds mostly from the southwest, and slight changes in the barometer.

GRANT has appointed Judge Taft, of Ohio, secretary of war, and he has accepted.

GORDON, of Georgia, will speak tomorrow on his amendments to the revenue laws.

A BILL passed the house yesterday subjecting all land-grants to State taxation. The days of land monopolies are numbered

THE bill to protect witnesses in impeachment trials will pass the house, and we hope the senate also. If not, Grant will be saved.

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS lectured in New Orleans last night for the benefit of the Louisiana Associated Veterans. His subject was *The Mexican War.*

HEISEN & Co, of New York, deny Fred Mitchell's story that the President received twenty thousand dollars in gold of Emma Schenck mine money. Well, we hope it's so.

IN London yesterday the Emma mine company withdrew the suit against Minister Schenck because the writ was served upon him while he held the office of American ambassador.

WE make space to-day for another heavy installment of Belknap matter The absorbing topic of the day, we make room for it to the exclusion of much other interesting matter.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DYER has telegraphed Attorney-General Pierrepont that neither himself nor General Henderson are in any way responsible for the publications relative to the Babcock trial.

THE city fathers are going to inspect the cut-off above the city to-day. Would it not be in order for them to inspect the sidewalks of the city, and, as the impeachers say, take order concerning them?

THE always "next President of the United States"—George Francis Train—is to be sued by Bernis, his late secretary, for forty thousand dollars. George has our sympathy, but we haven't a cent to spare

E F. WOLF, having refused to answer questions put by Whitthorne, of the naval expenditure committee, is to be brought to the bar of the house and forced to answer or go to jail. Poor Robeson is trembling.

THE ...ur, yesterday commenting on Minister Schenck's sudden departure for the United States, says: "Mr Schenck's course in quitting England without taking leave of the Queen is unprecedented."

BELKNAP'S son, an excellent young man, a most promising student at the Adams academy, Quincy, Massachusetts, is almost bereft of reason over his father's disgrace. His step-mother is in the same condition.

A BILL ordering the commissioner of agriculture to take proceedings against locusts and tobacco, cotton, potato and other bugs, passed the senate yesterday. The bugs can take their time, the commissioner is a slow coach.

THE admission of Pinchback was up in the senate yesterday, but pending the ordering of the yeas and nays, Morton moved to go into executive session. The "bloody shirt" humbug can't tote that nigger any longer. The thing is played. Pass.

A BILL to amend section 1113 of the United States statutes at large, in relation to the appointment of army sutlers, was referred in congress yesterday. It vests the appointment of post traders in the general commanding the department wherein they are situated, instead of the secretary of war.

Starvation in Iceland.

COPENHAGEN March 7.—The last mail from Iceland reports that five hundred inhabitants of the West Manna Islands, the group lying to the south of Iceland and belonging to Denmark, are probably dying of starvation. The fisheries there last year were unsuccessful, and the inhabitants fearing their food would not last them throughout the winter, sent to Iceland asking for supplies. Accordingly a small quantity of supplies was dispatched about a month ago. However, a bottle was found on the coast of Iceland, containing a letter stating that the supplies on land were only adequate for one week, and that a famine was inevitable. The dangerous seas during the winter months render communication with the West Manna Islands almost impossible.

Illness of R. H. Dana, Jr.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A Boston dispatch says that Richard H. Dana, Jr., was suffering yesterday from a severe attack of vertigo, which prostrated him at church, Sunday. When the news of his nomination as minister to England was announced, it is stated, he viewed the position as one of the most honorable and he felt its dignity, but before he could make up his mind on the question of acceptance he must see his friends.

More Suspensions.

BALTIMORE, March 7.—Warner, Dresel & Co., tobacco and shipping merchants, have suspended. The amount of their liabilities, part of which is in Europe, is not yet ascertained. The immediate cause of the failure was the suspension of Thomas & Randall, whose note they held for twenty thousand dollars. Dresel has been German consul at this port for many years

Violation of the Enforcement Act.

BALTIMORE, March 7.—The grand jury in the United States district court has brought in indictments against forty-five persons for violation of the enforcement act of congress by intimidating and hindering persons from voting at the last State election.

Another Bureau to be Overhauled.

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—A subcommittee of the house committee on navy affairs arrived in this city this morning from Washington, on the purpose of investigating the alleged irregularities in the affairs of the navy-yard here. The investigation will commence at once.

BELKNAP.

Angry Debate in the House Over a Resolution by Lamar, of Mississippi, Covering a Question of Privilege.

The Republicans Endeavor to Make the Democrats Responsible for the Escape of the Witness Marsh.

And the Democrats Charge Upon the Administration a Purpose of Protecting Belknap by the Absence of Marsh.

Blaine and his Chicanery Defeated—He Meets his Match in Lamar—Rich Things Coming and to Come.

