THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

Second Session.

Thursday, February 17, 1859.

SENATE.

Reports from Committees.—Mr. Hunter, from the Committee on Finance, reported back the bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the government for the year ending 30th June, with sundry amendments.

Mr. Kennedy, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to extend their Washington branch, to form a close connection with the Eastern and Southwestern lines, reported in authorize the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to extend the Washington branch of their railroad through a tunnel east of the Capitol to some point or points on the line of Third street east to Seventh street, inclusive of the public grounds; also, to some point on the said road to a point or points within the city of Alexandria.

Homestead Bill.—Mr. Wade moved to postpone all prior orders, and proceed to the consideration of the bill from the House of Representatives to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain.

Mr. Hunter thought it would be a waste of time to proceed further with that subject, as the Senate passed upon the proposition at the last session and decided against it.

Mr. Wade hoped that the bill would be taken up and a vote had upon it; its friends desired a debate it.

Mr. Hunter replied, that a vote could not be had on that bill without debate.

The question being taken, the motion of Mr. Wade was agreed to, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bright, Broderick, Chandler, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foot, Gwin, Hamlin, Hale, Harlan, Johnson of Tennessee, King, Pugh, Rice, Seward, Simmons, Smith, Stuart, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—26.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Bigler, Chesnut, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hammond, Hunter, Iverson, Lane, Mallory, Mason, Pearce, Reid, Toombs, and Ward—23.

The bill having been read—

Mr. Hunter moved to postpone it, in order to take up the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill.

The motion was agreed to, by the casting vote of twelve having arrived—

The Senate called up the unfinished business of yesterday—the Cuba bill.

Mr. Wade moved to postpone that bill, which was agreed to.

The motion recurred on the motion of Mr. Hunter to take up the appropriation bill.

It was carried by the casting vote of the President, the vote being as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Bayard, Benjamin, Bigler, Brown, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Hunter, Johnson of Arkansas, Kennedy, Lane, Mallory, Mason, Pierce, Reid, Sebastian, Toombs, Ward, and Yulee—

Nays—Messrs. Bell, Bright, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Dougl[illegible], Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, Johnson of Tennessee, King, Pugh, Rice, Seward, Simmons, Smith, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—

Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill.—The Senate accordingly proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for consular and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending June 30, 1860.

Mr. Pugh proposed an amendment modifying the diplomatic and consular system.

Mr. Mason explained the provisions of his bill.

Without coming to a decision on the question, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations to facilitate the acquisition of Cuba by negotiation.

Mr. Chandler addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill. With a bankrupt Treasury, national works in the Northwest going on with a large and increasing national debt, this proposition to give the President fifty millions was startling. They had asked for internal improvements; none for a national railroad. This thirty millions was intended to buy Cuba, for that was known to be impossible; what, then, was proposed to do with the money? It was to be a great war fund; a fund for bribery, and bribery was a proposition worthy of its author, the brigand who penned the manifesto, but unworthy a President of the United States, and disgraceful to be proposed in this Senate of the United States. Possibly a minute—imaginally small portion of it was intended for corrupt Spanish officials, but the Spanish party was badly damaged in the occupation of plunder was gone, for there was nothing left to steal. A new issue was to be made in this clap-trap proposition, to divert attention from past wrong doings, past extravagances, and present reckless expenditures. It was a fallacious hope that this would succeed. Forty Cubas and three hundred millions of dollars for a corruption fund would not save the Democratic party from that condemnation which God Almighty had decreed against it.

Mr. Bell advocated the Cuba bill, contending that the acquisition of Cuba would be advantageous at the same time not injurious to Cuba; that the proper method for its acquisition was to purchase, that this country was able to pay for it; and that the present period to open and conduct the negotiation. He spoke of the natural advantages, and contended that its command of the Gulf of Mexico, the control of which would be of great benefit to this country, made its possession desirable to the future prosperity of the Union.

Mr. Green obtained the floor when

Mr. Seward moved that the Senate adjourn: which was decided to by a vote of yeas 14, nays 25.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the consular and diplomatic bill, but adjourned without disposing of it.

HOUSE.

Indian Appropriation Bill.—On motion of Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, the House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. John Cochrane, of New York, in the chair, and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1860.

Duties of the Government.—Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, defended the Administration and the party from the charge of extravagance in managing the Government, replying to a speech of Mr. Garnett, of Virginia.

