THE NATIONAL ERA.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

VOL. VIII. WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1854. NO. 376.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The *National Era* is published every Thursday, on Seventh street, opposite Odd Fellows' Hall.

Single copy - - -	$2	Ten copies - - - -	$15
Three copies - - -	5	Single copy six months	1
Five copies - - -	8	Ten copies six months	8

Daily National Era to the 1st September, $5.

Payment in advance is uniformly required.

Rates of Advertising.—Ten cents a line for the first insertion, five cents a line for each subsequent one.

Money to be forwarded by mail at our risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposite. When money is sent, notes on the banks of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, are preferred. New England notes are at less discount than New York State notes, and these less than Western notes.

All communications to the *Era*, whether on business of the paper or for publication, should be addressed to G. BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

AGENTS.

Agents are entitled to fifty cents on each *new* yearly subscriber, and twenty-five cents on each *renewed* subscriber—*except in the case of clubs.*

A club of three subscribers, one of whom may be an old one, at $5, will entitle the person making it up to a copy of the *Era* for three months; a club of five, two of whom may be old ones, at $8, to a copy for six months; a club of ten, five of whom may be old ones, at $15, to a copy for one year.

When a club of subscribers has been forwarded, additions may be made to it, on the same terms. It is not necessary that the members of a club should receive their papers at the same post office.

The following gentlemen will act as agents in the cities named:

H. B. Knight, 48 Beekman street, New York.
Wm. Alcorn, 826 Lombard street Philadelphia.
G. W. Light, 8 Cornhill, Boston.
J. A. Innis, Salem, Massachusetts.
C. A. Wall, Worcester, Massachusetts.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

A BROTHER'S RECOLLECTION OF AN ONLY SISTER.

BY MARY IRVING.

CHAP. V.

Aunt Tryphena was truly sorry to part with her little charge. Her face softened as she drew on her red mittens, at parting.

"I've done my best by her, Ralph," she remarked; "and I hope others may be able to say as much. I don't believe in humoring children, no how; but she's been a good creatur' and I dare say I shall miss her!" So saying, she even bent down to kiss her.

The little one, obeying her first impulse, flung her arms around her neck.

"Take care, young one! Haven't I learned you better than to *spile* a cambric pinner? There, there! good bye!"

Every hour of the day's ride to Embury lent new life to the little girl. Like a bird set free from its cage, she sung, danced, pulled flowers and whortleberries by the road side, and only grew sober when the towers of Embury church and academy loomed upon her horizon. We stopped at the gate of a roomy white cottage, whose green blinds and tastefully arranged flower-yard gave promise of a pleasant reception within. This was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Marsden, old friends of my mother; and had been my home for a summer, when I attended Embury Academy many years before.

Two children were racing, with boisterous outcries, through the walks of the front yard, to the imminent danger of the shrubbery.

"Neddy, how can you keep so much noise?" called a soft voice. A lady, in a lilac wrapper and gracefully drooping cap, made her appearance at the hall door. The good-humored, take-the-world-easy face, had grown some years older since I had seen it; but I recognised Mrs. Marsden at the first glimpse. I had already introduced myself and sister by letter, and met with a most genial welcome. Neddy and his sister stood at the door of the parlor, with fingers in their mouths, each trying to hide behind the shoulder of the other, to stare unnoticed at the little guest. As her hood, pelisse, and mittens, were drawn off, both broke into a half-smothered laugh, and ran away, without eliciting any remark from their mother. In the course of fifteen minutes, however, they returned; and Neddy, stepping in advance of his companion, twitched his mother's sleeve.

"Ma, ma, say! can we go nutting *now?*"

"Don't bother me, Neddy!"

"But ma, you *said* we might go, if we would stay till that little what's her name—Lincoln girl—came!"

"My children have all gone on a chestnutting excursion, except Neddy and Sue," remarked Mrs. Marsden, turning to me. "Augusta and Mary Hyde took them into the woods, as it is a half-holyday. I thought your little sister might like to accompany them, and so persuaded Neddy to wait."

"I should like to go with them myself, and renew my acquaintance with Miss Augusta, if you will excuse me," said I, rising.

"Certainly," replied she, with a pleasant laugh. "I would go along with you, if it were not for the long walk; but Neddy knows the way. You will find Augusta grown a little!"

Augusta Marsden I remembered as a self-willed, three-year-old rose-bud of radiant beauty, whom I used to delight in teasing for the kisses she was strangely coy in bestowing. As I strolled through the fields and across the brook, I was very placidly putting to myself the following problem:

"Given, two rose-leaf cheeks, a pair of sparkling black eyes, a cluster of dark-brown curls, and—can it have been so long?—fourteen years! What startling results shall I see?"

"There—there they are," cried my guide. "Yon's the big chestnut tree, and Sister 'Gussie, and Cousin Mary Hyde!"

Who has not dreamed a dream of the beauty he could adore? It wore the semblance of nothing seen before; it took no form to be defined by lip, pen, or pencil. It came to him in the stillest of the night-watches, when angels bend nearest to earthly brows; a strange, ethereal, soul-intoxicating *essence of beauty.*

My boyhood's dream stood before me a *reality*, as Augusta Marsden, dropping from her lap the flowers she had been wreathing, arose, blushing, to receive the stranger? I need not describe the features and form; all the epithets of description in that line have grown commonplace long since, and, even in their newly-coined estate, would have failed to shadow forth the subtle charm that lay not in eye, lip, nor cheek, and yet lay in all! It was the breathing perfection of youth, health, grace, and beauty!

Mary Hyde, the modest cousin whom I had first seen fastening a wreath of orchis, asters, and golden rod, around the head of Augusta, deserves a passing sketch, though she was not noticed then.

She was an orphan niece of Mrs. Marsden, who had lately entered the family; a gentle, self-sacrificing spirit, encased in a frame which none would mark as beautiful. Her face was plain, and, from its hardly-varying expression of grave timidity, appeared still plainer. But when lighted by a smile, it was quite passable; indeed, it is to be remarked that no child was ever repelled by its plainness.

"And so you were really *in love?*" says my romance loving reader, with a smile. "Keep to your first text, and tell us of Augusta."

Dear reader, kindly consider my dilemma, as I did through the long hours that night, and through those of four weeks successively. I was *poor* in all save unimpeached integrity, unblemished health, and unimpaired energy. I was fettered by the dear dependants Heaven had left me. I was undistinguished in the world where I had once hoped to write my name so high! What had *I* to offer, where methought a world's treasure could well have been disdained?

