THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

ESTABLISHED 1840. MEMPHIS, TENN., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1884. VOL. XLIV--NO. 99

It will be seen from the letter of our Washington correspondent that the charges preferred against the Judge Advocate-General of the army by Banker Bateman, of Washington, are likely to be fully investigated, and that out of them may come the most gross and offensive scandal the public has been treated to since Belknap and Badeau were under investigation. Washington is too gay and public life makes too many demands upon the meager purses of Federal officials.

"ALL ENGLAND" is aghast over the earthquake which so severely shook up the eastern counties yesterday, and well they may be, for no such visitation has ever been known there. History contains no record of an earthquake in the British islands so severe as that reported at length on the second page of this issue of the APPEAL, which toppled steeples and factory chimneys over and created wide-spread fear and consternation throughout Essex and Suffolk especially. Can it be that the "dight little isle," with all its wealth and accumulations of treasure, is threatened with the fate of the fabled Atlantis?

READERS of the APPEAL will be glad to learn from the report made to the President by the director-general that the World's Exposition, to be held at New Orleans this fall and winter, is likely to be a greater affair than was even contemplated by the sanguine projector of it, Col. Morehead. Director-General Burke, in this report, which we reproduce this morning, gives a glowing account of the progress made in obtaining subscriptions to the increased capital required, the enthusiasm of the people of all the States, the very kindly disposition of foreign governments, and the rapid increase in the number of exhibitors. We congratulate all concerned in this vast enterprise, but above all we congratulate the people of New Orleans, who are certain to profit most by it.

THE Charleston *News and Courier*, of Saturday, made the gratifying announcement that there is no longer a political case on the dockets of the United States Court in South Carolina. On Friday, on motion of District Attorney Melton, the whole of the political cases were discontinued. For the first time in many years, no citizen of that State, on the strength of manufactured testimony, is liable to be tried by a packed jury for political purposes and to advance political ends, and it is to be hoped that no such cases will ever again be spread upon the dockets of the Federal Courts in any of the Southern States. All such prosecutions were a result of the infamous reconstruction code, the hell-spun web of vindictive and small-souled Radical politicians.

THE divorce question is still being discussed by the pulpit. Dr. Talmage preached on that subject on Monday, and in his introduction said: "You need no orthodox minister to prove to a badly mated pair that there is a hell; they are there now. Thousands of good and gracious women are thus incarcerated, and their life is a crucifixion, while many a good man like John Wesley has married a viper or a fiend." A parochial clergyman of the Church of England, realizing these facts, writes to the London *Times* on the "Working Classes and Divorces," and says that the cheapest divorce case in England costs £30 to £40, and urges that the cost should be reduced, so that respectable workingmen may enjoy the luxury of divorce, and escape from the "viper or fiend," and that, on the other hand, the women who are suffering undeserved punishment in "hell," or are being "crucified," may be released and saved from future torture.

THE train that made the distance between Cincinnati and New Orleans in twenty-three hours and twenty minutes accomplished the fastest time ever made by a railroad in a journey of that length. It was a race between the Louisville and Nashville and the Queen and Crescent route as to who could make the fastest time from Cincinnati to New Orleans, the former road having made the run in twenty-eight hours and twenty-five minutes on the Mardi Gras excursion. The run was made from Cincinnati to Chattanooga in something less than seven and one-half hours, the time being lengthened materially on account of a crippled engine in the second relay. Over two hours was consumed in this delay, but for which the trip would have been made in twenty-one hours and twenty minutes. When it is remembered that much of the road way over which this train passed with such unexampled speed is new, it will seem little less than marvelous to the reader. It speaks well for Southern railroad management, so much stigmatized at the North, and puts to shame the boasted efforts of the great East-and-West trunk lines with their limited expresses and fast mail trains.

THE Mozart Society, like all public bodies, is open to criticism, and sometimes deserves it. Its conductor and directors and its active members are enthusiastic in the performance of their duties, and are anxious to deserve public approval. In this they sometimes fail, but it must not therefore be concluded that they are falling behind, that they are not progressing in the important work they have undertaken. The failure of the concert given last Friday night was not due to any want of ability or efficiency on the part of Mr. Downs, or any want of preparation by the chorus he has drilled so well. The stage of the Theater was not suitable for so large a body of singers, and there were some faults of management, all of which conspired to produce a little confusion and some dissatisfaction. But that it is not likely to occur again. Every mistake to sensible people becomes a profitable lesson, and we are much mistaken if the material of the Mozart Society if the criticism to which the last concert was subjected will not prove an additional incentive to push them on in their work so that they may redeem to themselves as well as for the public the bright expectations excited by the coming Music Festival with Nilsson, Materna, Scaria and Winkelman and the Thomas orchestra.