Opinions of the Leading Papers of the Country on the Crime and the Criminal—The Union Disgraced.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—During the session of the house to-day, Mr. Clymer, rising to a question of privilege, stated that a subpœna had been served on him last evening, issued by the supreme court of the District of Columbia, sitting as a criminal court, to appear before that court, and bring with him all the papers, checks, documents, etc., and to testify in regard to the charges pending in that court against the late secretary of war. His colleagues, Robbins and Blackburn, had been similarly subpœnaed. He [Clymer] had appeared before that court and had stated that in obedience to law he appeared at its bar to obey its order, but that as a member of the committee of the house, he felt that it would be prejudicial to the highest interests of the country that his colleagues and himself should be compelled to state what had transpired in their committe room. He believed that such a course would not only close the mouths of all the witnesses, but that in many cases it would drive them from the land. He had said furthermore, that while not pleading their privileges as members of the house, they must, nevertheless, protest against being examined, and would only consent to be so examined after an order being made specially to that end by the court. The court had determined, if it needed their attendance thereafter, to send for them. He had felt it his duty to bring the matter to the attention of the house, in order that the house might take such action in the matter as might be right, just and necessary.

Mr. Blaine asked Mr. Clymer if the court had asked or had desired to ask for any information that was not contained in the published report and was not a matter of record and of general notoriety. He could very well conceive that the gentleman from Pennsylvania might not wish to be called upon in that court to testify of what was still a committee secret, but what point of delicacy could arise as to those matters which were as common as history could make them he could not see.

Mr. Clymer replied that the court had not proposed to ask them any question at all—they were to be examined before the grand jury. If questions were to have been asked by the court in the presence of the public he might not have as great an objection, but he and his colleagues had felt that if they were to go before a grand jury, whose proceedings were necessarily secret, that fact would strike terror every where throughout the land, and would close all avenues of testimony to the house and its committees.

Mr. Blaine reminded Mr. Clymer that his own privilege as a member protected him, and there was no power to compel him to testify.

Mr. Clymer repeated that he had stated to the court that he did not intend to plead his privilege, so that it might not be said that he intended to exclude anything which should be rightfully known to the public.

Mr. Robbins, another member of the committee, made a like statement in reference to his being subpœnaed, and declared it as his belief that the effect, if not the design, was to intimidate the witnesses and throttle the investigation.

Mr. Danford, another member of the committee, said that he had no subpœna to go before the court, but he would like to know from the chairman whether any additional testimony had been taken before the committee.

Mr. Lamar objected to that question.

Mr. Blaine—The objection must come from a most inconceivable motive.

Mr. Lamar—It may be a motive that you misconceive, but nevertheless, it is a motive which I have, and that is the preservation of parliamentary order. I maintain that no member has the right to reveal the secrets of the committee room.

Mr. Clymer said that there had been no additional testimony before the committee; but he repeated that the attempt to drag forth what occurred in committee could result in nothing else but detriment to the public weal.

Mr. Blaine—There should be no division or seeming division between the two sides of the house in regard to a vigorous prosecution of public criminals. What was the object of this investigation except to bring the offenders to a criminal justice? The committe could not punish anybody. Everybody knew that this was a *brutum fulmen.*

Mr. Clymer—I have stated the facts of the case to the house, and if any necessary imputation arises that some one in this District wishes to close the avenues of evidence all over the country, it is not I who makes the charge, but the facts of the case.

Mr. Blaine—The gentleman closes the avenues himself.

Mr. Clymer—I will not permit the gentleman from Maine, to impute to me motives which I do not understand, or to put insinuations in my mouth which I have not uttered.

Mr. Blackburn, another member of the committee, said that he was not surprised at the uneasiness and nervousness manifested by the gentleman from Maine. He [Blackburn] did not intend to charge that it was the purpose of the executive to intimidate witnesses, to throttle investigation, and to afford immunity to criminals, but he did say that unless this gag process was stopped the country would believe that that was his purpose, and he would believe it too. [Applause on the Democratic side, and a question by Mr. Blaine—"What gag process?"] It had gone forth to the country that the committee had connived at the absconding of an important witness, against the protest of the Republican members of the committee, but it was needless for him to say that that charge was flatly false, and he only wondered that the Republican members had allowed it to go out on their authority without contradiction. He went on to argue that it would be utterly impossible to convict the late secretary of war or any other cabinet officer except by the testimony of accomplices, and yet the house was now to be told that an accomplice should not testify before the committee except at his own peril. It was against that that he protested. He intimated that the phrase "let no guilty man escape" would be construed by the country to mean let no man escape who dare tell on those who are in authority. He warned the house that the voluminous investigations that were now progressing would be stopped, and that it would be utterly impossible to carry them further successfully unless there was a declaration that the testimony of the witnesses should not be used against them.