Mr. Granger, of New York, remarked that the States were independent and owned their limits in reference to all things delegated to the General Government, and protected by the Constitution from the sovereign against the world; and the Government at Washington against that at Paris, London, or St. Petersburg. Of the extent of that sovereignty they had the same right to judge that the Government possessed to judge of its powers. This far they were equal. He quoted from the resolutions of 1798, to show that Mr. Jefferson had enunciated this doctrine to the people of the United States, and upheld it in the great republican battle of 1800. New York had promised to guarantee liberty to every person within her jurisdiction. If she maintained her promises, she would be faithful to her obligations as she ought to do, she would permit no power on earth to come within her borders and take a man back to be made a slave. The Constitution had been made prior to that of the United States, and it promised liberty and liberty to all within her jurisdiction, without regard to the claims allegiance. She had an undoubted right to do so before the formation of the Constitution of the United States, and she had never relinquished that right nor surrendered that power. He then entered into a general argument against slavery, condemning the Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court.

Duties of the Committees.—Mr. Letcher, of Virginia, alluding to the arguments that had been made upon the expenditures of the General Government, the charge of extravagance on the part of the Administration, and the want of economy in Congress, contended that the burden of responsibility rested not only upon him and his party, but on the opposition as well. He maintained that, if certain committees charged with specific duties held their regular meetings and discharged the duties prescribed for them, there would never be any question in regard to retrenchment and reform. It was the duty of the Committee on Public Expenditures to examine into the state of the several Departments, look not only to the expenditures of both Houses, but the expenditures at the other end of the avenue, and report whether or not they were made in pursuance of law.

Debate on the Army Bill.—Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, then proceeded to explain the provisions of the army appropriation bill. He began by showing that the increased amount of appropriation required for the expenses of the War Department was all necessary for the support of the army. Large public works and buildings were in process of construction, under the direction of the Secretary of War, that had not been commenced years ago, and hence the comparison of the amount required for maintaining the military branch of the Government at the present time with that needed at former periods was most unfair and unjust. Even the Army itself had increased from fifteen regiments, three of them mounted—to nineteen, five of which were mounted and in the field.

The bill was further debated, and the House then adjourned.

Friday, February 18, 1859.

SENATE.

Private Bills.—On motion by Mr. Iverson the Senate proceeded to the consideration of those bills of the House of Representatives upon the private calendar to which no objection should be made. The following were severally read a third time, and passed:

Act to authorize the claimants to right of John Huertas to enter certain lands in Florida.

Act for the relief of Leonard Loomis.

Act for the relief of John P. Gaines.

Act to the relief of Frances Carter.

Act for the relief of Robinson Gammon.

Act for the relief of Frederick Smith.

Act for the relief of David Watson.

Act for the relief of the representatives of Henry King, deceased.

Protection to the Transit Routes.—A message was received from the President of the United States, asking authority to use the army and navy of the United States for the protection of American citizens and interests in the Central and South American States.

Mr. Benjamin said there was a bill now on the calendar authorizing the President of the United States to use the public forces of the United States in the case therein specified, and he preferred to take up that bill at once, and act upon it. He was unwilling that any responsibility should rest upon him, if, during the recess of Congress, it should turn out that, notwithstanding these repeated calls of the President, (which seem to suggest that he has information that makes him fear an attack upon the persons or property of American citizens employed in peaceful passage over that transit,) these threatened evils should overtake us. He moved that all prior orders be postponed, and that bill taken up.

Mr. Seward objected to giving the President power to make war without first obtaining the assent of Congress; and the passage of that bill would transfer to him the power of making war and preserving peace.

Mr. Fessenden said that last year we gave the President power to send the naval forces against Paraguay. Having succeeded in getting that power, the President now asks to have power granted him to make war or commence hostilities against other nations. The principle is the same with these small Powers as if they were large ones; and, he did not choose to divest Congress of the power placed in its hands by the Constitution.

Mr. Douglas was rejoiced that the President had called the attention of Congress to this matter. He believed the President ought to have the that power he asks. We have such interests that we ought to have and must have the highway to our Pacific possessions kept constantly open. In order to do that, we must necessarily repose confidence in the Executive, for unless we put this power in his hands, we fail to accomplish the objects contemplated by the Constitution. Mr. D. proceeded to say that he would not confer this power for a single case, but for all cases—for the present Executive and his successors, no matter what their politics might be.

Mr. Davis could not concur with the view taken by the Senator from Illinois. It might be very desirable to protect American citizens, but there was a higher and a holier duty still, which was to preserve the Constitution unimpaired. He could not see to what limit we might not run, if the Executive should be invested with the power to send the land and naval forces abroad, and land troops wherever he may please. Whenever ambition or any other unworthy passion might prompt him, he might involve this country in a disastrous war with England or France, and we might perhaps behold the humiliating spectacle of the flag of the United States trodden under foot by a powerful nation, and the American Congress shrinking from its defence. Our fathers gave the Executive no such power; and if it was now necessary to go farther than our fathers went, that fact only marks the decadence of the people. He would restrict the power to the single case that might be known to exist. He would prefer to bear such ills as arise from the improper treatment of our citizens abroad, and delay in obtaining justice, rather than surrender the great constitutional right of Congress to the discretion of the President.