"Ah! it might have been," thought I, stifling the pang that shook my heart; "but now—never!" Yet I lingered by the side of Augusta, self-deluding as the moth that flutters into the fatal brilliance of the candle's flame. I read to her, sang with her, while her small fingers danced over the ivory keys; walked with her in those glorious, soul-quickening, Autumn twilights, beside the singing brook, and over the rustling hills; brought her flowers from every woodland nook within miles; talked with her of my past, my present, and my future, and *looked* into her brilliant eyes the words I dared not utter! *Why* was I doing all this?

But I am forgetting my sister, as I often forgot her then.

I awated her return from school, on the first day of her attendance. Augusta came first into the parlor, with cheeks tinged by the exercise of her homeward walk, and curls all the more bewitching for the slight disarrangement her school bonnet had wrought. Mary Hyde accompanied the children up the stairs, as I afterwards found, for the purpose of placing hats and bonnets in their proper places, seeing faces and hands washed, luncheon distributed, and some degree of order maintained among the nine noisy junior Marsdens. For Mary, the orphan, "ate not the bread of idleness" in the household of her uncle.

Half an hour had passed, and I had not yet inquired for Lulie: when, in the midst of a brilliant sonata, Mary Hyde opened the door, and seemed gently urging some one to enter. Her bonnet and shawl were arranged for walking out; and she wished to leave Eulalie with me, I found, while she went upon her errand. The child had been crying bitterly, and was unwilling to display her red eyes to the notice of strangers. I took her on my knee, and soothed her by silent caresses. When Augusta and her mother left the room, I made inquiry, as tenderly as possible.

"Oh brother, I can't go to that school any more!"

"What is the matter, darling?"

"Oh, dear! the girls and boys all *laugh at* me so;" and a fresh burst of tears came.

"Poor little thing! is that all?" said I, stroking her temples.

She looked up imploringly, as if to say, "Is it not *enough?*" and I could not withhold my sympathy, when I remembered what ridicule is to a heart utterly untutored in the ways of the world.

I said little, but comforted her by leading her to speak of all the little trials of the day in detail. When the ladies returned, bidding her go and play with the other children for a time, I turned to Mrs. Marsden.

"I find myself obliged to ask your assistance, my dear madam, in a matter which seems of great importance to my little sister's happiness. I find her very much grieved at the laughter of her associates, which has been chiefly, as I suppose, aimed at her ungraceful style of dress. Aunt Tryphena's ideas of dress are, at least, half a century behind the fashion! If we can make some slight changes in that respect, I think there will be little left to draw ridicule upon her."

"Poor little angel!" exclaimed Augusta. "How sorry I am the school children should have done so! but they are always such thoughtless things! Mamma, please leave it to me—I'll see that her hair is prettily curled, and I'll lend her one of Pet's frocks to put on in the morning"

Late that evening, as I passed an open doorway, I saw Mary Hyde sitting by a dim light, sewing upon a child's frock. A book was propped upon the table before her, and between it and her work her eyes vibrated rapidly, while fingers and lips kept time briskly.

"Trying to do two things at once, Miss Hyde?" I inquired. "Is *that* your philosophy?"

She started, and appeared confused; but in a moment, dropping her eyes, she replied, timidly—

"*Necessity* is the parent of philosophy, I have been told!"

"A clever girl—pity she is so plain-faced," thought I.

That dress I saw, the next day, upon my little sister, whose released ringlets gave back the image of other years to my heart Eulalie still found much to contend with in the world of school; it was a cold world to a sensitive spirit like hers, that had never mingled with a crowd; and, had it not been for *one* kind watcher—but I anticipate.

A month had I lingered in the vicinity of Embury. I had visited D——, and, unrecognised by my poor mother, had again left her to the care of those who best "minister to minds diseased." I had completed my business transactions satisfactorily; yet, though Duty called on me loudly from beyond the Western Lakes, I closed my ears to her cry.

My first despairing decision had been shaken; but suspense had become far more torturing than despair had been. Did a spark of the feeling that fired my own being glow in the breast of that capricious beauty? I could not, with all my penetration, feel assured.

One evening I strolled into the garden, to bathe my hot forehead in the cooling dew. Augusta had been unusually bewitching that afternoon; I had spoken warm words, that *must* have had meaning to her ear; but a strange shadow of caprice had overswept her, and she had glided away from me like a butterfly. Stretched upon the wicker seat of the heavily-shaded summer-house, Fate ordered that I should be, *per force*, a listener to the following fragment of conversation:

Mary. This is wrong, Cousin Augusta! You know well enough that he loves you, and you ought to be frank with him!

Augusta. Nonsense!

And an inaudible murmur of something else followed.

Mary. But he *will* win distinction, I can tell you; and if you have the heart of a true woman, you will not wait till that time, to let him know whether you love him!

Augusta. Humph! I like him well enough; but there! I'm not going to let *him* know it! If he likes me, as you say, he may find it out as he can! "Him thou lovest, never tell thou lovest."

The sounds died away in the distance.

Not with the ears of my reason, but of the passion that had enthralled me, did I listen to this dialogue. It left but one idea in my throbbing heart. "She loves me! I can and I will win her!" Do not blame me too much. What should I have learned of woman's wiles in my hermit life?

The point of correspondence gained, I went back westward. Resolutely did I ply my pen, in siege of that caprice-walled heart. Her letters were less capricious than her eyes, however, for they always breathed a tender tone. But, with all the coyness of her childhood, she refused to "commit herself," pleading a thousand pretty excuses—"She was too young to be married;" "she could not go so far away from home;" her "mother would never hear of her going West"—and still she wrote, and still I trusted, without a doubt of ultimate success.

The two years of my probation had passed. Unexpectedly, an opportunity of selling my Western property presented itself. The little home which I had long labored to beautify was given up without hesitation, since *she* could not come to share it. To settle my affairs, I was obliged to remain several months longer; and then, for a home and happiness in the land where I first drew breath! I wrote to Augusta, explaining this delay.

So absorbed was I in these business arrangements for a time, that I had scarcely leisure to notice the change that gradually came over her letters. I was at last aroused to a sense of it, by missing them altogether. I wrote earnestly—urgently—but no answer came! Was she ill? The thought was madness! I seized my pen, and dashed off a hurried note to Mary Hyde. But failing to receive an answer to that, within the narrow limits of time my impatience prescribed, I wound up the tangled threads of business at any cost, and hastened eastward.

It was the day after Christmas—chill and bleak—when, with trepidation that had in it far more of hope than of fear, I rang again the bell of that cottage door in Embury.