THE communication of "Jobber" is in very bad taste and worse spirit. The APPEAL did not attempt to defend the law imposing a tax upon drummers. It distinctly stated that it was opposed to all taxes upon merchandising and trade, but so long as any was collected the drummer from abroad should pay as well as our own merchants and for the same reasons. The plea of "Jobber" that merchants who send drummers to Memphis pay license in the cities where they are located will not hold good, because such payments do not benefit Memphis. Life and fire insurance companies have to pay State, county and city licenses in every State, county and city where they do business, and in many or most of them have to make a deposit of bonds besides. This is much severer than anything demanded of drummers, and yet it is, save the bond clause, borne with uncomplainingly so far as we know. As to the yellow-fever help, Memphis since 1878-79 has on several occasions proven her gratitude by generous subscriptions to the sufferers by flood, fire and tempest in the West and Northwest as well as South, and in that proposes not to cancel the debt—that she can never do—but to certify to her appreciation of the kindness of the peoples of the world during the unparalleled epidemic of 1878. If she were to cancel taxes to repay the generosity of the yellow-fever times, Memphis would not have wherewithal to pay the police and firemen, light the streets and pave or repair them.

THE PACIFIC ROADS.

Consideration of the Proposed Amendments to the Thurman Sinking-Fund Act Concluded.

Proceedings in Congress — The Tariff Debate Resumed in the House—In the Senate.

The Swaim-Bateman Affair to be Looked Into by a Court-Martial—The Trade Dollar.

MINISTER FOSTER'S VISIT.

His Return in No Way Connected with Cuban Affairs.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Hon. John W. Foster, United States Minister to Spain, who arrived at Washington yesterday, has come here to confer with the authorities regarding the details of the proposed commercial treaty between Spain and the United States. It is said on undisputed authority that his visit has nothing to do with the alleged plan for the purchase of Cuba by the United States, nor has it any bearing on the insurrection in Cuba.

GEN. SWAIM'S CASE.

To be Looked Into by a Court-Martial—Secretary Lincoln's Letter.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Secretary Lincoln to-day addressed the following letter to the President:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 22, 1884.

SIR:—On the 16th instant A. R. Bateman, of this city, a member of the firm of Bateman & Co., bankers, addressed me a letter, of which a copy is inclosed, in which he alleged that Gen. D. G. Swaim, Judge Advocate-General of the army, had committed fraud upon said firm. On the next day, and before any action had been taken on the communication of Bateman, another communication was received from him by me withdrawing the charges against Gen. Swaim. On the next day these letters were by me referred to Gen. Swaim, by indorsement on the one first received. For such remarks as he may desire to submit on the allegations made in the written communication, and for any application he may desire to make." On the same day Gen. Swaim returned the papers with the following indorsement. (The indorsement has been published.) Bateman thought it proper to give the press a copy of the letter on the day of its date, and the grave charges made by him against the Judge Advocate-General were given wide publicity. His object was apparently to enforce a pecuniary adjustment by means as offensive as possible. But his letter next day shows that notwithstanding the bitterness of his attack, a satisfactory settlement was finally made, one element of which was his formal withdrawal of his charges with a statement which seems carefully framed to avoid charging himself with having recklessly made false and libelous charges in his previous letter. Assertions in business advertisements are not entitled under any circumstances to the protection of the War Department, but the integrity and uprightness of an officer of the army who reports upon every court-martial investigation which it is his the duty of the Secretary of War to submit to the President for his final action is a matter of the deepest concern to the President, and to every friend of his military subordinates. The law requires "that conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" shall be followed by a sentence of dismissal from the military service, and the President alone can mitigate this sentence. If there could be any distinctions, every consideration requires that, more than any other officer of Boston, to sell him an Advocate-General should be free beyond question from the imputation of such conduct. It is a matter of deep regret to me, therefore, that when the Judge Advocate-General was given an opportunity to comment upon the charges in question, he, in respect to the first charge, either was not able or did not care to make an explicit denial of its essential part, or to give in detail such facts and circumstances as would show the falsity of the charge. Instead of doing so he has contented himself with a statement which contains nothing to the number of allegations might not possibly be a truthful supplement, so, in respect to the second charge, assisting to negotiate army-pay vouchers with Bateman & Co., which then Swaim knew to be fraudulent and spiritless of Gen. Sanford accounts, Gen. Swaim's response fails to notice. That charge, as made by Bateman, referred not merely to the negotiation of pay accounts alleged to have been known to Gen. Swaim as fraudulent, and to that element of the charge no allusion is made in his response. It is not overlooked that the final clause of the response asking for the publication, refers to the accusations as false, but no specific answers to them are evidently intended to be found in what has gone before. If there is no proof to sustain the charges made, or if the circumstances can be explained so as to remove every impression of improper conduct on the part of the officer in question, I am of the opinion that the welfare of the military service requires that proper steps should be taken for his vindication. It is not a personal but an official and public matter. He has not, in my view, recognized this necessity, and as he has not done so, I am compelled to recommend to you to appoint a court of inquiry to examine into the accusations above made, and to report the facts developed by their investigation, and give their opinion thereon. I have the honor to be, etc.,

ROBT. T. LINCOLN, Secretary of War.