Mr. Lamar said there should not be any exhibition of party feeling or excitement in the presence of such solemn events as were throwing their shadows over the house. It seemed to him that the voice of faction should at least be hushed. He regarded this mandate, or summons, or subpœna, issued to members of congress by the supreme court of the District of Columbia, as an outrage on the privileges of this house. He did not say that the object of the court was to hush or to suppress the investigation. The question was one purely of parliamentary privilege. He regarded it as a violation of the privileges of the house for the court to issue a summons to a member and order him to bring along with him the records of the house, and to remain in court and not depart until allowed by the court or district-attorney.

Mr. Blaine—Does not the gentleman from Mississippi see, and does not the whole country see, that having possession of evidence on which an indictment can be found, and having in its possession every paper in the case, the house puts itself behind its technical privilege and throws itself across the indictment of Belknap, and that to day it stands as an obstacle, and the sole obstacle, to the indictment of the late secretary of war?

Mr. Lamar—Neither the gentleman from Mississippi, nor the country, nor the gentleman from Maine, sees any such thing.

Mr Blaine—It is nothing but that.

Mr. Lamar—It is anything but that; the question is simply whether this house will permit its records to be at the beck and call of the district court. There is no doubt but that when investigation is complete, it will be within the discretion of the house to permit the courts of the country to come in and get evidence, but not *pendente lite* while investigation is going on, and while the committee is taking further testimony. Such a proposition was monstrous and ridiculous.

Mr. Blaine said he agreed with Mr. Lamar that while the affair was in *limini* it would be improper for a court to interfere, but that was not the case here. The question was whether the house would permit the testimony and papers in the hands of its committee to be sent to the court. The house could refuse it, or could send it, "and now," said he, impetuously, "I dare, I dare that side of the house to refuse it." [Applause on the Republican side and great excitement.]

Mr. Lamar continued his remarks, which he closed by offering a resolution reciting the history of the case, and declaring the mandate of the court to be a breach of the privileges of the house, and directing the members of the committee to disregard such mandate.

Mr. Kasson invited the members to look coolly at the situation developed this morning. The question was raised here as a question of privilege on the part of the members of the house who had received judicial invitation to aid in the indictment and punishment of a criminal. It was an extraordinary case and one without precedent and against precedent. He asked whether there had ever been any such proposition as had been suggested to the house condemning the sworn executor of the laws because he had directed his subordinates to enforce those laws. The grand jury was sworn to indict men guilty of crime within their jurisdiction, and the house and the committee had no right to embarrass the grand jury in the execution of the laws of the land.

Mr. M'Creary reminded his colleague that the committee had in its possession the contract which must be the foundation of any proceeding for an indictment of this offender, and that that contract was probably the very thing that the grand jury would get hold of.

Mr Clymer remarked that that contract was between Caleb P. Marsh and John S. Evans, and that the secretary of war knew nothing of it when it was made, nor for two years afterward.

Mr. Kasson, in the course of some further remarks, referred to the interview which Mr Blackburn had had with some of the parties implicated, and suggested that the grand jury might have a desire to examine him about it.

Mr. Blackburn replied with some heat of manner, that if the gentleman from Iowa, said he had had a conversation with Mrs. Belknap, and at great length, he would copy the remark of a senator, and would authorize the gentleman from Iowa whenever he heard anybody making any such statement to say that he had his [Blackburn's] authority for telling that man that he lies. [Great excitement.]

Mr. Kasson—Do I understood the gentleman to say that he had no conversation on the subject involved in this prosecution, in this criminality outside of the committe room?

Mr. Blackburn—I have filed a statement on the subject which neither the gentleman from Iowa nor any other man can impugn.

Mr. Kasson—Then I appeal to that statement, and ask if that is not so. If the interview was not pertinent to the case, why was it reported and made public; and if pertinent to the case, why are not the criminal courts of the country entitled to it? [Applause on the Republican side.]

Mr. Blackburn—Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania inform the house whether the newspaper report is true that he and his colleagues waited in a body on the former secretary of war?

Mr. Kasson—I will answer the question with more cheerfulness than that gentleman has answered mine.

Mr. Blackburn—Then I trust the gentleman will tell us what occurred, and whether he is the repository for his confession of guilt?

Mr Kasson—I will respond to the subpœna, to give any statement of facts in aid of the prosecution of crime. Will the gentleman do as much, or will he plead his privilege and decline to aid in the prosecution? Before the committee made its report there came a request to the entire Iowa delegation in both houses to call on the secretary of war, as he wanted to see them that day. We went in the evening, senators and members, and we met this statement from him: "When I sent for you, gentlemen, I supposed there would be some opportunity to be heard in the house on this subject. I have now learned that I am impeached, so that it is useless for me to trouble you with what I was going to say as to the evidence in this case." And we left him.

Mr. Ainsworth asked why the Iowa delegation had left him out. [Laughter on the Democratic side of the house.]