A quiet step—it was not *her's!*—came down the stair-case. The door opened, and I met—Mary Hyde. Her start at beholding me, and expression of doubt and alarm, bereft me of the little self-possession suspense had left me.

"Augusta!" I exclaimed, seizing both her hands in mine. "Tell me at once, how is she, and where is she?"

"I fear you did not receive my letter," she replied, with a strange seriousness that shocked me.

"Is Augusta *dead?*" I asked, in a hollow tone.

"No, Mr. Lincoln, but"——

"Thank God!" I spoke with a shudder, "I can bear anything else!"

She heaved a deep sigh, and as she lifted her eyes, I saw them swimming in tears.

"The truth must be spoken, at whatever cost to feeling, Mr. Lincoln. My cousin Augusta *was married* last evening, to Mr. Lemoyne, of D——!"

SENATOR FESSENDEN.—We congratulate this gentleman, who is now in the way of receiving a goodly share of the opprobrium of the Southern press. The Richmond *Enquirer* of yesterday, for example, repeats his name, and says:

"This is the name of an individual recently elected in Maine, by a coalition of Whigs and odds and ends, to represent, in part, that State in the Senate of the United States. Notorious at home for his zeal in the 'black' crusade, he is now attempting to establish, by means of his new position, a national reputation, as a white man having an excessive love for the woolly-headed race. Although but a few days have elapsed since he took his seat in the Senate, he is already aspiring to be the biggest and most noisy Abolition frog in the national pond."

The fare from Boston to Chicago is but $22 for first-class passengers.

For the National Era.

BELL SMITH ABROAD.

No. XV.

ST. SULPICE.

DEAR FRIEND: I neglected to tell you long since that we had gone into winter quarters, as D. termed it, on place St. Sulpice. We have the second étage in a new house on the corner, and can look down Rue Bonaparte, *rue du vieux Colombier*, or out on the place St. Sulpice, upon which has stood for nearly a thousand years the church of that name, one of the most beautiful and largest in Paris. We are within a moment's walk of the Luxembourg palace and beautiful gardens, where Lucy and I have gathered up some health by much exercise. The wide circle of marble queens, most beautifully sculptured, look down in state upon the palace and grounds, in various graceful attitudes and gorgeous robes, and seeming to me yet more cold than even marble calls for at the intrusion of the multitude. These grounds, the most beautiful about Paris, were once sacred to loyalty. The rich green sward, the graceful trees, marble terraces, fountains, ponds, and statuary, were once greeted only by high dames and proud gentlemen. Now one sees the coarse blouse, the capped and aproned bonne, the tasseled student, passing and repassing, indifferent to the historic past—indifferent to the rich stores of the present around them—quite at home, and without thanks. I often listen to the splashing of fountain, and think of the ears that heard the same music centuries ago, while perhaps their hearts throbbed with hopes, or sank in disappointment, as do ours now. The same fountain tosses its restless spray, the same statuary looks upon us, the palace itself lifts its marble front above the trees, while we flit by like shadows.

One of the most interesting features to me in this neighborhood is found in the streets, being the same in character and name, and, in many instances, the same buildings as in the day when men and women, famous in story, paced them, or rattled in gorgeous carriages over the rude streets. They are the same in name and appearance now, as when D'Artagnan and his swashing comrades loved, fought, and flourished. These romance writers have made classic ground of nearly all Paris; and it has a strange effect upon us Americans, from our new land, where the fictionists dare not locate their stories, for fear that solemn, untinted fact may cast them into ridicule. The absence of such a softening past at home, makes us seize hold of and relish it the more when found.

The place St. Sulpice affords me the greatest amusement. It is so very French in its animated scenes—on a bright Sabbath, above all. The great bell of the old church roars like a distant tempest; the fountain sparkles and splashes; the four colossal church dignitaries look calm and happy; the ugly lions even seem disposed to be domesticated and come down. All is bright, merry, and active. A mountebank has stopped his queer carriage in one corner, and, to the music of a wretched hand organ, sells nostrums, warranted to cure all the ills flesh is heir to. A dog-opera is in successful operation on one side of the fountain, while on the other a live circus, without horses, has a tremendous crowd. The quack shouts, the dogs bark, the clown tumbles to the merry laugh, while the huge bell, calling Christians to prayer, nearly—not quite—drowns all. There comes a procession of priests, four hundred or more, from the Theological Seminary over the way. They wind by the dogs—they almost pass over the circus—neither of which for a moment suspend proceedings, and disappear in the church.

Now the bell ceases, and one hears at intervals the deep swell of the church organ, as the Sabbath worship goes on; only at intervals, however, for the clown stands on his head and kicks, the dog stands on his legs and barks, and the crowds are noisy and restless. The omnibus rolls by, the hacks are busy, the stores are open and gay, and Paris looks busier than ever. At last, the long service is over, but the plays go on. The long procession of four hundred young priests winds out, and pass over the way into their still college. Crowds rush down the church steps, and swell the audiences of circus, opera, and quack. Prayers are said, and amusements go on so, in every open space in the city, for on a sunny Sabbath Paris is in train.

It is quite a feature in Fourier's system of socialism, you know, to have the children gathered under the keeping of the aged; in this manner giving them a light employment, suitable to their abilities, while the parents are engaged in more important pursuits. This dream of the modern philosopher is practically carried out in Paris. We are accustomed to such things among the wealthier classes of even our own country; but here it is practiced by all. The poor mother, who accomplishes more than one half the business pertaining to the livelihood, finds her children in the way; and all round Paris are houses where the poor children are received and nurtured, until old enough to commence the toil to which they are fated. The rich find the little sufferers in the way of their amusements; the poor consider them burdens; and so the rising generation is shut out from homes, and all the blessings parental care alone can bestow. One having the ability might draw a moral from these facts, and account for many of the strange inconsistencies found in the French character.

Shortly after the removal to our present place of abode, I asked to have some grates set in our American manner. The French manner of disposing of fuel is a pleasant little fiction, so far as warmth goes, and not at all to my liking. We secured the services of quite an intelligent-looking man, but had immense difficulty in forcing him to arrange the grate as desired. To brick up the cavernous fire-place, which smoked abominably, and put the grate quite in the room, were propositions to him unintelligible. After considerable discussion, he did as we desired. It was interesting to look upon his manner of accomplishing this. He was, as our concierge informed us, quite a workman; yet he used no trowel, and took up the mortar, and spread it on the bricks with his hands, and chopped the bricks, when not of the right size, with a small axe, in a way which made one nervous. I was curious to know what wages a mason received; and, in answer, he informed me that he could command, on an average, two francs and a half (fifty cents) per day. This he seemed to think was very good, and proceeded to tell me that many of his comrades were in a worse condition than himself. I asked him if there was not much distress among the laborers in Paris this winter.