To the President.

Upon receipt of the foregoing letter the President authorized the issuance of the following order:

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 22, 1884.

By direction of the President of the United States, a court of inquiry is hereby appointed to examine into the accusations against Brig.-Gen. David G. Swaim, Judge Advocate-General of the United States army, contained in a letter addressed by A. R. Bateman to the Secretary of War, bearing date of April 9th. The court will make a full and thorough investigation of all matters embraced in the letter of Bateman, and will report the facts developed by its investigation and give an opinion thereon. The detail for the court are Maj.-Gen. John Pope, Brig.-Gen. Christopher C. Augur, Brig.-Gen. Delos B. Sackett, inspector-general of the United States army, Maj. Robert S. Scott, Third Artillery, will act as judge-advocate and recorder. The court will meet in Washington, D. C., on the 5th of May.

ROBT. T. LINCOLN, Secretary of War.

PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Consideration of the Amendments to the Thurman Act Concluded.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The House Committee on Pacific Railroads to-day concluded consideration of the proposed amendments to the Thurman sinking-fund act. They extend the provisions of the act to the Kansas Pacific, Sioux City and Pacific and central branch of the Union Pacific roads. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to invest the sinking fund of each of the subsidized companies in first mortgage bonds of the said companies, or in any bonds or securities of the United States, in his discretion, or he may, with the assent of the companies, apply the same to the extinguishment of the interest on the subsidy bonds of the government, to refund the same on behalf of the government it becomes necessary in order to meet any debts or obligations of said corporations prior in lien to said interest. A third amendment requires each of the roads to pay thirty-five per cent. of their net earnings into the sinking fund instead of twenty-five per cent. as now required. The percentage was at first fixed by the committee at thirty-seven and a half per cent., but was reconsidered with the above result. The fourth amendment relates to moneys due by the government to roads for transportation, but retained and applied the payment of interest and to the sinking fund, which retention and application the courts have practically decided was illegal. The gross amount thus retained with interest is about $10,000,000. Instead of repaying this money to the companies the amendment provides that it shall remain in the sinking fund, and be eventually applied to the extinguishment of debts prior in lien to those due the government, thereby increasing the ability of the companies to pay the debts due the government, which are a second lien upon a portion of this money. It is estimated that about $5,000,000, which has gone to the extinguishment of interest, under these amendments will be transferred to the sinking fund. Three per cent. interest is allowed from the date of its application until it is covered into the sinking fund. The fifth amendment authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to withhold for the purpose of securing the requirements of the sinking fund all sums due from the government for transportation of any kind upon the entire systems of roads owned, leased and operated by subsidized companies to the extent of the interest of the controlling company in such earnings. A sixth amendment provides that each company may, if it so desires, settle its debt, including both principal and interest, with the government within five years from the passage of the proposed amendments. Representative Thompson, whose bill formed the basis of the committee's action, says the proposed legislation will increase the amount now paid into the sinking fund by subsidized roads about $1,500,000 annually. In 1898, when the bonds become due, he estimates the increase will have aggregated about $26,000,000.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Tariff Discussion in the House—In the Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—*House.*—In accordance with the resolution adopted yesterday, the House met at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Dingley asked unanimous consent for the present consideration of the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to invest lawful money deposited in the Treasury by national banking associations for the retirement of their circulating notes. There was, he said, no more important measure than this, which related to the currency of the country, that could probably be presented to Congress. It was recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury and had the unanimous approval of the Banking and Currency Committee. Under the expiring law national banks, in withdrawing their bonds and going into liquidation, were obliged to deposit in the Treasury lawful money, and the currency was contracted to that extent.

"Wipe out the whole scheme," suggested Mr. Weller, "I object."

Mr. Dingley hoped the objection would be withdrawn, because the bill was necessary to prevent a contraction of the currency at the rate of $2,000,000 a month.

Mr. Weller remarked that nothing which could be said would induce him to withdraw his objection, and so consent was not granted.

On motion of Mr. Budd a resolution was adopted setting apart the 3d of May for consideration of the bill amending the Chinese immigration act.

Mr. Turner [Ga.] gave notice that he would to-morrow call up the Kansas contested election case of Wood vs. Peters.

On motion of Mr. Morrison, an order was made providing evening sessions until further notice for general debate on the tariff bill.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Cox [N. Y.] in the chair, on the tariff bill, and Mr. Wellborn addressed the House in advocacy of the bill.

Mr. McKinley was the next speaker, and made an elaborate argument against the bill.

Mr. Herbert followed with a long speech, supporting the bill in the strongest terms.