The debate continued amid great excitement, and with frequent demonstrations of applause and laughter on either side of the house. Mr. Blaine was the central figure on the Republican side of the house, at which all the shafts of eloquence were launched from the Democratic side. The debate was of such length, extending over four hours, that it is impossible to give a connected summary of it. It was participated in by Messrs. Robbins, Singleton, Danforth, Beebe, Cox [N. Y.], Bright, Hoar, Knott and Hooker.

The Republicans intimated that the witness Marsh had been allowed to escape from the country, through some motive which the Democrats had, and it was charged on the Democratic side that the President and cabinet were instrumental in driving him out of the country through intimidation. His escape was characterized by Beebe as that of an obscure petty thief, and he suggested that the Democrats were so intent on greater game that they had allowed that miserable offender to slip through their hands, through the machination of the executive and cabinet officers. The Democrats, however, he said proposed to pursue, not the Marshes, who were mere fry, but the villains in high places, and in that connection he quoted the doggerel rhyme—

Some bait their hooks with mites of cheese,
And sit on a kennel to rob for fleas;
Others bait their hooks with tigers' tails,
And sit on shore and bob for whales.

The gentlemen on the other side might pursue their flea-catching if they pleased, but the Democrats would drag from the turbid waters of pollution whales, and would supplement it, perhaps, by dragging out the leviathan himself and exposing him to the indignation of an outraged country.

Finally the debate closed, and the house proceeded to vote on the resolution offered by Mr. Hoar as a substitute for that of Mr. Lamar, and which proposed to declare that the members subpœnaed were at liberty to attend the criminal court and give such evidence and produce such documents as relate to the charges against W. W. Belknap for receiving a bribe from one Marsh. The substitute was rejected—yeas 84, nays 128. Mr. Lamar's original motion was then agreed to—yeas 130, nays 75.

WITNESSES BEFORE THE GRAND JURY—BELKNAP HAS GIVEN NO BAIL YET.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The grand jury to-day examined Colonel Adams, clerk of the house of representatives, in the Belknap case, and to-morrow William Tomlinson, Mrs. Belknap's brother, will appear before them as a witness. Belknap has not yet been brought before the police court to give bail for his appearance at court.

MARSH'S FLIGHT WILL THWART THE IMPEACHERS.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The opinion prevails among the lawyers who have examined the case, that since the flight of Marsh, there is no such testimony in the possession of the house of representatives as would convict Belknap either on impeachment or in a criminal court, Marsh having left with the committee no paper, note or other evidence showing Belknap's transactions. Efforts are being made, however, to procure additional testimony to support the impeachment articles.

MARSH PREPARING A STATEMENT.

BOSTON, March 7.—Caleb P. Marsh, now in Montreal, said to a newspaper man that he was preparing a full statement for the press concerning the Belknap affair.

BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The district-attorney to day sent one witness before the grand jury, who were considering the charges against Belknap, and will send others.

CHANDLER'S SAY SO.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Secretary Chandler says that the story of an interview between him and General Belknap and wife, Thursday morning, and the purported full confession, is all made up.

CAPTAIN ROBINSON SUMMONED.

BALTIMORE, March 7.—Captain George L. Robinson has received a communication from Hon. Mr. Banning, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, requesting him to appear before that committee to make a complete statement of affairs within his knowledge bearing upon the investigation of Belknap. Captain Robinson states that he is very anxious to appear before the committee, and will do so immediately should his counsel consent, which he says is most probable, as it will give him an opportunity to show that the charges made against him were false. He acknowledges having written a letter to Belknap charging J. S. Evans & Co. with maliciously slandering the secretary by saying he accepted bribes from them, and offering his services to prosecute them. Robinson says his design in writing the letter was to influence Belknap to retain him in the army, his trial pending at the time.

THE GRAVESTONE CONTRACT.

ST. LOUIS, March 7.—Wm. Patrick, an old and honored citizen of St. Louis, and president of the Knoxville (Tennessee) marble company, says that the government lost over two hundred thousand dollars in the letting of the contract for headstones for soldiers' graves. He asserts that the bid of the Knoxville company for the stones was over sixty thousand dollars less than that of the man who got the contract, and that after the award was made there were modifications of the contract which reduced the cost of the stones to the contractor considerably over one hundred thousand dollars.