"Yes, madame," he replied, "a great deal; everything is very high and taxes very heavy."

I asked if he thought a change of Government would help matters. He said "perhaps," shrugging his shoulders, and glancing from under his bushy eyebrows, in a way that would not have been pleasant to a "bourgeois," but expressed no opinion. The caution manifested by all classes on the subject of politics is very peculiar. Everything about you is shrouded in mystery. I have not yet met with a French man or woman, outside of the shopkeepers, who expressed a hearty opinion in favor of Louis Napoleon. I have not found one to give utterence to one unfavorable. This opened conversation, and he proceeded to tell me of the distress existing among the poor in his immediate neighborhood, which, given in his matter of fact way, was certainly as sad a narrative as I had heard for many a day. But this is leading me from what I sat out to write. A bright-eyed boy of ten or twelve carried to him the bricks and mortar, and in a pause of his talk I asked if it was his son.

"We hope so, madame," he replied.

Why he made this singular answer I asked, and he proceeded to tell me. He had married a German; a very good woman, but not used to the French ways. They were very poor, and when she was ill, (and very ill she was, of a fever, after the birth of their boy—quite out of her wits,) he found it impossible to hire a nurse, and, in accordance with custom, he sent the infant, but two days old, to a house kept for such purposes near Paris. The fever continued many days, and after six weeks of sickness the mother recovered sufficiently to ask to see her child. The father was about going for it, when a neighbor, poor as himself, who had children at this nursery, informed him that his child was dead. There was a mystery about the matter. He had received no announcement of the fact from the establishment, and, since the day of the reported death, they had continued to receive the allowance, paid weekly, which they had demanded. Full of anxiety he went to the house.

The circumstances accompanying his entrance were very suspicious. The old woman seemed excited and flurried when he announced his name and errand; and before she could answer, a thin, pale, half starved apparition of a little girl, crouching by the fire-place, cried out, "Why, that baby's dead!" The old woman gave her a look, and violently contradicted the assertion. A child was given to him, certainly corresponding in age to his own; but so firm was the poor man in his belief that they were imposing on him, he would not have nursed the poor little fellow, but for fear of the consequences to his sick wife. The child was taken home, but the painful doubt remains.

"We do the best we can; it is our duty to cherish and support the poor thing. It may be our child, after all."

Sad story, and a very laudable sentiment; but it did not prevent his cheating us abominably, when we came to pay for the grates.

For the National Era.

A DAY IN SUMMER.

BY CAROLINE BRIGGS MASON.

Birds are singing through the branches,
On this leafy, summer day;
Thoughts are singing through my spirit,
Radiant and fair as they.

I am thinking, as I ramble,
Of the olden, olden times,
When I wandered through the meadows,
Weaving happy, childish rhymes.

Just such sunny skies bent o'er me
As are bending o'er me now;
Just such sweet, love-making breezes
Kissed and kissed me, cheek and brow.

How I wandered through the meadows,
Linking happy, childish rhymes;
Weaving flowers and thoughts together,
In the olden, olden times!

Well-a-day—but youth is fleeting!
And I never wander now
Where the sweet, love-making breezes
Kissed and kissed me, cheek and brow;

Yet the same deep spell comes o'er me
With the breath of this fair day,
Like a fresh, serene baptism,
From the meadows far away.

And my heart is glad and happy
With the pure joy of a child—
Glad for that the Father lends it
Thoughts so sweet and undefiled;

Gladder yet, that still it trembles
To the music of the rhymes
That I wove among the meadows
Of the olden, olden times!

For the National Era.

THE ARISTOCRACY OF ENGLAND.—NO. 4.

The revolution of 1688 completed the aristocratic policy commenced at the Rebellion, fixed a defined boundary to the royal prerogative, and converted the feudal into a limited monarchy. It declared the Crown elective, and by the Bill of Rights secured numerous guarantees for public liberty. This epoch will be ever memorable in political history; for though it established a Constitution vastly inferior to that of the United States, it must be remembered what was the general state of Europe when these great events occurred. There was not even the semblance of liberty in the continental monarchies, and to dethrone a king was deemed as criminal as sacrilege. No doubt the revolution was tainted by selfishness in the aristocracy, as will be hereafter shown, but it consecrated the invaluable principle of progress; it settled points that were doubtful, and gave fixity and precision to laws; if it did not put an end to episcopacy, it extinguished the spiritual pretensions of Rome; and though the Dissenter from Church of Englandism remained under pains and penalties, he was freed from foreign dictation and ultramontane influence. In a word, it terminated the contest between prerogative and privilege, which had raged from the accession of the Stuarts, with the short interregnum of the Protectorate. We can better appreciate this momentous and protracted struggle by considering some antecedent circumstances, and by sketching the opinions entertained of royalty by King James the First.

In a proclamation, issued before he convened his first parliament, he instructed the electors as to the qualifications of representatives they ought to choose and reject, threatening, in case the spirit of his instructions were disobeyed, to deprive the offending cities and boroughs of their suffrage, and fine and imprison, by his own arbitrary will, any members of whom he disapproved. A book, called "Cowell's Interpreter" was written, at the instigation of Archbishop Bancroft, and approved of by the King. It laid down the three following principles: First, that the King was *solutus a legibus*, and not even bound by his coronation oath. Secondly, that it was not *ex necessitate* that the King should call a Parliament, but he might do it, if he pleased, by his absolute power. Thirdly, that it was a favor to admit the consent of his subjects in giving subsidies. The first act of his Parliament was formally to recognise his title, at which he was highly displeased, as he was fully satisfied of his Divine right, and disdained the national sanction. The servility of many of the aristocracy added to his inflated pride. In a letter from Lord Thomas Howard to Sir John Harrington, in which the former points out to the latter the best means of pushing his fortunes at court, are the following passages, illustrating the debased character of the age: "In your discourse, you must not dwell too long on any one subject, and touch but lightly on religion. Do not of yourself say, 'This is good or bad,' but, 'if it were your Majesty's good opinion, I should think so and so.'" He then refers to this special point, which is supremely ridiculous to us, but all-important at that time: "The roan jennet, on which the King rideth every day, must not be forgotten to be praised, and the good furniture, withal; the want of which attention lost a great man much notice the other day. A noble did come in a suit of place, and saw the King mounting the roan, delivered his petition, which was heeded and read, but no answer was given. The noble departed, and came to court the next day, and got no answer again. The Lord Treasurer was then pressed to move the King's pleasure, touching the petition. When the King was asked for answer thereto, he said, in some wrath, 'Shall a King give heed to a dirty beggar paper, when a beggar noteth not his gilt spurs?' Now, it fell out that the King had new furniture (housings) when the noble saw him in the court-yard, but he was overcharged with confusion, and passed by without admiring the dressing of the horse. Thus, good knight, our noble failed in his suit." His lordship, having impressed on the mind of his correspondent the absolute necessity of paying court to Robert Carr, the King's favorite, and assured him that his knowledge of ancient and modern languages would avail him nothing, proceeds thus in his advice: "Say that the stars are bright jewels, fit for Carr's eyes; that the roan jennet surpasses Bucephalus, and is worthy to be bestridden by Alexander; that his eyes are fire, his tail is Berenice's locks, and a few more such fancies."