The committee then rose, and the House went in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Springer in the chair, on the pension appropriation bill, the pending amendment being that offered by Mr. Rosecrans, transferring pension agents to the pay department of the army. The amendment was lost.

On motion of Mr. Rogers [Ark.], an amendment was adopted providing that no agent, attorney or other person shall demand or receive a fee for his services in cases of pension or bounty land claims until allowed the claim; that all fees in pension cases shall be paid out of the first installment of pension to the claimant; that no fee shall exceed $10 except in cases of special written contract on file in the Pension Office and approved by the Commissioner of Pensions, where $25 may be charged, and prescribing the power which the Secretary of the Interior may exercise over pension attorneys.

The committee then rose and reported the bill to the House, when it passed.

Recess until 8 o'clock p.m., the evening session to be for debate on the tariff bill.

The Senate.

Senator Miller [Cal.] presented a petition of citizens of California praying an increase of duty on imported raisins from two to three cents a pound. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Blair, from the Committee on Education and Labor, reported favorably a bill to create a commission to inquire into and report upon the material, industrial and intellectual progress made by the colored people of the United States since 1865. Calendar.

Senator Conger offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling for information as to expenditures on the Portage Lake and Lake Superior ship canal to the present time.

A resolution passed granting the privileges of the floor of the Senate to the Commissioner of Agriculture and secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

Senator Miller [Cal.] remarked that some matters requiring immediate attention in connection with foreign affairs rendered a short executive session desirable, and accordingly the Senate went into executive session.

When the doors were reopened some discussion took place as to the order of business, which was finally settled by the Senate proceeding to the consideration of bills on the calendar, and took up, and passed on motion of Senator Jackson, the bill to give the assent of Congress to the construction of a free bridge by the mayor and City Council of Nashville, Tenn., over the Cumberland river.

A number of other bills, of no particular interest, were passed, after which the Chair laid before the Senate the pleuro pneumonia bill, so it may come up as unfinished business to-morrow.

Adjourned.

THE TRADE DOLLAR.

The House Bill for Its Retirement Discussed by the Senate Committee.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The Senate Committee on Finance took up and discussed the House bill providing for the retirement of the trade dollar. An understanding was reached that if the bill is reported at all it should contain a provision similar to that in the original bill, which was stricken out in the House, providing that the amount of silver received under the provisions of the bill should be deducted from the monthly purchases of bullion under the present laws for the coining of standard dollars.

CAPITAL POINTS.

Missouri River Commission.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The House Commerce Committee directed a favorable report on Representative Graves's bill, authorizing the appointment of a Missouri river commission.

Nominations.

Among the nominations to-day were those of Lewis L. Selen, to be postmaster at Greeneville, Tenn., and John F. Hall, to be postmaster at Fulton, Ky.

Department of Texas.

An order was issued from the War Department to-day assigning Brig.-Gen. David S. Stanley to the command of the Department of Texas, in place of Brig.-Gen. McKenzie, retired.

Greely Relief Expedition.

Secretary Chandler to-day sent orders to Commander Schultz, at New York, to take command of the Greeley relief expedition and proceed at once to the coast of Greenland on his mission.

The Pacific Bank.

The sub-committee of the House Committee on Banking and Currency investigating the charges preferred against Comptroller Knox and Examiner Scotham in connection with the failure of the Pacific Bank of Boston, to-day reported the charges unsustained.

Collector Wicher Removed.

The Senate was in executive session today three hours, having under consideration the recommendation of the President that Collector Wicher, of Key West, be removed. The issues were of fact and methods. The Senate finally adopted a report recommending his dismissal.

To Encourage Education.

Among the bills introduced in the House yesterday was one by Representative Henley to encourage education in the States and Territories, which provides that all newspapers hereafter published in the several States and Territories, in any language whatsoever, shall be carried free of postage through the mails within the limits of the United States and Territories.

The Neutrality Laws.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney-General have issued orders to their agents in cities bordering on the Gulf of Mexico for a strict enforcement of the neutrality laws. Agents are instructed to keep a sharp lookout for Cuban insurgents, and to intercept any filibustering expedition bound for Cuba. The revenue steamers, forward and seaward, are cruising in the gulf on patrol duty.

The Cotton Centennial.

Director-General Burke was heard by a select committee of the House to-day on the bill for the loan of $1,000,000 to the World's Industrial Exposition. Mr. Burke spoke at great length, showing the advantages to be derived from this Exposition, and its claims for substantial recognition at the hands of the government. Reference was made as to the importance of the Exposition for opening new lines of trade for manufacturers and stock raisers in Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. A sub-committee has been appointed to consider the bill.

An Indian boy wanted to hang himself after seven school girls had kissed him. He didn't "all the same," for he found the dreadful feeling was caused by a cold, which was speedily cured by the immediate use of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, which is known far and wide as a great remedy for coughs and colds.