Meantime the committee on military affairs, in getting at the reason of the packing off of General Meigs to Europe, have got as far as finding a witness who throws what light there is in the following affidavit on the subject of jobbery in so solemn a subject as the headstones on graves of soldiers in the National cemeteries:

County of Washington, District of Columbia, ss:

Personally appeared before me, B. W. Ferguson, a justice of the peace for said county and district, Edward Kelly, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as follows: "My partner, John Higgins, and I had a contract under E. P. Doherty, contractor for furnishing headstones for the National cemetery at Fredericksburg, Virginia. After we had furnished a certain number of the stones, Doherty, according to our contract, was bound either to pay us thereafter according to the price agreed upon, or give us such vouchers and orders as would enable us to get our pay from the government, but he refused to do either. On or about the twenty-second of May, 1875, I met Doherty at Worrall's hotel. He told me that he paid Colonel O. E. Mack, United States assistant inspector of National military cemeteries, the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars for his influence in getting him an extension of his contract, which extension had been given a few days before. A few days after this he called to see me, and proposed that my partner and I should sell to him or the Westham granite company the stones which we had already finished, and which had been accepted by the government, but his terms were so low that I declined his proposition. He then said that if we did not sell to him he would get Colonel Mack to recommend the designs of the stones be changed, so as to render our stones of no value to the government or to us. He repeated what he had often said to me before—that if he could not get the designs changed he would have the contract changed from granite to marble. He stated further that he could accomplish this by bringing influence to bear upon Samuel G. Bridges, brother-in-law of the secretary of war; that Bridges had offered to buy him out and would use his influence to accomplish this change in the contract. He also told me that his partner, Samuel Little, had great influence with the secretary of war, as they had been schoolmates. EDWARD KELLY."

Opinions of the Press.

BASE INGRATITUDE TO THE PRESIDENT.

Washington Star (Rep.).]

It is the old, old story repeated—another chapter in the history of Vanity Fair. One of the most reprehensible features of the act, so far as Secretary Belknap is concerned, is the base ingratitude it shows on his part toward the President.

A REMARKABLE CABINET.

New Haven Register (Dem.).]

President Grant has shown more ingenuity in making bad selections of cabinet officers than in any other part of his official career.

THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE NO MORE OF IT.

Rochester Union and Advertiser (Dem.).]

It is, perhaps, all for the best that the natural fruits of Grantism should thus develop themselves in the high places of the administration even at the cost of national humiliation. It will have the effect of impressing upon the people the necessity of the sweeping and radical change for which the Democratic press of the country have so long labored.

IMPEACHMENT THE FIRST DUTY.

New York Evening Express (Dem.).]

To look upon such an exposure, anywhere or in any way, in a mere party light would be criminal. It is the government and people of the United States who are most disgraced by these exposures.

AMERICA'S GREATEST DISGRACE.

Philadelphia Inquirer (Rep.).]

In all the history of our country we have suffered no such disgrace as this. The spectacle of a chief magistrate on trial before the senate is not to be compared to that which will be presented in that body to-day.

THE LOW TONE ABOUT HIM WORKED HIS RUIN.

Boston Herald (Ind.).]

We can scarcely realize the effect of such developments upon the President. If he is an honest man, though his moral tone is low, and his sense dull, he must feel that the atmosphere of the White House under his administration has been very favorable to the growth of all sorts of corruption.

BALD, BASE, DAMNABLE GUILT.

Utica Herald.]

As the case now stands, the guilt is bald, base, damnable. But it is personal, and only the actors are criminal. Every American cheek blushes for it. In every breast is a sense of shame and disgrace to the nation and every citizen. But the taint of the crime does not extend beyond the individual perpetrators. The culprits who have by such shameful acts fallen from such high station will find no apologists.

THE WORST SCANDAL OF THE CENTURY.

Boston Advertiser (Rep.).]

There has been no such disgraceful scandal upon the good name of the government since we became a nation as that which resulted yesterday in the resignation of the secretary of war. The details of the story are such as to make every American hide his head for very shame.

THE TAINT OF GRANTISM.

Albany Argus (Dem.).]

The Republican party is tainted clear through, so far as its prominent representatives are concerned. All are implicated in Grantism; all are responsible for the wrongs and rascalities which have been perpetrated.

A DEPLORABLE EXHIBITION.

Boston Globe (Ind.).]

Nothing has occurred during President Grant's administration so deplorable as the downfall and disgrace of Secretary Belknap. Not only is it deplorable on account of the exhibition of moral weakness in a trusted minister, but still more so for the revelation it makes to the world of the corruption and dishonesty which have been fostered under a government resting on the will of the people, and supposed to be peculiarly sensitive to the great moral forces and influences of the nation.

NERVE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Philadelphia Press (Rep.).]

In all this wretched matter it is bracing to observe the integrity and nerve of the Republican party as a party. "Let no guilty man escape!" has been the instinctive rule of action. There has been no hesitancy.

ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF A UNIVERSAL DISEASE.

Baltimore Gazette (Dem.).]

Belknap is only another symptom of a universal disease. His resignation or impeachment will have no effect. It is like curing one pustule in a case of small-pox. The disease is Grant or Grantism; it is in the view of administration which is taken by the Republican party, that this a government of men and not a government of law.

A CASE OF WICKED WEAKNESS.

Worcester Spy (Rep.).]