James was the first King of England who assumed the style of "most sacred" Majesty, and he was a perfect autocrat in religious matters. At the Hampton Court Conference, held in January, 1604, at which the Calvinists and Puritans petitioned for religious privileges, the King made known his determination to support Episcopacy. Sir John Harrington, who was present at the meeting, says: "The King used upbraidings, instead of arguments, and told the petitioners that they wanted to strip Christ again, and bid them away with their snivelling. The bishops seemed much pleased, and said his Majesty spoke by the power of inspiration. I wist not what they mean; but the spirit was rather foul-mouthed." The King made the following address to the Puritans: "If you aim at a Scotch Presbytery, it agrees as well with monarchy as with God and Devil. Then Jack and Tom and Will and Dick shall meet, and at their pleasure consume me and my Council." Then, turning to the prelates, he said: "If once you were out, and they in, I know what would become of my supremacy. No Bishop, no King. I have learned of what cut they have been, who, preaching before me since my coming into England, passed over with silence my being supreme Governor in causes ecclesiastical." Then, turning to Dr. Reynolds, the leading representative of the Puritans, he sternly said: "I will make your party conform themselves, or else harrie them out of the land, or do worse."

James carried his despotism into courts of justice. In 1608, Fuller pleaded for two Puritans, Lad and Maunsel, charged with having attended an illegal conventicle. He argued for their discharge, on the ground that the ecclesiastical commissioners "have not power, by virtue of their commission, to imprison, to put to the oath *ex officio*, or to fine, any of his Majesty's subjects." For this plea he was incarcerated, and died in gaol in 1619.

Of his extravagant notions of the prerogative the following is a sample, being his answer to Parliament in 1610. "Kings are justly called Gods, for that they exercise a manner or resemblance of divine power on earth; for if you will consider the attributes of God, you shall see how they agree in the person of a King. God hath power to create and destroy, make or unmake, at his pleasure—to give life or send death—to judge all, and not to be judged nor to be accountable to any; to raise low things, and to make high things low, at his pleasure; and to God both body and soul are due. And the like power have Kings. They make and unmake their subjects; they have power of raising and casting down, of life and death, are judges over all their subjects and in all cases, and yet accountable to none but God only. They have power to exalt low things and abase high things, and make of their subjects, like men at chess, a pawn to take a bishop or a knight, and to cry up and down any of their subjects as they do their money. And to the King is due both the affection of the soul and the service of the body of his subjects. I conclude, then, this point, touching the power of Kings, with this axiom of divinity, that as to dispute what God does is blasphemy, so it is sedition in subjects to dispute what a King may do in the plenitude of his power."

These arbitrary principles Charles the First inherited from his father, although he did not express them in the same extravagant language. He was as tyrannical as his father, and as strongly impressed with the sacredness of his prerogative; but his dominant vice was insincerity; there was a secret reservation in his promises; and, as none could trust his word, the only safe course was an appeal to arms. The landed aristocracy led this movement, which Cromwell took out of their hands, and the political revolution was sealed with the blood of royalty. On the death of the Protector, the aristocratic movement was renewed, and, as we have seen, the terms and conditions of the Restoration were the abolition of the feudal dues. This was a decided triumph of landlordism. The new tax, the excise, substituted as an equivalent, was submitted to by the people with little if any remonstrance, for the opposition it received came from the true patriots of the House of Commons. The people, in fact, knew nothing of the real elements of liberty. They had felt the iron hand of the austere Cromwell, and were charmed at the return of a gay court, and a youthful and dissolute prince, whom, in their folly, they styled the "Merry Monarch" a pensioner on Louis the Fourteenth, who supplied him with mistresses. But national pride was at length roused by the sale of Dunkirk to France, which had been seized and retained by the Protector, and from that hour Charles the Second encountered a hostile people. The aristocracy again put themselves on the offensive, consolidated the *habeas corpus* act, which, though existing, had been doubtfully interpreted, and thus guarantied personal liberty. They further declared the standing army and the King's guards illegal. They passed the Test Act, to exclude the Duke of York from the throne, suspecting him, and justly so, of being a Roman Catholic. These were rigorous measures, the more to be admired, considering the age in which they were carried; and the spirit that animated their promoters never slumbered till it had expelled the house of Stuart. In all these events the aristocracy were foremost; the middle classes followed, but did not lead; the people had no influence on politics.

We have seen that the Convention Parliament of 1660 destroyed the feudal monarchy; the Convention Parliament of 1688 proclaimed that monarchy was not hereditary, but elective; and from that hour down to the Reform Bill of Earl Grey, in 1832, the Government of England tended towards an oligarchy in *practice*, while in *theory* it professed to be a Government of King, Lords, and Commons.

When James the Second fled from England, the House of Peers was the only legislative body in action or existence, for the House of Commons had been dissolved. William of Nassau, Prince of Orange, was advised to summon a Parliament by circular letters, but he declined to act on so imperfect an authority. He adopted the following plan: Out of members who had had seats in the House of Commons during the reign of Charles the Second, with the addition of the mayor, aldermen, and fifty of the common council of London, he convened an assembly, and, with their sanction, wrote to the counties and corporations of England to call together a new Parliament. It met, and decided that James had abdicated the throne, and that it was vacant; but it did more than this—it declared itself competent to fill up the vacancy, and thus changed an hereditary into an elective monarchy. It may here be noted as a curious fact, that William was appointed King by a bare majority of two votes—the exact majority which abolished the court of wards, and established the excise; the minority wished to confer on the Prince a mere regency.