Horrible Crime.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., April 22.—On Saturday last a negro, near Loachapoka, beat his wife so badly that she gave premature birth to two children, and died soon after. He latterly attempted a criminal assault on the wife of his employer, a white woman. He is now in jail.

Ohio Republicans.

CLEVELAND, April 22.—A great number of the leading Republicans of Ohio are here to attend the State Convention tomorrow. Opinions differ as to whether a majority of the delegates favor Sherman or Blaine. It appears to be the prevailing judgment that the convention will not instruct for anybody.

DAY'S DOINGS

In the County Court—A Committee Appointed to Investigate Ex-Chairman Holeman's Rent Account.

The Magistrates Do the Square Thing by Architect Jones, Paying Him His Bill

In Full According to Contract—Various Bridges Ordered Built—Other Interesting Items.

The County Court resumed its deliberations yesterday, with Chairman Smith presiding.

BRIDGE BUILDING.

Commissioners were appointed to repair the bridge across the creek near Lewis Washington's, on the Porterville-Island No. 40 road, and to build a bridge on the road leading from Point Church to the Raleigh road; to build a bridge across Holeman creek, $125; to build a bridge on the White Station and Bartlett road.

PAYING JUST DEBTS.

The following report was made by R. D. Jordan, county attorney, in the matter of E. C. Jones, architect, in supervising the construction of the County Poor and Insane Asylum:

"I have to report that I have carefully examined the evidence touching this matter. This consists of the statement of Mr. Jones and Messrs. Coleman, Galloway and Holeman, the Poorhouse Building Committee, the minutes of the committee kept in relation to this matter, and the records of the court; and from these sources of information I find that the committee were empowered to employ an architect to draw plans and specifications and erect a poorhouse. Mr. Jones was employed in this capacity, and his plans were adopted. I find that the committee, as appears from the minutes of these transactions kept by them, agreed to pay the architect five per cent. on the outlay on this building. The appropriation made by the court amounted to $26,000. On the exhaustion of this sum the committee assumed the authority to expend, in order to complete the building, the further sum of $2186, which was afterward submitted to the court, and the action of the committee confirmed. There thus appears to have been expended by the committee, in erecting and completing the poorhouse, the sum of $28,186. The action of this committee has been approved by the court. Under the contract made between Mr. Jones and the committee he was to receive five per cent. on the outlay, which would amount to the sum of $1409 30. He has already been paid $1000, leaving in dispute $409 30. There can be no question as to the power of this committee, to make this contract with the architect, and there is no doubt but that the contract to pay him five per cent. on the outlay was actually made. It also appears equally beyond dispute that there has been appropriated and paid by the court as an "outlay" in the erection and construction of this building the sum above mentioned. With these facts before me I can come to no other conclusion than that the county is liable and should pay Mr. Jones for his services as per his contract with your committee, unless it can be made to appear that Mr. Jones failed to perform and carry out his contract with your committee, whereby the county was wronged and injured by reason of this failure. The above conclusion is irresistible. I have had no such testimony before me and none has been offered, and I know of none, though I have inquired of the members of the court if such could be had. * * * With the testimony before me I am of the opinion that the county is liable for the remainder of Mr. Jones's bill." The report was on motion adopted and the balance ordered paid.

BUY SOUTH LOOSE.

Your petitioner, John B. Leech, and Belle Leech, his wife, would respectfully show unto your honor that on January 16, 1877, in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Western District of Tennessee, at Memphis, they recovered a judgment against Shelby county for $7500. This was on a note of Tom Holeman, jr., chairman. Said judgment was to be paid by January 1, 1878, and bears ten per cent. interest. On January 15, 1878, petitioners were paid $750; on February 15, 1878, they were paid $1350, and on March 11, 1878, were paid $1620. Subject to these credits said judgment, with interest thereon, is still due and unpaid. Premises considered, petitioners pray that this honorable court direct that said debt be paid them, and as in duty bound they will ever pray, etc.

L. W. HUMES, Attorney for Petitioners.

Referred to county attorney.

THE EX-CHAIRMAN'S EXPLANATION.

Justice Honeman said that in 1871-72 the county credit was low down and orders were made to borrow money to pay cash for certain things to keep up the credit of the county, and this money was borrowed by T. C. Bleckley, then chairman of the County Court, to purchase the pesthouse grounds. The note came due and was renewed by Chairman Holeman, and at its maturity it was not paid. Leech then sued the county and Holeman confessed judgment. As long as a judgment tax was levied Holeman prorated it among the various judgment creditors, making the payments mentioned in the petition. Mr. Holeman did not, however, offer any explanation of the fact that there was nothing on the books to show that there was a judgment or that any payments had been made.