Mr. Green obtained the floor, but yielded to a motion for adjournment; and

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The Army Appropriation Bill.—On motion of Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. John Cochrane, of New York, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1860.

The Recruiting Service.—The pending question being the amendment of Mr. Faulkner, of Virginia, to reduce the appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars for the recruiting service to ninety thousand dollars, it was taken, and decided in the negative.

The question recurring on the motion of Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, to strike out the whole appropriation, it was decided in the negative.

Breevet Compensation.—Mr. Faulkner moved that the appropriation for the pay of the army be reduced thirteen thousand dollars, for the purpose of cutting off the pay and emoluments attached to the brevet rank.

Rejected—yeas 45, nays 86.

Extra Rations.—Mr. Faulkner then moved to reduce the appropriation of $93,334,50 for commutation of officers' subsistence in the sum of $60,000, being the amount required for extra rations to those in command of extra posts.

Mr. Stanton, of Ohio, moved to amend the amendment by adding to the [illegible] and the sum of $60,000, which is taken from the amount estimated for commutation of officers' subsistence, shall be deducted from the extra rations allowed to commanders of military posts.

Mr. Faulkner accepted the amendment as a modification of his own, which was then agreed to.

Reduction in Horses.—Mr. Faulkner next moved to reduce the appropriation of $1,840,000 for supplies in the Quartermaster's Department, in the sum of $400,000, for the purpose of reducing the number of horses in that department, by refusing to appropriate a sufficient sum for their forage; which was agreed to.

Reduction in Laborers.—Mr. Faulkner also moved to reduce the appropriation of $500,000, for the incidental expenses of the Quartermaster's department, to $450,000, for the purpose of reducing the number of laborers employed in that department.

Mr. Pendleton, of Ohio, moved to amend the amendment by adding the words, "and the amount shall be deducted from the amount estimated for the pay of laborers in the Quartermaster's department."

Mr. Faulkner accepted the amendment as a modification of his own, which was then adopted.

Another Investigating Committee.—Mr. Nichols, of Ohio, stating that he rose to a question of privilege, offered the following resolution:

Whereas in the correspondence of the *New-York Daily Times*, signed S., under date of the 15th February, 1859, as also in the correspondence of other papers, it is charged that a member of the Committee on Accounts of this House made a bargain to receive money as a consideration for passing certain claims in said committee, &c.,

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed by the Speaker, to investigate said charge or charges, said committee to report before the close of the present session of Congress.

Mr. Nichols, stating that it was due to the House that the subject should be thoroughly sifted, demanded the previous question.

The previous question being sustained, the resolution was then agreed to. Adjourned.

Saturday, February 19, 1859.

SENATE.

Pension Bill.—Mr. Clay, from the Committee on Pensions, to which was referred the bill from the House of Representatives granting pensions to the officers and soldiers of the war with Great Britain of 1812, and those engaged in Indian wars during that period, submitted an elaborate report on the subject, which was read.

The committee think this bill independent and unwise, whether considered in relation to those who must bear its burdens in taxation or may enjoy its bounties in pensions; they therefore recommend that the Senate should not pass the bill.

Mr. Seward objected to the present consideration of the report, and moved that it be printed, together with the communication of the Secretary of the Interior, which was agreed to.

Hour of Meeting.—Mr. Stuart, called up his resolution changing the hour of meeting from 11 to 12 o'clock, until otherwise ordered.

Mr. Slidell moved to amend it, by adding, that the Senate shall take a recess daily from half past 4 until 7 o'clock.

The amendment was not agreed to, and the resolution was adopted.

The War Power.—Mr. Mason said he felt it his duty, in view of the special message received from the President yesterday, to call up the motion to consider the bill to authorize the President of the United States to use the public forces of the United States in the cases therein specified.

Mr. Doolittle would feel it his duty, if this bill should be taken up, to express his views, and to express them fully, upon the important questions involved in that bill.

Mr. Toombs saw no new and sudden exigency calling for precipitate action on this subject. The President had called attention to it at the opening of the session, and his special message only repeated now his previous recommendations. He presumed that Congress knew how to discharge its duties, and intended to discharge them, and he preferred to go on with the regular business.