The Bill of Rights was one of the first enactments of this reign. It contained the following provisions: The King cannot suspend the laws or their execution, without the consent of Parliament. He is not allowed to create an ecclesiastical court, or any new tribunal. Every impost not granted by Parliament is illegal, as is every army raised without its sanction. Subjects have a right to present petitions to the King. Protestants may keep arms for their own defence. Elections ought to be free, and speeches delivered in Parliament can only be judged by its members. In high treason, the jury must be members of a corporation. Parliaments are to be held frequently. As this last clause was vague, the Triennial Act was subsequently passed, by virtue of which members of Parliament were declared incapable of sitting for more than three years, in order that they might be more dependent on their constituents.

So far the revolution of 1688 was carried out in a wise and national spirit, for which the Aristocracy deserve high credit; but here the praise must cease. Other circumstances arose, in which they acted a selfish, exclusive, and illiberal part, clearly showing that, after having imposed limitations on the arbitrary exercise of the prerogative, they sought to arrogate to themselves the class privileges of an oligarchy.

William was a Calvinist; and wishing to render justice to those of his own cause, recommended, in a speech to Parliament, the necessity of admitting all Protestants indiscriminately into the public service. This liberal policy was rejected with vehemence, the partisans of the Church of England objecting that Dissenters were as much to be dreaded as Papists. An attempt to repeal the Test Act, passed in the reign of Charles II, was equally unsuccessful; and a clause was inserted in the coronation oath, that the King should maintain the Protestant religion, as "established by law." Thus it happened that the uniformity of Canterbury was rendered as indisputably orthodox as the infallibility of Rome. The cause of Church of Englandism was energetically supported in the House of Peers, we fear not from pure but from interested motives. The case stood thus: When the property of the Church was confiscated at the reformation, the plunder was transferred to laymen, who got possession of abbey and priory lands, and the controversy under the Stuarts was most materially affected by that fact; for, had Popery been re-established, those estates would have been assuredly restored to the Church. The confiscation had also given to laymen impropriated titles and the right of presentation to church livings, to such an extent, that out of about 10,500 cures of souls, laymen had the right to nominate incumbents to 6,400 of such benefices, or to sell the advowsons. By this patronage they provided, and still provide, for younger sons, and for such of their daughters as marry clergymen. Now, one of the aristocratic objects of the revolution was to effect a final settlement of all disputes which had festered since the refomation, down to the expulsion of James II. The laymen said to the priests, let there be no more altercations about our titles to the old Church property, and we will guaranty by our votes in Parliament whatever remains to Church of Englandism, the Act of Uniformity, and your undoubted supremacy over all denominations of Dissenters. Thus was formed a bond of amity between the land-owners and the established clergy, which constituted and cemented the alliance between Church and State, reconciling politically the worship of God with the worship of mammon.

In this reign the Crown lands, or at least the great bulk of them, were granted away to individuals absolutely, or leased for very long terms at nominal rents, by which means the aristocracy were inordinately enriched. Of the gigantic nature of these operations it may be well to give a specimen. In 1696 King William issued a royal warrant granting to Bentinck, Earl of Portland, (one of his Dutch followers, and his most intimate and attached friend,) four parts in five of the whole county of Denbigh, the best and richest portion of the country, and thirty miles in extent, at a nominal reserved rent of 6*s*. 8*d*., payable to the Crown, from the Earl and his heirs. On that occasion Mr. Price, afterwards one of the Barons of the Exchequer, made a famous speech, which has been preserved, protesting against the extravagance of such a grant. Mr. Price's speech had such an effect in Parliament, probably because Bentinck was a foreigner, and because what he might receive left so much less for the English, that a motion was carried unanimously for an address to the Crown to stop the warrant. The King yielded, and said, in his reply: "Gentlemen, I have a kindness for my Lord Portland, which he has deserved of me by long and faithful services; but I should not have given him these lands if I had imagined the House of Commons could have been concerned; I will therefore recall the grant, and find some other way of showing my favor to him." This he did by bestowing on the favorite immense estates in Sherwood forest, including Welbech Abbey and Clipstone Park, the finest in Nottinghamshire, and a large tract in Middlesex, now forming part of the most valuable house property in London.

This case illustrates the system pursued by the aristocracy after the revolution. They hypocritically pretended that it would be dangerous to leave such large possessions at the disposal of the Crown; that they had formed a great evil under the feudal monarchy, now abolished; that they might be a source of corruption, and dangerous to freedom; therefore, to prevent such abuses and dangers, they ought to be distributed among themselves; and they succeeded. The consequence was, that the sovereign lost his hereditary revenues. Charles the Second gave up the feudal dues, a portion of the royal income; and William the Third gave up the remainder, or Crown lands. As the excise was substituted for the former, so a *civil list* was created as an equivalent for the latter; and the whole fiscal system of the country was completely revolutionized. Direct taxation was superseded by indirect taxation; customs and excise were multiplied; the prerogative of coining and issuing representative money was transferred from the Crown to a joint stock company, incorporated under the style and title of the Bank of England; the funding system was established; various public offices were created, the appointments to which formed the special patronage of the aristocracy, and Parliamentary corruption was organized. Into these various processes we cannot minutely enter in this article, which has nearly reached its limit, but must postpone the structure of the new financial systems to our next communication.

In reference to the modern Peerage, many imagine them to be of ancient lineage, because they bear the old titles of dignity invented in the Norman and Plantagenet times; but this is altogether untrue. There are not half a dozen of the present Peers who can trace themselves to any remote date. At the first Parliament of King James the First, there were only ninety-eight Peers of whom he had already created nineteen; and at that date only nine Peers, created by Elizabeth, took their seats. But the sternest rebuke to this affectation of ancient lineage is to be found in the "Baronage" of Sir W. Dugdale, who was Norry king-at-arms, and one of the most eminent of English antiquarians. The first volume of his Baronage was published in 1675; the second and third, which together form a volume not so large, in 1676. The work professes to contain an account of all the families who had at any period been Barons by tenure, Barons by writ of summons, or Barons by patent, together with all other families who had enjoyed other titles of higher dignity, beginning with Earl or Eldermen of the Saxon times. Throughout these volumes there is a careful reference to authorities. The following passage occurs in the Preface:

"As the historical discourse will afford at a distance some, though but dim, prospect of the magnificence and grandeur wherein the most ancient and noble families of England did heretofore live, so will it briefly manifest how short, uncertain, and transient, earthly greatness is; for of no less than two hundred and seventy in number, touching which this first volume doth take notice, there will hardly be found above eight which to this day continue; and of those, not any whose estates, compared with what their ancestors enjoyed, are not a little diminished; nor of that number—I mean two hundred and seventy—who are by any younger male branch descended from them, for aught I can discover."