Justice Holeman, after the discussion on the Leech petition, remarked that some persons seemed to enjoy attacking him as much as a Fenian would rolling a dynamite pill under his tongue, and then asked the adoption of the following:

Ordered by the Court, That the county attorney and two members of this court be appointed a committee to investigate the matter of rents, etc., referred to in the DAILY APPEAL of Sunday morning, April 20, 1884, so far as said references touch the official acts of Tom Holeman, ex-chairman of the County Court, and report to the July term of this court.

The county attorney and Justices Moore and Mason were appointed.

TO OPEN A ROAD.

A jury of view was appointed to reopen the Raleigh and Germantown road from Wells Station to the old Raleigh road.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CHARACTER.

Oscar Brown was granted a certificate of good character in order to enable him to apply for admission at the bar.

REDUCTIONS.

A huge mass of petitions from various citizens, asking for reductions of assessment were submitted, and several of them passed upon. The court then adjourned.

BAD BLAINE.

The Great North American Puffer Cannot Cover Up His Tracks in Regard to the

Mulligan Letters or Those Profitable Transactions in Texas with Bonds and Northern Pacific Stock.

New York *Evening Post*: A correspondent [whose letter we print in another column] desires some explanation of what he considers the slighting or hostile references to Mr. James G. Blaine which so frequently appear in the *Evening Post*, and which he suspects must be, in some degree at least, the product of private malice. We think he is entitled, as are our readers generally, to some such explanation, and we shall proceed to make it cheerfully, starting, however, with the assertion that no other person is connected with the *Evening Post* in any capacity has, to our knowledge, had any difference, quarrel or controversy with Mr. Blaine, or has received any injury from him whatever, or bears him any personal grudge. Whenever he is discussed in these columns he is discussed either as the holder of a public office, or as a candidate for public office. We are made we make any reference to his private affairs except when those affairs have or appear to have a direct and important relation to his character and claims as a public man. In fact, all our comments on him and his doings are due to the fact that we consider his reappearance as a candidate for the highest office in the government, or any other, as an audacious proceeding, which can only be accounted for by supposing him to have an extraordinary and unwarrantable confidence in the popular forgetfulness. It is the duty of all those who do not wish to see the Republican party burdened during the canvass next summer with the heavy and useless task of whitewashing him, to set forth briefly, now that his boom is becoming so lively, the charges which he will have to answer before he can be elected to the Presidency. It would be lamentable, indeed, and certainly disastrous, if the task prescribed for Republican journalists by the convention should be not the discussion of great questions of public policy, like the tariff, or the civil service, or the railroads, or the currency, but laborious examinations of Mr. James G. Blaine's railroad transactions. We mean, as far as we are concerned, to avoid this, if we can, by taking up his railroad transactions now, before the bustle and excitement of the canvass begins.

THE FIRST OF THESE CHARGES

is that in the spring session of Congress in 1869 a bill was before the House of Representatives which sought to renew a land grant to the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad, of Arkansas, in which some of Mr. Blaine's friends were interested; that an attempt to defeat it by an amendment was made, and was on the point of being successful and its promoters were in despair; that at this juncture Mr. Blaine, being then Speaker of the House, sent a message to Gen. Logan to make the point of order that the amendment was not germane to the purposes of the bill; that this point of order was accordingly raised and promptly sustained by Mr. Blaine as Speaker, and the bill was in this manner saved; that Mr. Blaine wrote at once to the promoters calling attention to the service he had rendered them, and finally, after some negotiations, secured from them as a reward for it, his appointment as selling agent of the bonds of the road, on commission, in Maine, and received a number of such bonds as his percentage; that the leading features of this transaction appeared in two letters of his afterward made public, dated respectively June 29 and October 4, 1869.

THE LITTLE ROCK AND FORT SMITH RAILROAD.

Second, that he asserted at first on the floor of the House, with the view of covering up this affair, that the Little Rock and Fort Smith road "derived its life, franchise and value wholly from the State," and not from Congress; whereas the evidence subsequently taken by the Congressional committee disclosed the fact that the road derived the value on which these bonds were based from the act of Congress on which Mr. Blaine secured the passage, in the manner above described, in 1869; that he asserted on the floor of the House that the bonds he received "were bought by him at precisely the same rate as others paid," whereas the evidence showed that the bonds came to him as commissions on sales, which he secured the opportunity of making through his agency to this work in Congress, and that he solicited this agency, being the request on the aid so given, and that he paid nothing whatever for the bonds, the consideration being his ruling as Speaker and his subsequent efforts to sell them. That he did with these bonds—seventy-five in number—is uncertain; but strong, though not conclusive, evidence was produced going to show that they were taken off his hands at a good price by the Union Pacific railroad (through the instrumentality of one Caldwell), which then also was in trouble. The significance of this point was never pushed home owing to the sudden illness which overtook Mr. Blaine in 1876.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC TRANSACTION.