Mr. Mason said this bill had been on the calendar a long time, and in the regular order of business it would not be reached this session.

Mr. Bayard considered the question one of great importance, but was not willing to have it interfere with the regular course of business.

Mr. Seward said, if Congress, in the message communicated no recent outrage; nothing which they were not already aware of. The President said, in his message, that he could not legitimately resort to force, without the authority of Congress; and yet, if a sudden emergency should arise, he would take the responsibility of ordering a force to the spot. These transit routes were therefore, in fact, within the protection of the Executive, and there was no necessity for urging this bill. There were other bills among them the homestead bill, which he regarded fully as important as any bill to enable the Executive to make war.

Mr. Shields regarded this as the most important matter which could come before the Senate; that they had already the Cuba bill and the appropriation bill, and he was opposed to calling up this third measure, and have them all jostling each other in the struggle for precedence, from day to day. He was opposed, also, to transferring such a power as this from Congress to the Executive.

The motion to take up the bill was not agreed to, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Benjamin, Bigler, Brown, Chesnut, Davis, Douglas, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Houston, Iverson, Jones, Lane, Mason, Polk, Pugh, Reid, Rice, Slidell, Smith, Stuart, and Ward—25.

Nays—Messrs. Bayard, Bell, Bright, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Clay, Collamer, Crittenden, Dixon, Doolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Hamlin, Hammond, Harlan, Hunter, Johnson of Tennessee, Kennedy, King, Mallory, Pearce, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Toombs, Trumbull, Wade, Wilson, and Yulee—21.

The Homestead Bill.—Mr. Wade moved to take up the homestead bill. This, he said, was a measure which would not consume time, as it had been thoroughly discussed, and was fully understood.

Not agreed to, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, King, Pugh, Rice, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Stuart, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—24.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Bayard, Benjamin, Bigler, Bright, Brown, Chesnut, Clay, Clingman, Crittenden, Davis, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hammond, Houston, Hunter, Iverson, Kennedy, Mallory, Mason, Pearce, Polk, Reid, Sebastian, Slidell, Smith, Toombs, Ward, and Yulee—31.

Consular and Diplomatic Bill.—The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was then brought up for consideration, and debated on several amendments proposing a modification of our present diplomatic representation. The bill was finally so amended in this respect as to provide that no foreign diplomatic agents other than those specified in the bill shall receive compensation during the year. Some other amendments were made, and the bill was passed.

While the above bill was under consideration, Mr. Slidell made an unsuccessful attempt to take up the Cuba bill—yeas 5, nays 46.

HOUSE.

A committee of conference was appointed, to meet one from the Senate, on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Indian appropriation bill.

The army appropriation bill was further considered in Committee of the Whole, and an amendment offered by Mr. Faulkner, and modified by Mr. Penniston, was adopted, reducing the appropriation for the construction of barracks, &c. Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, made an ineffectual motion to strike out the item of $700,000 for the construction of barracks, &c. On motion of Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, a proviso was adopted restricting army officers, when acting as disbursing agents, on the pain of dismissal, from using the public credit in advance of appropriations, unless under an order from the President of the United States, and the mileage allowance to officers was reduced to five cents a mile. On Mr. Davis's motion, the item for army transportation was reduced from $3,450,000 to $3,000,000. Mr. F. made an ineffectual motion to increase the appropriation for the manufacture of arms from $230,000 to $400,000, the amount originally estimated for. The items for repairs and improvements and new machinery at the armories were stricken out.

After considering various other amendments, the bill was reported from the Committee, and the House adjourned.

Monday, February 21, 1859.

SENATE.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Bell, calling on the President of the United States, in the usual form, for copies of all correspondence had during the years 1852 and 1853, between Mr. Horatio J. Perry, Secretary of Legation at Madrid, and Mr. Marcy, our Secretary of State, together with a copy of any overture made by the Spanish minister for Foreign Affairs for the negotiation of an advantageous commercial treaty, such as is described by Mr. Perry, in his letter addressed to President Pierce.

Mr. Mason objected to the immediate passage of the resolution, and asked that it should lie over for consideration under the rule of the Senate.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending the 30th June, 1860, was received from the House, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for consular and diplomatic expenses.

The question pending was on the motion of Mr. Simmons to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

The motion was agreed to, and also the vote by which it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Simmons moved to amend the bill by adding a proviso to the first section, that the salaries provided for in this section, and the salaries and compensation of all other officers provided for in this act, shall be computed in the legal currency of the United States, and in no case shall there be any allowance to any officer upon any draft drawn by him for his salary.