This puts an end to the vaunted antiquity of the English Peerage. It has been constantly recruited from the rank of commoners, whose pride has persuaded them to assume the old territorial titles. Of this, further evidence will be adduced in subsequent articles. J. D.

GRANVILLE, PUTNAM CO., ILL., *February* 22, 1854.

Notwithstanding the efforts of Senator Douglas to drive his Nebraska bill through Congress, not allowing the people to be heard in relation to this infamous scheme, their voice shall be heard. Chicago, the *home* of Stephen A. Douglas, has spoken in language not to be misunderstood. To-day we are in the midst of a large and interesting assembly, composed chiefly of farmers, and that, too, of every party, filled with indignation at the course of their Senator. Sir, we feel, as we ought to feel, misrepresented, and we feel, and are determined to act, as the people of Illinois ought to feel and act, and Senator Douglas will yet know it.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

After our report had closed, Monday, the Homestead Bill was finally passed:

YEAS—Messrs. Abercrombie, J. C. Allen, W. Allen, Banks, Bennet, Benton, Breckinridge, Bridges, Bugg, Campbell, Carpenter, Caruthers, Chamberlain, Chandler, Chase, Chrisman, Churchwell, Clark, Cobb, Cook, Corwin, Cox, John G. Davis, Dawson, Dean, Dick, Disney, Drum, Dunbar, Eastman, Edgerton, Elliott, Ellison, English, Ewing, Farley, Florence, Gamble, Goodrich, Green, Greenwood, Grey, Grow, A. J. Harlan, Harrison, Hendricks, Henn, Houston, Howe, Ingersoll, Johnson, Dan. T. Jones, George W. Jones, Roland Jones, Knox, Lane, Lindley, Lindsley, McCulloch, McMullen, Macy, Maxwell, Mayall, Middleswarth, J. G. Miller, Morgan, Nichols, Norton, Olds, A. Oliver, M. Oliver, Peckham, Pennington, Phelps, Preston, Pringle, Ready, Richardson, Ritchie, Robbins, Russell, Sapp, Shannon, Singleton, S. A. Smith, William R. Smith, F. P. Stanton, Rich. H. Stanton, H. L. Stevens, Stratton, A. Stuart, John L. Taylor, Thurston, Trout, Tweed, Vail, Vansant, Walbridge, Warren, E. B. Washburne, John Wentworth, Tappan Wentworth, Westbrook, Wheeler, H. B. Wright, Yates, and Zollicoffer—101.

NAYS—Messrs. Aiken, Appleton, Ashe, Thos. H. Bayly, Barksdale, Belcher, Benson, Bocock, Boyce, Brooks, Caskie, Chastain, Clingman, Colquitt, Craige, Crocker, Cumming, Cutting, Thomas Davis, Dent, De Witt, Dickinson, Dowdell, Edmands, Edmundson, Faulkner, Franklin, Fuller, Goode, Hamilton, Sampson W. Harris, Wiley P. Harris, Hastings, Haven, Hibbard, Hill, Hunt, J. G. Jones, Keitt, Kerr, Kidwell, Kittredge, Kurtz, Letcher, McDougall, McQueen, Matteson, May, Meacham, S. Miller, Millson, Morrison, B. Perkins, J. Perkins, Phillips, Pratt, Puryear, Rogers, Rowe, Ruffin, Sabin, Seward, Seymour, Shaw, Gerrit Smith, William Smith, Smyth, Snodgrass, Tracy, Upham, Israel Washburn, and Daniel B. Wright—72.

Mr. Perkins, of Louisiana, by consent, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire into the propriety of directing legal proceedings to recover any sum of money which may have been paid to any person out of the Treasury on the claim of Gardiner and Mears, under the commission which adjudicated claims on Mexico, under the provisions of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Mr. Cutting suggested to the gentleman from Louisiana the propriety of adding to his resolution the words, "and with power to send for persons and papers."

Mr. Perkins accepted the suggestion, and modified his resolution accordingly.

And it was then agreed to.

Mr. Hibbard submitted a resolution in relation to bounty lands, which was under consideration when the House adjourned.

Senate, Tuesday, March 7, 1854.

The Chair laid before the Senate the annual report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Everett said that, owing to indisposition, he was unable to be present when the vote was taken on the final passage of the Nebraska bill. His opposition to the bill was well known, and there could be no doubt that he would if present vote against the bill. He therefore asked unanimous consent that his name might be recorded in the negative on that vote.

Mr. Clayton said he too was unable to stay in the Senate until the hour when the vote was taken; he desired, also, an opportunity of recording his name against the bill.

The Chair decided that the request required the unanimous consent of the Senate.

After some remarks by Messrs. Dawson, Adams, and Dodge of Iowa, as to the expediency of establishing such a precedent, the latter objected to the requests by Messrs. Everett and Clayton.

Remonstrances against the passage of any act for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, were presented by Messrs. Sumner, Seward, and Dodge of Iowa.

Mr. Hamlin presented the resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Maine, against the passage of any act for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.

The bill to incorporate the Washington Cemetery was taken up and passed.

The bill for the relief of the West Feliciana and Georgia Railroad Company was taken up and passed.

A message was received from the House, announcing the passage of the Homestead bill.

Mr. Walker moved its reference to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Cass said this bill had his full concurrence, and he hoped the committee would report upon it speedily and favorably. He urged its passage as a wise and most excellent measure. He said that the time had now arrived when the public lands should cease to be regarded as a source of revenue.

Mr. Johnson responded to the sentiment that the public lands should cease to be considered as a source of revenue.

Messrs. Gwin, Walker, Dodge of Iowa, and Seward, followed in support of the general principles of the bill, and Messrs. Mason and Bayard in opposition, and then the bill was referred.

After much discussion, the bill for the completion of the Treasury building, and a building for the use of the War and Navy Departments, was taken up and read, and was then postponed.

The case of Mr. Phelps's right to his seat as a Senator from the State of Vermont, was also taken up and postponed.

On motion of Mr. Foot, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill granting land to the several States, for the relief of the indigent insane.

Mr. Adams addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Bayard followed in opposition to the bill, and was addressing the Senate when this report closed.

House of Representatives, March 7, 1854.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Don Jose Ma. Magallon, Chargé d'Affaires of Spain near this Government, accompanied with a copy of the official parliamentary record of the proceedings of the Spanish Congress during the year 1853, tendered to our Government in pursuance of an arrangement for an interchange of such records.