Third, that Mr. Blaine in 1870 made an offer, as appeared by one of his own letters to one of his related friends, Mr. Warren Fisher, of Boston, to sell him half of one twenty-fourth interest in the Northern Pacific railroad, immediately after Jay Cooke's contract "had been perfected, and the additional legislation had been obtained," he having, he stated, come to control this interest "by a strange revolution of circumstances;" that the amount of stock which this would represent, he said, would be $425,000, and the number of acres of land "nearly 275,000." "The chance," he said, "was a very rare one; he couldn't touch it," but he offered it to Fisher for $25,000; that Mr. Fisher accepted it, and paid the money, but for some unexplained reason the stock was never delivered, and Mr. Blaine subsequently refunded the amount. This transaction was a very peculiar one for the following reasons: It appears from acts of Congress relating to the road, none of which are older than July 2, 1864, that the authorized stock was $100,000,000, with a land grant estimated by the Commissioners of Public Lands at 47,000,000 acres, or 74,423 square miles. The line of the road was 2000 miles long, and at the time of Blaine's letter to Fisher it was, he says, being built on bonds at $25,000 per mile, which would have made a bonded debt of $50,000,000. Mr. Blaine, as member of Congress and Speaker of the House, must be taken to have known about the circumstances of the road, and therefore there seems no escape from the conclusion that his offer was based on the expectation that he would receive almost as a gift a share in an enterprise dependent for its value on legislation in which he had taken part. Mr. Blaine's defense in the case of this transaction consisted at first of a denial that he had ever had any transaction with the road at all, but he afterward rested on the fact that he had no pecuniary interest in the transfer, and that it was never actually made; but though this might be true, it does not explain away the a conspiracy to defraud purchasers of the stock, it does not affect in any way the nature of the offer. His relations with Warren Fisher were in 1870, as appeared from the evidence, such that any favor done the latter, or gift presented to him, had a direct pecuniary value.

THE MULLIGAN LETTERS.

Fourth, because he obtained certain letters, which there is every reason to believe contained matter gravely compromising him, from a perfectly reputable citizen named Mulligan, who was the proper and lawful custodian of them, after having vainly tried appeals to his pity, by pledging his word of honor to restore them, then broke his pledge, retained them by force, and subsequently read such of them as he pleased to the House in aid of his vindication; that this conduct, if not legally criminal, was such as no man aspiring to be the chief magistrate of a great nation ought to be even suspected of.

A MERE CIRCUS CLOWN.

Fifth, that both his short service as an executive officer of the government and the various efforts he has made during the past eight years to keep the public in mind of him have been sensational and theatrical, indicating a strong love of notoriety and an absence of the settled convictions, the sober judgment and the steadiness of character which are needed to make him a safe occupant of any high or responsible administrative office; and that the means by which his booms are started and promoted, of which the manner in which his "history" has recently been heralded and produced is a good example, bear too close an approach to the advertising devices of a circus or other public show to make the candidacy of any person resorting to them anything but a humiliation to the party producing him.

A MERE PUFFER, NOT A BOOK-MAKER.

Lastly, it seems to us emphatically the duty of the independent voters to repress in some signal way the rapidly growing practice of packing conventions under the personal superintendence of candidates for the Presidency. It is of comparatively recent date. It is only a very few years since Mr. Tilden excited the horror of the Republican press by taking charge of his own canvass, and starting a "literary bureau" to nipping puffs of himself in newspapers. Since then it has grown apace, and it now excites no surprise to hear that any candidate is actively engaged in using all his powers of intrigue, chicane, and corruption to secure the election of delegates all over the Union, pledged either openly or secretly to act under his order at the convention, and if casting votes for him will do no good, to cast them in such a way as to enable him to carry out any bargain or "deal" with any other candidate which it may have pleased him to make. The nominating convention has already, through its size, as well as for other reasons, lost nearly all semblance of a deliberative body, but it has not yet become wholly the product of "subsoiling" carried on by the various candidates themselves. In this art of packing conventions Mr. Blaine is now the greatest master in the country. His success would make this art almost the only one which American statesmen would hereafter cultivate, or would apparently need to cultivate. It is high time, therefore, that he and his friends were made to understand that it is not by such little games that the Presidency is to be won.

The Epsom Spring Meeting.

LONDON, April 22.—The Epsom meeting began to-day. The race for the Riddlesdam plate of 200 sovereigns was won by J. Gretton's Hesiley, Walton's Hopeful second, Manton's Gang Warily third. There were seven starters.

The race for the great Metropolitan Stakes, handicap, was won by Sir Henry's Zadig, Cumberland's Secsie second, the Duke of Hamilton's Loch Ranza third. There were ten starters, including F. F. Walton's Giroflé. Betting at the start was 10 to 1 against Zadig, 11 to 1 against Secsie, 6 to 4 against Loch Ranza. Zadig won by a head.

APPEAL SPECIALS.

A Mob Organized at Nashville to Lynch the Friedman Assassins Dispersed Without Damage.