Mr. Hale offered an amendment, providing that foreign ministers, consuls, &c., shall be paid in the countries to which they are accredited.

Mr. Simmons accepted the amendment as a modification of his own, which was then rejected—yeas 24, nays 27.

On motion by Mr. Slidell, the bill was further amended by adding to the section restricting expenditures to the objects specified in the bill (Mr. Hunter's amendment) the following:

Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with the disbursement of the appropriation for the contingent expenses of foreign intercourse at the disposition of the President.

The bill was then passed—yeas 35, nays 23.

On motion by Mr. Slidell, the Senate then proceeded to the further consideration of the bill making appropriations to facilitate the acquisition of Cuba by negotiation.

Mr. Mason proposed the following as a substitute for the bill, and it was ordered to be printed:

Resolved, &c., That Congress fully approves the policy in the message of the President respecting the propriety and ultimate necessity of acquiring the island of Cuba by the United States. That, whilst refraining at this time from any committal as to future measures which circumstances, whether affecting the peaceful relations of the two countries or the safety of the United States, may render necessary, it is deemed sufficient at present only to declare that whenever it shall seem fit to Spain to transfer the island, the United States will be prepared to receive it on terms that shall be just and equitable to both countries, and for a fair equivalent. And that, because of the position of Cuba in the Gulf of Mexico, and more especially because of its proximity to the coast of the United States, this Government can never remain neutral under any European or other policy which should separate Cuba from the dominion of Spain in favor of any foreign Power.

Mr. Collamer addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill. Heretofore all our statesmen had concurred in the announcement that so long as Cuba remained in the hands of Spain, we had no reason for apprehension. Now, it is proposed to establish a new doctrine, founded on an alleged law of growth represented to be imperative on "great nations" like England, France, Russia, and the United States. The example of monarchical aggression and conquest is held up as the justification of a similar policy to be pursued by our country. Should Congress endorse the maxims of this policy, at the same are inaugurated by the present bill? For himself, he was opposed to the theory that territorial extension was a necessary source of national strength, or a convincing proof of national vitality. The British nation was strengthened by its colonial system; but such a system could not be constitutionally or profitably engrafted on our Government. All segregated possessions necessitate for their support and retention a large standing army and navy. Are we willing to enter upon a policy which will compel us to greatly enlarge our military and naval expenditures? Hitherto we have annexed only such territories as joined our own, and were deemed to be capable of Americanization. But Cuba is not contiguous to our limits, is already occupied, and therefore not open to the influx of our citizens, with their civil institutions and social habits. In point of military strategy, the island of Cuba could be held against a great naval Power only on the condition of our possessing a still stronger naval force. The people, moreover, are fitted for annexation neither by their possession of civil institutions nor by their acquiescence in the principles of religious liberty.

The pending bill, if adopted, would have for its inevitable effect, in Mr. Collamer's judgment, to raise into new prominence two subjects of long standing and sometimes acrimonious controversy. He alluded to Slavery and the influx of foreigners into our country. If the Northern people were properly opposed to the repeal of our laws against the foreign slave trade, how could they be expected to acquiesce in a measure which virtually repealed those laws by importing half a million of slaves into this country by a single act? And if Virginia and other Southern States were troubled by their free black population, what should we do with the two hundred thousand of that class in Cuba? On the patriotic citizens were sometimes alarmed by the infusion of the foreign element in our civil system, what should be thought of a proposition which imports and naturalizes five hundred thousand foreigners in a single day?

But it is said that the annexation of Cuba will put an end to the slave trade. This was an illusory promise—as illusory as the promises made at the time Texas was added to the Union. If, with the vigilant guard kept up by England and the United States, more than ten thousand slaves were annually smuggled into Cuba, might we not rather expect an increased importation to result from the partial or total relaxation of the surveillance now exercised over the foreign slave traffic, especially as the inducement for their importation would be enhanced when the price of slaves in that island should have advanced from the present rate to the average value of slaves in our country? If, when slaves in Cuba were worth $500 per head, ten thousand were annually smuggled into the island, how many would be surreptitiously imported when their value had risen to $1,000 per head?

Mr. Mallory advocated the bill. He did not approach this subject with any spirit of sectionalism, and did not wish to see Cuba annexed merely for the sake of restoring some fancied equilibrium. This was not an idle discussion. If the bill should only pass the Senate, it would give Spain to see that there was a destiny in the future progress of this country, to which she must submit. Cuba, he admitted, was not now for sale; for money, and the disinclination of Spain to sell the island was increasing every year. We were further from acquiring the island to-day, than we were twenty years ago. Nevertheless, he believed that considerations could be brought to bear upon Spain, which would induce her to part with Cuba upon fair terms. The views of the President, expressed in his message, were calculated to expedite the matter. He contended that the acquisition of Cuba was a necessary consequence of the acquisition of Louisiana and Florida. The great statesmen of the nation had foreseen that the possession of that island would ultimately become a necessity, and Calhoun himself had really advocated the policy of acquisition.