Mr. Hean, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to establish additional land districts in the Territory of Minnesota; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Orr, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill to authorize the appointment of an additional number of Indian agents. Read twice, and committed.

Mr. Orr also reported, from the same committee, a bill to provide for the extinguishment of the title of the Chippewa Indians to the mineral lands in the Territory of Minnesota and State of Wisconsin, and to domesticate and civilize these Indians. Read twice, and committed.

Mr. Cobb, for the purpose of relieving the Territorial bills from all embarrassment, moved the postponement of the bill proposed by himself, for the graduation of the prices of the public lands; which motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Richardson, the House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on business relating to the organized Territories, Mr. Phelps in the chair.

The bill authorizing the construction of certain roads in New Mexico, under the direction of the Secretary of War, was taken up. This bill appropriates $32,000 for two roads, which enter Santa Fe from different directions, one from Donna Anna, and the other from Taos.

Mr. Phillips, of Alabama, explained and advocated this bill.

Mr. Letcher contended that the House was not in possession of sufficient information on the subject. When roads are begun, they should be finished; and it is important to know whether still further appropriations are to be asked.

Mr. Phillips said it was not a railroad, and the expectations of the gentleman were unreasonable. He read a letter from Col. Sumner, who recommends the measure, and whose residence there had enabled him to form correct opinions upon the subject.

The bill was laid aside, with a recommendation to the House that it pass.

A bill for aiding the Territory of Minnesota to construct railroads, and for other purposes, and for granting alternate sections of land for that purpose, was also considered. In the course of the discussion upon it, an exciting debate arose, which was participated in by Messrs. Washburn of Illinois, Bissell, Lane of Indiana, and Rice.

Mr. Lane intimated, in a very significant manner, that parties in Washington, and men in the House of Representatives, had purchased lands at the terminus of the contemplated road. He was pressed by the gentlemen named to indicate the persons, but refused to do so, except when asked in a proper manner in private.

Mr. Bissell said the gentleman had chosen his own place and time to open the subject; that when the bill shall have been defeated will probably be his choosen time for such revelation. Mr. B. denounced the innuendo as unstatesmanlike and illiberal; yet, he affirmed, the purchase of the land named (which has never been in market, and could not be purchased) would afford no good ground for refusing aid in the construction of the road.

Mr. Lane replied that he was the best judge of the time, manner, and place, of performing his duty to his constituents.

Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, said the bill should not be prejudiced by an innuendo. He called upon Mr. Lane to answer whether the title of the United States *could* be parted with, and whether any other party could possess a title to the land in question. Mr. Taylor regarded such improvements as that now proposed as of national importance, and begged the Committee not to be influenced by an irresponsible rumor.

Mr. Gerrit Smith opposed the bill. He had no objection to the location of the proposed road, to the proprietorship of the lands adjacent to any part of it, nor to any other minor point involved. He was opposed to giving the lands or money of the General Government for such a purpose. He understood no difference in principle between giving lands and giving money. The lands, he said, belonged to the General Government, and their only proper appropriation could be in becoming the homes of the landless, or in being sold to defray the necessary expenses of Government. They were the rightful heritage of the landless portion of the human family, irrespective of origin or complexion.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Smith was called to order by Mr. Richardson, on the alleged ground of irrelevancy.

The Chairman decided that Mr. Smith was in order.

Mr. Smith said he asked for no latitude. It was not in accordance with his usage to wander from the leading thought in view. He would speak to the point, and would not so far forget the rights of others as to protract his remarks to a great length. He especially desired to be understood as asking no indulgence.

He continued, and dwelt with earnestness upon the error of paying too great a regard to the influence of precedents. Time-honored errors were still errors, and in this age of progress their antiquity should not be regarded as hallowing them.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, followed in support of the bill.

Senate, Wednesday, March 8, 1854.

A large number of memorials were presented.

Mr. Shields, from the Committee of Conference on the bill making provision for the losses sustained by the officers and soldiers of the United States who were on board the steamer San Francisco at the time she was wrecked, made a report; which was concurred in.

Mr. Shields introduced a bill granting land to the State of Ohio, to aid in the construction of a railroad therein; referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Clay introduced a bill granting land to Alabama for railroad purposes, and it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

On motion of Mr. Shields, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to promote the efficiency of the army, by providing for a retired half-pay list for disabled officers, and the same was passed.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill granting land to the several States, to aid in the support and maintenance of the indigent insane.

Messrs. Adams and Dodge of Iowa opposed the bill; after which it was passed—yeas 25, nays 12, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Badger, Bell, Brown, Chase, Clayton, Dawson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Everett, Fessenden, Fish, Foot, Geyer, Gwin, Hamlin, Houston, Jones of Tennessee, Morton, Rusk, Seward, Shields, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Wade, and Walker—25.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Butler, Cass, Clay, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Fitzpatrick, Mason, Pettit, Weller, and Williams—12.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution declaring the Hon. S. S. Phelps, to be entitled to represent the State of Vermont in the Senate of the United States.

Mr. Phelps addressed the Senate in support of his claim.

House of Representatives, March 8, 1854.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of the circular addressed by him to persons engaged in manufactures and commerce, soliciting their views respecting the adjustment of the tariff, together with the replies elicited; which was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a resolution authorizing its employment of a clerk. At the suggestion of Mr. Taylor, the time of service of this clerk was stipulated to be limited to the period during which the Gardiner fraud investigation is in progress. This resolution was so amended as to authorize the employment of a clerk also by the Committee on Military Superintendents of Civil Works, and adopted.

Mr. Stratton presented the joint resolutions of the Legislature of New Jersey, asking the appropriation of $200,000 for the improvement of the harbors of Sandy Hook and Cape May; which were referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to increase the salaries of the executive and judicial officers of Oregon and New Mexico; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Faulkner, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill authorizing the payment of the civil officers of New Mexico, under the Military Government; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

On motion of Mr. Richardson, it was resolved that the debate on the bill to grant lands to Minnesota, for railroad and other purposes, be terminated two hours after the House shall next go into Committee on Territorial business.

On motion of Mr. Richardson, the rules were then suspended, and the House went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, addressed the Committee at length, in response to the remarks of Mr. Campbell yesterday, in which that gentleman charged the State of Virginia with being uniformly opposed to appropriations for the improvement of the rivers, harbors, &c, of the Western States.

Mr. Kerr was in favor of the appropriation of the lands for the improvement of the States, and of all the States. He thought that works of internal improvement were the bonds of our Union. But he could not discern the merits of the enterprise to which a grant is now proposed to be made. The terms of the grant were too vague, and the beneficiaries too little known to the House.