This one of the cases in which weakness is wickedness. He knew what he did when he gave Marsh control of those posts, and doubtless understood perfectly well that the arrangement would secure regular payments of money to his wife. It is believed that he is guilty of similar practices in other cases, but nothing more has been proved.

A PAINFUL AND STRIKING REALIZATION.

Baltimore Sun (Dem.).]

The downfall of the secretary of war affords a striking and painful realization of the widespread demoralization of the late civil strife which, like a cancer, seems to have spread its fatal roots everywhere, tainting what seemed fairest and what ought to be the best in the land, and which we seem fated to endure almost until a new generation, trained in a different school of morals, rises to take the place of the present.

INFLUENCE OF A SORDID ADMINISTRATION.

Philadelphia Times (Ind.).]

There have been foolish, incapable, evil administrations before this one, but none that has done such deep and lasting mischief. In its lawlessness, its disregard of constitutional restraints, its narrow partisanship, the administration of President Grant has earned just condemnation; but all these things are trifling when compared with the sordid influence which it has exerted, and its subordination of honor, justice, and even honest ambition, to the greed of gain.

WENT WRONG WITH HIS EYES WIDE OPEN.

Boston Journal (Rep.).]

Painful as these revelations must be to every considerate man, and willing as he will be to make all proper allowances for the train of causes which contributed to the fall of a once meritorious officer, whose services to his country cannot be obliterated by any subsequent recreancy, still, nothing remains but that the culprit, like any other, should suffer the consequences of his guilt. He went wrong with his eyes wide open, and the disloction of his station but adds both to the extent and the enormity of his wrong-doing.

NOT A SINNER BEYOND OTHERS.

Boston Post (Dem.).]

The sad and terrible story might well make every American citizen hang his head in helpless shame, were it not that the remedy is in our own hands and the time for its application so near. Belknap must be considered a sinner beyond others at Washington. For our self-respect as a people, we may pray that this corruption, already reaching within the White House, may not include in its foulness the President through whose weakness, and selfishness, and conceit all this shame has been made possible.

A LESSON TO WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

Baltimore American (Rep.).]

Belknap's crime was of that sordid nature that it is the least likely to attract sympathy. The bad and unpleasant features of the whole story grow blacker with the knowledge that his two wives—the dead one and the living one, and themselves sisters—were the partners, and perhaps the suggesters of his offenses. He and they have led what was termed "society" at the national capital. Many other men have fallen before their own cupidity and through the temptations of women of fashion, whose passion for display has been ungovernable, but few have fallen so abruptly and so deeply as Secretary Belknap. The bad state of what is called fashionable society, and especially of society at Washington, furnishes the suggestive cause. Perhaps this occurrence may give it pause, and make the Lent upon which it has just entered something more than a mere formality or abstinence from the outward shows of dissipation.

"A PUSILLANIMOUS CUR."

Commercial Advertiser (New York Administration Organ.)

The Republican party will be more incensed if he escapes the full penalty of his misdeeds than the blatant members in congress, who made the country's extremity the time to pile up a little capital. It came with as great a shock to the President as all the world beside, and when the pusillanimous cur described in broken language that his wife did it, but he was willing to stand up and take the responsibility, the resignation was accepted under the belief that the secretary was acting in a manly manner. Added to his corruption, he turns out to be a craven. Was moral perversity ever displayed in a more repellant manner in one who had been regarded as an honorable man?

NATIONAL HUMILIATION.

Hartford Times (Dem.).]

One thing is evident. The men of the party in power must be displaced. A chance must be given for a new trial, by those who are pledged to reform these monstrous evils, else this moral cancer which is eating into our country's very vitals will destroy the republic.

REFORM, REFORM.

Boston Transcript (Rep.).]

Mere politicians will be at a discount hereafter. Aspirants for office of that kind the people will impatiently order to the rear. The Republicans can only achieve success the present Centennial year by boldly placing their feet upon corruption in their own ranks. They must fling the reform banner to the breeze.

WE MUST HAVE JUSTICE.

New York World (Dem.).]

How can any American heretofore proud of his country and firm in the faith that our institutions have not utterly failed to fulfill the high expectations entertained of them by their founders, be deaf to all these reasons for deeming the verdict of his own intelligence and his own conscience upon this monstrous indictment? We intreat our readers, of whatever political opinion, to give these reasons their full weight. Upon the case as set before it yesterday the house of representatives could do nothing less than it has done. Upon the case as it will be sent up from the house of representatives to the senate for trial, the senators of the United States may rely upon it that the American people will exact of them a stern, unfaltering fulfillment of their high judicial duty. The senator or senators, if such there be, who shall dare to deal with this impeachment as a matter of partisan gain or loss, will be mercilessly consigned to a grave of political damnation from which no resurrection will be possible. So to deal with such an impeachment will be the blackest treason ever dreamt of or attempted against the government of the people, by the people, for the people. The man in this republic to-day who dares to bandy partisan shufflings and equivocations over a charge like this—a charge which impugns the very foundations of our political system, and if condoned or trifled with for an hour to-day will close the future of free government on this continent amid the just derision and the deserved contempt of the civilized world, will prove himself an enemy of the American people worthy the punishment decreed by ancient Rome to the parricide. Though it humble us in the dust, we must have the truth to-day. Whatever hearts it may break, whatever households it may crush, we must have justice, speedy, condign and complete, upon every servant of the people who, under whatever influences, has proved false to his great trust, and "paltered with the eternal God" not for power only but pelf.