This country was annually able to purchase Cuba. The people of that island could alone pay a large portion of the purchase money. He compared the Gulf of Mexico to a dominion upon its side, the neck being the narrow strait between Florida and Cuba. Six war steamers could completely block up the neck, effectually hemming in our vast Gulf commerce. Such a position as this could not be overlooked. Britain has planted her cannon on every available rock around the Gulf. The declarations of statesmen, to the effect that this Government is content that Cuba shall remain in the hands of Spain, were all uttered in the days of our national weakness, and of Spain's strength; the case is now entirely different. If Spain were to lose Cuba, she would fall from her high position at once; and England and France seek to maintain her in the possession of the island, solely from motives of hostility to this country.

He counselled speedy action on the subject of Cuba, because he believed there was a deliberate intention on the part of Spain to turn Cuba into a second San Domingo; in other words, to liberate every slave imported since 1818. He appealed to Senators to save Cuba from such a fate.

Mr. Fessenden inquired if the Senator would accept of Cuba if Slavery were abolished?

Mr. Mallory replied that he would not. The effect of emancipation would be a general massacre, which would last ten or fifteen years; and we should then be obliged to take the island over. He spoke of the Spanish Government as the most despotic and tyrannical in the world. The law was merely the will and caprice of the Captain General. The people of Cuba merited certain General. The people of Cuba merited certain [illegible] and support. He spoke, and our confidence the Cuban officials, one of the corruption of people are subjected, and many to which the He believed that not a cry thirst for liberty, on the island but was ready to join. [illegible]

Mr. Mallory here gave way to a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Brown gave notice that if he could get the floor to-morrow he intended to say the words, addressed especially to the Northern Democrats, whom he particularly requested to be present.

Mr. Kennedy said he desired to be heard on this question, and was prepared to go on at any time.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.

The army appropriation bill was passed by a vote of 116 to 93, most of the amendments made in Committee having been concurred in.

The motion of Mr. Phillips, of Pennsylvania, (pending from last Monday,) to suspend the rules, to allow him to introduce a bill to provide for the payment of certain Treasury notes, authorizing a new issue of Treasury notes, and imposing a tax on tea and coffee, the duties on imports, came up as the unfinished business in order. The yeas and nays were taken on the motion to suspend the rules, and the motion was not agreed to—yeas 80, nays 97. The speaker then proceeded to call the States and Territories for bills and resolutions for introduction, when Mr. Mason made an ineffectual motion to suspend the rules, to enable him to report a bill repealing the act granting bounty land to officers (yeas 101, nays 70).

The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, on the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill. Some progress was made in the way of amendments, when the Committee rose, and a resolution was adopted for an evening session. Resuming its labor in Committee, the House took a recess until seven o'clock.

The night session was occupied in discussion of the topics embraced in the President's annual Message.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

CENSUS OF KANSAS.—The Committee of Ways and Means have authorized the chairman to report a bill providing for the taking of the census in Kansas, and against a branch mint in the city of New-York.

The select committee to investigate the alleged corruption in connection with the House Committee on Accounts, consists of Messrs. Nichols, Winslow, Eustis, Whitely, and Clark B. Cochrane.

TREATY WITH YAQUIS INDIANS.—By the treaty recently ratified between the United States and the Yaquis band of Mexican Indians, this Government obtains about ten millions of acres of land. The Indians are to be settled on a tribal reserve, and are to have a fee-simple title. Instead of giving them large sums of money, as has been the case with other Indians, they are to be provided with schools, farmhouses, agricultural implements, and other means of civilization.

EXPEDITION TO AFRICA.—Messrs. Campbell and Purnell, members of a party commissioned by the colored people of the North to proceed to Africa to make selection of a location for a settlement, are in this city, soliciting aid for the enterprise. These persons bring with them highly flattering testimonials from men of position in New York and Philadelphia. It is to be hoped that they will meet with a patient hearing and liberal aid, since their movement is one of great importance to their race.—*National Intelligencer.*

The receipts of the Treasury last week were one million five hundred and eighty-six thousand dollars. The amount on deposit is nine million three hundred and twelve thousand dollars. Net balance, four million eight hundred and seven thousand dollars.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

THE NEWEST FEATURES OF THE WAR QUESTION.—From our foreign files by the America, at Boston, we perceive that the continental question is still one of complication and uncertainty, and the accounts do not enable us to form a judgment as to the probable solution. Peace prospects and indications of hostilities alternately sway the balance of opinion.

