

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.

CLOSING DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

The leading features of the closing hours of the Senate, prior to the recess, were the pertinacity of Senator Sumner in pressing his supplemental civil rights amendment to the amnesty bill, and the determined fight made on Senator Morton's modification restricting its operation to rebel representatives hereafter selected. These two side issues caused the amnesty bill to lie over until after the holidays. Mr. Thurman, the leader of the Democrats in the Senate, declared that he would vote against the amnesty bill if Mr. Morton's amendment prevailed, by which the rebel Vance would be excluded from taking his seat in the Senate. Mr. Sumner said if his civil rights scheme was not made a part of the bill, he would not vote for it. Mr. Morton's amendment was carried. Mr. Kellogg charged Mr. Sumner, and Mr. Robertson charged the Democrats, respectively, with pretending to favor amnesty and killing the bill. Mr. Logan announced himself as a new convert to amnesty, but opposed Mr. Morton's amendment, stating that a late Cabinet officer had drawn his sword for the rebellion, when Senator Nye said in his anxious way, to the great amazement of Mr. Logan, that he never heard before that Mr. Ackerman carried a sword, which caused great laughter, in the midst of which an adjournment was carried until January 8th.

So, the amnesty bill, with Mr. Morton's amendment added and Mr. Sumner's amendment pending, will come again before the Senate after the recess, and will, probably, occasion more discussion than hitherto, as there is a general disposition among the Republican Senators to pass the bill before adjournment and with a very limited debate.

The measure is fraught with such importance that it is desirable, at least, to give sufficient attention to its discussion to cause it to reflect the true sentiments of the majority and not to make hasty legislation for the convenience of Southern Congressmen, who, as suggested, they intend to carry it to their constituents, and however just and reasonable may be the civil rights bill of Mr. Sumner, it is not necessary that it should be passed as a rider to this particular bill, or that it be allowed to halt every step of earnest legislation upon matters with which it is entirely unconnected.

THE ARKANSAS DIFFICULTIES.

I have just received private advice from Chicago, that the seat of Arkansas troubles. About two weeks ago a young and talented lawyer, well known here as a graduate of the Howard University, was assassinated in the daylight by three leading Ku-Klux of that locality. This murder of an unoffending citizen, because of his ability and Republicanism, was the culmination of a long series of outrages, which induced the colored men and the few white Republicans there to organize for self-defense. As soon as the assassins had been lodged in jail, preparations were made by the Ku-Klux to make a raid on the jail, and they caused great excitement, and the colored men took the murders forcibly from the jail and lynched them, fortifying themselves in the town until the general government should send troops for their protection, and to maintain order and law.

INDIAN PEACE POLICY.

Latest accounts from the agents and army officers, in charge of Apache Indian reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, under the President's order, state that the roving Apaches have come into the camps in large numbers, 4,000 of them having already reported. One thousand more are at the feeding stations, and in addition to this, more than one half of all the roving Apaches of these territories are now peaceful and within call, and though fed to some extent during the time, their reservations are being selected. This peaceful policy is far less expensive and humanitarian than a war of extermination, which some savage and grasping borderers are so eager to inaugurate.

CALIFORNIA'S NEW SENATOR.

Hon. Aaron A. Sargent was elected Senator from California on Wednesday last by a full party vote of the Legislature, viz: Sargent, 172; Wallace (Dem.) 46. He is an able and efficient statesman, and will make his mark in the Senate as he has in the House.

It is stated that Governor Scott, of South Carolina, is making a light on Bowen, who had just exposed further frauds in stock and land scrip, and came near impeaching the Governor. It is said that the Governor's friends are sufficiently numerous to cause his expulsion from the Legislature.

The executive documents regarding Cuba, just published, show the lamentable fact that the murdered lawyer, who was a student, was sacrificed to appease the fury of the volunteers, and to prevent them from committing greater excesses; that they did not merit death, but had tampered with the corpse of a volunteer captain in mere playfulness.

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PURCHASE, AND EXCHANGE OF

REAL ESTATE.

The undersigned has opened an office at 812½ Main street, (State Journal building), and is prepared for the SALE, PURCHASE, AND EXCHANGE OF REAL ESTATE, and respectfully requests all persons placing property in his hands for sale or exchange, to furnish him, if possible, with a plat of the same, as also a description of the advantages, &c.

Citizens of the Northern States, who desire to emigrate to a milder climate, such as Virginia, where so many advantages of a pecuniary nature, added to that of health, are presented to capitalists, will find it in their interest to communicate with the undersigned, in relation to the property respecting any particular farm or locality, with a view of purchasing, will receive a prompt and faithful reply.

Late U. S. Pension Agent, Richmond, Va.

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J. T. S.

President White, of Cornell University, recently attended a commencement at Oberlin, Ohio, where the sexes are educated together. In an after-dinner speech he said: "To-day's experience is a revelation to me. It has shown to me that young ladies and young gentlemen can recite together, and attend lectures together, and above all, can be together, without those gigantic evils following, of which we hear so much."

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