THE NATION HOLDS ITS NOSE.

New York Tribune (Rep. Ind.).]

And so there was a shock of surprise when it came out that this man, cabinet minister, adviser of the Executive, head of a bureau whose subordinates are proverbially careful of their honor and integrity, and proverbially sensitive to anything like a stain of the sort that he has covered himself all over with—that this man had been prostituting his office and selling the places at his disposal. And yet it was not such a shock as such a discovery would have brought five or six or eight years ago. For—let us confess it with shame—President Grant has dropped us by easy stages to these depths of shame. He has parenthesized in history eight years which will be marked hereafter as the era of personal government and the period of greed; eight years of such official corruption and dishonesty, such selfishness and shamlessness, such low aims and base purposes, such grasping avarice and eager overreaching, such speculating in official information, such bribery and such barter and sale of offices, and such degradation of all things which the nation has held to be high and holy and worthy an honest pride, that to-day the country hangs it head and holds its nose and waits for this administration to pass. * * And so Secretary Belknap fell into it and was found out. It is said there was a woman in the case. The same was said in the case of another cabinet officer who went out under a cloud, and the same, too, is whispered of one who remains. Well, the nation would like to be sorry for Mr. Belknap, but it cannot spare the time from being sorry and ashamed for itself, and from wondering if the end has been reached or if there are still other shameful exposures in store.

LET US HAVE A FULL EXPOSURE.

New York Evening Post (Rep. Ind.).]

Grave as is the fault of the teller, it is innocence itself compared with the act of the secretary of war. He knew just what he was doing; he knew that he could never repair his wrong; he knew that the stain of bribery could never be wiped out. He was intelligently, continuously corrupt—corrupt after his practices had been suspected and almost exposed. As long ago as February, 1872, the story of the Fort Sill trading contract was told by the *Tribune.* The names of Evans and Marsh were plainly printed, and the latter was described as "a special friend of the secretary of war." "This friendship," it was added, "enables him to live at his ease at New York on an income of forty-eight thousand dollars a year, which is extorted from the soldiers and officers at the fort by the actual traders, to whom he 'farms out' the privilege the secretary has given him." Nothing could be more explicit than this, except the disclosure of yesterday. The warning was lost upon the secretary, and he continued to take his bribe with unfailing regularity. He took it, not as smaller knaves commit crimes that land them in the penitentiary, under the pressure of want, but to serve a self-indulgence which found its gratification in ostentation and display. * * But this is not the worst of the case. To get Captain Robinson out of the way—the officer who knew of his rascalities, and was minded to expose them—he trumped up false accusations against him, and procured him to be cashiered. He added to the guilt of bribery that of persecuting the man who was trying to put a stop to his corrupt practices. The pity in the case is all due to the community which is compelled to confront the world under the burden of this disgrace; and yet the case suggests some compensating reflections. We ought to rejoice that the crime is exposed. * * There is a strong feeling in favor of knowing the worst without delay. Let all the secret places of the administration be turned to the light, and let us look unflinchingly for what is there. No matter who is hurt, the truth must be known. Only by the fullest exposure of the shame can the country relieve itself of the shame.

THE FALL OF SECRETARY BELKNAP.

New York Herald (Ind.).]

In one view the sudden, overwhelming and irretrievable disgrace of Secretary Belknap is an occasion for profound regret and sorrow; but sentiments of this kind are merged and swallowed up in indignant abhorrence of his crime and a vigorous desire to see it visited with just retribution. The conjuncture is too grave for the indulgence of weak, womanish pity at the spectacle of blighted hopes and social ruin in which others are involved besides the detected and confessed criminal. Even the fact that a wife whose beauty and accomplishments have made her the grace, the delight and one of the brightest and most courted ornaments of Washington society, shares the guilt and disgrace of her fallen husband, cannot divert or soften the public exasperation at this culminating proof of the moral rottenness of the administration. The honor of the government and the purity of official life are of such transcendent importance that no pitying indulgence for the sufferings of tempted weakness can be permitted to stand between an incensed public and the objects of its indignation. This stupendous shock to public feeling can be relieved and assuaged only by such swift and unrelenting punishment as will serve as a warning to officers who may hereafter be tempted to abuse their trusts.

The Queen on a Visit.