The Propositions of England to Austria.—We find in the Paris correspondence of the *Independance*, of Brussels, an amplification of the rumor of the propositions made to Austria, by the British Government. From the statements of the writer it would appear that England is desirous to prevent anything that might cause a European war, considering the sacrifices she is obliged to make in order to pacify India. England, therefore, has proposed to France, who accepts, to declare to Austria that she wishes the offers made in 1848 to the Cabinet of Lord Palmerston to be considered as now having been withdrawn. "Not only France but Russia supports this proposition." The offer, referred to as having been made by Austria in 1848 were substantially that the administration of the Lombardo Venetian Kingdom, should be entirely separated from that of Austria; that those provinces should have their own autonomy, and that a government founded upon constitutional principles should be given to them.

If Austria accepts purely and simply the proposition, there will be no war, and all in quietude about events in the Danube, would cease. It is true, says our correspondent, that Austria may not readily be brought to renounce the possession of her rich Italian provinces; but in presence of an agreement between the other Powers, which is rapidly becoming unanimous, the Court of Vienna will seriously reflect before entering on a war in which she will have France and Sardinia for adversaries, with the sympathies of Europe on their side. The French army, fighting for the establishment in Italy of an order of things more in harmony with the wants and wishes of its inhabitants, would not cross the Alps but, with the approbation and assent of Russia and England. In that case, the war would be confined to Italy, and would have a special object arranged beforehand. The *Indépendance*, observing on the statement in the *Independance*, is not disposed to believe the consent of Austria will easily be obtained to any discussion of the terms on which her Italian dominions should be relinquished, and less than this would not satisfy the eager expectations now aroused in Italy by the attitude of Piedmont, which Victor Emanuel, confident in the support of his powerful ally, has assumed.

Various Rumors.—We hear of political arrests at Milan, but details are wanting. A Berlin letter says, it is fully confirmed that fresh negotiations have been opened respecting the Danube navigation question. It adds, that the Governments of France, Russia, and England, had addressed identical communications to the Cabinet of Vienna, pressing for the speedy regulation of the matter. A revolution, we are told, impending in the free city of Hamburg—the heads of the first families having met to determine on a complete revision of the Government.

The Position of Austria and France.—We have felt it our duty, from time to time, to protest to the utmost of our power against the attitude which France has, since the beginning of the year, seen it to assume in reference to Italy. We have pointed out how futile were the pretexts on which she thought fit to throw all Europe into confusion, to arrest the course of industry, and to threaten us, it may be too truly, with the calamities of a causeless and bloody war. We have shown that, so far as France is concerned, there is no just cause of offence against Austria.

Now, there is one part of the conduct of Austria which it is impossible to regard without serious disapprobation. It is perfectly notorious that the Emperor of the French feels a sincere anxiety for some improvement in the government of the Papal States, an anxiety which, during the last year, has been much quickened by the apprehension of a second attempt similar to the desperate enterprise of Orsini. The Emperor of the French has been caught in his own trap. He occupies Rome, but his occupation gives him no power of control over the Government, because the Pope is in no degree moved by the threat of abandoning him to the mercies of his justly incensed subjects, well knowing that if the French should withdraw from one side of his capital, the Austrians would enter it on another. Thus the Emperor of the French is placed in the painful position of being responsible for misgovernment he cannot control, and appealing to support by armed force injustice which he is unable to prevent. We cannot say that this is an unjust retribution for the original seizure of Rome, and it is not unnatural that Austria should enjoy the embarrassment arising from a step taken avowedly for the purpose of counterminning her influence. The entertainment, is, however, a dangerous one. France is in a position in Rome which she can neither maintain with honor nor retreat from with safety, unless assisted by the good offices of Austria. It is Austria alone which stands between the Roman people and the improvement of their Government. If she joined France in her remonstrances, they must be immediately attended to, for the Pope well knows that, unless wrested by some external Power, his reign *Times*. [illegible] of very short duration.—*London Times.*

THE PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM.—The *London Star* [illegible] William and the new Princess Frederick William and adds: "Exactly the Prince are doing well, newspapers were [illegible] months ago, the marriage of the Prince [illegible] accounts of the Princess. That marriage, as will be [illegible] of England, [illegible] Prussia, [illegible] Queen Victoria, [illegible] Princess Royal, [illegible] place on the 25th of January; and it is on the 27th of the following January that her Royal Highness becomes a mother."