Meeting of the Mississippi Republican Convention at Jackson—Delegates to Chicago.

The Trial of Frank James Postponed Owing to the Sudden Illness of His Counsel.

NASHVILLE.

A Mob Organized to Hang the Murderers of Max Friedman.

Special to the Appeal.]

NASHVILLE, April 22.—A mob organized here to-night to lynch Meyer Moscowitz, jr., *alias* Morris, and Seeke White, a negro thug, jailed on the charge of the assassination of Meyer Friedman on the night of the 12th instant. Tom Owens, another negro, who fled to Cairo, Ill., has been sent for. The circumstances attending the assassination were peculiarly atrocious. Meyer Moscovitz, jr., first induced Friedman to take out a policy of $2000 on his life in the American Legion of Honor. It has been ascertained that for some time before that Moscovitz was intimate with Friedman's wife, Ross, and they agreed to get Friedman to take a policy of $3000 on his life, and then have him assassinated. On the night of the 25th of March Friedman's wife got him to go after some lemons for her. Seeke White and Tom Owens, colored thugs, had barricaded the street door of the house with two large boulders, and when Friedman came down stairs and tried to open the door, fell upon him, one with a hatchet, the other with a meat knife, literally cutting him to pieces. Both escaped.

Later.—The crowd that was in front of the jail dispersed without giving any trouble. It is reported that the prisoners have been moved to the penitentiary for safety. Friedman was buried to-day.

Mayor Phillips called an extra session of the City Council to consider the advisability of closing the suspension bridge at this city on account of its unsafe condition. The City Council ordered the bridge closed against street cars only.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

The Opening of the Permanent Exposition a Success.

Special to the Appeal.]

BIRMINGHAM, April 22.—The opening of the permanent Exposition and military display to-day was an occasion of entire satisfaction to all concerned. The character of exhibits rather surprised most visitors, as they had not been encouraged to expect much. The attendance, though not so large as it would have been with better weather, was sufficient to fill the building and approaches. The appearance made by the troops was very fine, nine companies of infantry and one of artillery, all belonging to the Second Regiment of Alabama, were in the parade.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

The Frank James Trial Postponed, Owing to Gen. Walker's Illness.

Special to the Appeal.]

HUNTSVILLE, April 22.—Owing to the sudden illness of Gen. Walker, counsel of Frank James, the case was continued until to-morrow, when the defense expect to conclude their case. They are undecided whether to put James on the stand. James says he is sure he will be acquitted, and will stop at Nashville on his way to Missouri to see his mother and for the purpose of visiting his old friends in that city.

JACKSON, MISS.

Meeting of the State Republican Convention—Delegates to Chicago.

Special to the Appeal.]

JACKSON, MISS., April 22.—Before the assembling of the State Republican Convention the delegates from the various Congressional districts met and elected two delegates each to the Chicago Convention, as follows: First District, H. O. Powers, white, for Blaine, and W. H. Kennon, white, for Arthur; Second District, John S. Benton, white, and T. J. Matthews, colored, both for Arthur; Third District, W. H. Allen, colored, and Westley Creigton, colored, both for Arthur; Fourth District, J. W. Longstreet, colored, and H. Harrington, white, both for Arthur; Fifth District, Judge W. M. Hancock, white, postmaster at Meridian, and F. C. Granberry, colored, both first choice Arthur, and second choice Logan; Sixth District, John R. Lynch, colored, for Blaine, and C. A. Simpson, white, for Logan, but both will vote for the candidates most acceptable to the States that have to elect; Seventh District, John A. Galbreath, white, for Gresham, and Thomas Richardson, colored, for Arthur.

In the First District, Green C. Chandler, United States district attorney, was nominated for Congress; in the Fifth District, Capt. J. R. Smith, of Lauderdale, deputy revenue collector, was nominated for Congress; for the other districts there will be a separate Congressional convention.

THE CONVENTION.

At noon the convention was called to order by the Hon. Jno. R. Lynch, chairman of the State Executive Committee, and opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bryant.

After a brief address, by direction of the Executive Committee, Mr. Lynch presented the name of Geo. M. Buchanan as temporary chairman, who was elected by acclamation. L. J. Spellman was elected secretary, and W. H. Kennon, R. D. Leake and J. D. Webster assistant secretaries.

After appointment of Committees on Credentials and on Permanent Organization, a recess was taken until 3 o'clock.

The State Executive Committee were engaged yesterday and until 1 o'clock last night in passing upon the credentials of contested delegations, and decided upon the *prima facie* right to seats of each. The contests arose from a long existing division in the party, which division is championed by the Hon. James Hill and the Hon. John R. Lynch, the other by Gen. George C. McKee, postmaster here, in whose following are the Chalmers sympathizers and supervisors. The Executive Committee seated *prima facie* the Hill-Lynch delegates. The contest was followed with spirit and earnest zeal before the