LONDON, March 7.—Queen Victoria and the Princess Beatrice to-day visited the London hospital, in Whitechapel road, to open the new wing. A large body of troops acted as an escort, and immense and enthusiastic crowds of people lined the streets through which the royal party passed. A triumphal arch was erected, and many buildings were tastefully and profusely decorated. Business at the stock exchange and royal exchange, nearly on the line of the route, was neglected for a time. The residents of the East End are observing the day as a holiday.

MISSISSIPPI.

Election of Superintendent and Inspectors of the State Penitentiary—Printers' Fees—Quarantine at Coast Parts, Etc., Etc.

Special to the Appeal.]

JACKSON, March 7.—In the joint session Marion Smith, of Jackson, was elected superintendent of the penitentiary, and Thomas B. Smith, of Lee county, D. Shelton, of Hinds county, and Bickham, of Pike county, inspectors.

The senate passed a bill allowing printers one dollar a hundred words for publishing legal notices.

The house passed a bill to establish a quarantine at all coast ports. A resolution memorializing congress for aid in the construction of the Texas Pacific railroad was adopted.

Thomas J. Durant, of Washington City, is here to defend Ames in the impeachment trial.

RAILWAY CATASTROPHE.

A Railway Train Precipitated through a Bridge—Eleven Persons Killed and Six Wounded—Names of the Dead.

BALTIMORE, March 7.—Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, while the way-freight train with a passenger car attached, was crossing the bridge over the narrow passage on the Harper's Ferry and Valley branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, sixty-three miles from Harper's Ferry, the middle span gave away and the engine, tender and train fell through, and were wrecked. The following are the names of the killed: W. A. Wightman, Edenburg Virginia; C L. Noel, Mt. Jackson, Virginia; R. E. Hammond, Mt. Jackson, Virginia; R. L. Wood, Richmond; C H. Hodgson, Berkely springs, member of the West Virginia legislature; J. A. Baldwin, Baltimore; Mr. Garo, Winchester; A. C. Bowers, commercial traveler, Baltimore; F. Donovan, engine man, Sandy Hook, Maryland; J. D. Chapman and F. Jefferson, brake men, Winchester, Virginia. Six persons were wounded, including Bernard Hughes, of Wisconsin. The bodies of the killed were immediately sent to Winchester, placed in the charge of the undertaker, and will be sent to their relatives and friends.

HORRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

Burning of a Catholic Home for the Poor, at Brooklyn, N. Y.—Thirty or More of its Inmates Missing.

NEW YORK, March 7.—A house for aged people, conducted by a Catholic community known as the Little Sisters of the Poor, located in the eastern district of Brooklyn, was completely destroyed by fire this morning. The house comprised a four-story building, with two wings, and contained one hundred and eighty-five inmates. When these were made aware of the fire a panic seized them, and the sisters losing control they ran through the building, some escaping to the street, but others sinking down exhausted, overcome by fright and smoke. The police and firemen rescued all there, but a number who could not get to the lower floors, by reason of the smoke and flames, ran for the roof. All who reached here were rescued, but some of the inmates, too feeble to run or clamber, were burned to death, while two who threw themselves from an upper window were fatally injured. Five bodies have been taken from the ruins. Loss on the building, twenty-five thousand dollars; insurance, thirty thousand dollars.

A later report from the fire in the home for the indigent, under the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor, makes it more disastrous in its results than was at first noted. It seems the fire was discovered in the south wing, occupied by the male portion of the inmates, and contained seventy-two persons, whose ages varied from sixty-eight to one hundred and five years. The fire was discovered by a person on the street, who gave the alarm by ringing the bell of the institution, awakening the sisters and aged inmates. When the firemen arrived, the flames were sweeping through the south wing in every direction, and it was not until about nine o'clock that the fire had been reduced to smouldering embers in the basement. The firemen were then enabled to examine the upper stories of the burned wing, where they found seventeen men burned in their beds in the upper story. The bedsteads were made of iron, and rested on the charred beams which had remained in their places. The bodies were burned to a crisp, rendering them totally unrecognizable. It is said that thirty are missing, and it is feared that the burned bodies of some may be found among the debris of the fire in the basement. The firemen succeeded in saving the main building and the south wing, which is occupied by about sixty old women.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITY.

A serious flood is reported in the vicinity of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The investigation of the water-works and Pennsylvania avenue bonds, issued by Pittsburg, began yesterday.

Cook & Cheek, of Atlanta Georgia, are reported failed, with over three hundred thousand dollars liabilities.

It is said that the post-trader at Fort Leavenworth could make some important disclosures regarding the sutlerships, if he were required to speak.

Edward Fahrenback and John H. Henderson were arraigned in New Orleans yesterday, charged with defrauding the government.

In the British house of lords, yesterday, a petition was presented, signed by the Protestant ministers of London, praying the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the fugitive