PROGRESS IN RUSSIA.—It is stated that the Count de Cy, a Russian nobleman, has been deprived of his rank and decorations, prohibited from holding any public office, and condemned to a heavy fine, for ill-treating an upholsterer.

It is not at all probable that a Russian nobleman would be permitted to shoot a schoolmaster with impunity.

DAVIS FROM HAVANA.—*New York, Feb. 20.*—The steamer Black Warrior, from Havana, with dates to the 15th inst., went ashore this morning on Rockaway bar, whilst in charge of a pilot. The passengers and mails were brought to this city this evening in a pilot boat. The steamer is tight, and has $280,000 in specie on board, and a valuable cargo. Three tugs have gone to her assistance.

She brings no political news of interest. Sugar was brisk, and holders were firm at ten trials for No. 12.

LATER FROM HAVTI.—*Holmes's Hole, Feb. 18.*—The schooner Abbie Frost, from Jarmel, January 30, arrived here this afternoon, and reports affairs at that place all quiet. The excitement attending the revolution had passed away, and business had revived to its former briskness. Coffee was coming in freely from the coast and the interior.

The most enthusiastic demonstrations followed the abdication of the Emperor Soulouque.

The Governor of Jacmel, one of Soulouque's officials, had been deposed.

The new Government repealed the exorbitant export duty on coffee, which is no less than one-fourth of the whole quantity shipped. An examination of the finances, however, obliged it to restore the old duty, to the serious disappointment of the merchants, who were certain of its repeal.

BRITISH SUBSIDY TO GALWAY STEAMERS—ATLANTIC CABLE.—*St. John's, N. F., Feb. 19.*—The tenor of private advices, received per Prince Albert, render it certain that the British Government will grant a subsidy of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds to the Galway Steamer Company.

Mr. Henley, chief electrician of the Atlantic Cable Company, has arrived here, with batteries and instruments, to commence operations with them on this end of the cable.

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY.—The latest advices from South America are dated at Montevideo on the 20th, and at Buenos Ayres on the 30th, of December. The frigate Sabine, flag ship of the Paraguay fleet, with the steamers Harriet Lane, Water Witch, Fulton, and storeship Supply, arrived in the river Plata on the 20th of that month. Commissioner Bowlin was preparing to go up to Asuncion in the Fulton. If prevented, hostilities would ensue; but the general impression was, that Lopez would arrange all differences with him, amicably. The report received by the Prince Albert, that the Brazilian authorities had offered to mediate between the United States and Paraguay, and that the offer had been accepted, is said to be a hoax. Neither the commander of our squadron nor the commission sent out to Paraguay have authority to accept the mediatory services of any Powers whatever.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

DECREASE OF SLAVES IN MISSOURI.—A late number of the St. Louis *Christian Advocate*, in referring to the change that is constantly going on in Missouri as regards the relative proportion between the white and colored population, says that scarcely a week passes away without witnessing the emigration of hundreds of slaves to the South.

One of the causes set down for this emigration, or driving, rather, of slaves to the South, is a general conviction that white labor is more profitable in Missouri than slave labor.

Another cause mentioned by the *Advocate*, for the decrease of slaves, is the insecurity of that species of property. The stampedes of slaves are of frequently occurrence. The St. Louis papers are filled with advertisements of runaway slaves, with accompanying rewards for their recovery.

The *Advocate* points to the deep, firm, settled, and absolute conviction that Missouri is speedily destined to be a free State, as the most potent cause of the rapid decrease of slaves.

COMPLETION OF THE HANNIBAL AND ST. JOSEPH RAILROAD.—We learn, by way of St. Louis, that the last rail on the above road was laid down on Saturday last, and that the cars will probably commence running over the entire distance to-day. The completion of this road will entirely change the line of travel between this city and the Missouri river. Instead of going by the roundabout way of St. Louis, travellers will pass over the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy road, to the latter place; thence twenty miles by steamer to Hannibal, and then by the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad to the Missouri. The entire distance from Chicago to St. Joseph will be made in about twenty-six hours, being a saving in time of from three to four days over the St. Louis route. A large portion of the emigration to Pike's Peak will doubtless pass over this road.

SALE OF SLAVES, &c.—On Saturday last, New Year's day, the following sales of slaves were made at this place, by Mr. L. B. Offutt, auctioneer, viz: Twelve slaves, belonging to the estate of the late James Branham; Wyatt, 40 years old, at $920; Austin, 34 years old, and crippled, at $113; Green, 32 years old, at $1,300; Owen, 30 years old, at $790; Ann, 29 years old, and child, at $1,040; Edward