



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA: TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1860.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, the bill to facilitate communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States was passed. The Consular and Diplomatic bill was taken up and several amendments offered, some of which were adopted and others rejected.—The House of Representatives after referring to appropriate committees a number of bills and resolutions, and rejecting a resolution granting to Congress the power to prohibit slavery wherever it has the power to legislate, by a decided vote, went into Committee of the Whole and took up the Army Appropriation bill which was discussed, but without action, the House adjourned.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The Senate, on Saturday, struck out of the tax bill the one per cent. tax on merchants' sales, by a vote of 33 to 9. The joint resolutions introduced into the House, in response to certain resolutions voted for by the Democratic members of the Ohio Legislature, were passed. A bill allowing a pension to Mrs. Bridget Burke, widow of Thomas Burke, who was killed at the Harper's Ferry affair, was introduced, and ordered to a second reading. In the House of Delegates a number of acts prescribing the duties of Commissioners of Revenue, was debated.

THE TAX BILL.—It will be seen that the Senate of Virginia has struck out of the Tax bill, the one per cent. clause, which has given occasion to so much discussion. The vote for striking out was 33 to 9 against it—a large majority. As far as that matter is concerned, therefore "peace is restored," and things remain "in statu quo ante bellum."

The price of gas is to be reduced in Richmond from \$3 to \$2.50 per 100 feet.

The friends of Mr. Hunter are in high spirits at the result of the election of Delegates to the Charleston Convention, so far.

The Romney Intelligencer speaking of the movements in the Democratic ranks in the Western part of the State, says that the "new lights bid fair to take the party."

The Charleston papers are very plain spoken in the advice to the "camp-followers" of the Democratic Convention, to keep away from their city.

There are different opinions as to what will be the result of the contest in the Convention at Warrenton, in this District, between the friends of Gov. Wise and Mr. Hunter.

The ultra abolitionists at the North, profess to object to the tone and temper of Senator Seward's late speech—and to think that he is far from coming up to the "right standard." They are hard to please.

The man Hicks, murdered on Rhode Island, charged with the murders on board the Isler oyster vessel, has been brought to New York. He denies the charge, but a silver watch and two money bags found in his possession, are said to be the property of the murdered Capt. Burr. Hicks, or Johnson, refuses to give any account of his abandonment of the vessel. There is a question as to who has jurisdiction over the case—or whether the murders were committed on the high seas, or within the territory of New York.

"Intense anxiety!" is expressed that the Prince of Wales, on his visit to Canada, in May or June next, should "cross the line," and call upon "Uncle Sam." If he does, we hope he will be very kindly and courteously received—but that *chauvinism* by general consent, will be denounced. We should, indeed, like to see the future King of England, have an opportunity of looking at the practical "doings" of a republican government and a republican people.

Some of the New York papers would have the public believe there is great anxiety and interest felt in this country about the "light" to "come off" in England, between the fugitives Heenan and Sayers. Outside of the large cities, among the acres of the bruisers, nobody knows or cares anything about them, except the gentle wish that they both may be arrested and sent to the work-house or the tread mill.

A call is made for a meeting in Washington, of the Democratic National Committee, to be held on the 5th of April. It is thought it has reference to a change in the place for holding the Democratic Convention, as the clamor on the subject continues—but it is not believed that any change can or will be made.

Professor Charles Frick, M. D., a member of the Faculty of the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, and a physician of great promise, died in Baltimore, on Sunday, of a short illness, from a disease known as diphtheria, a throat affection.

Our New Orleans exchanges contain full accounts of the late occurrences before Vera Cruz, and the capture of the Marin expedition. The detailed account is only an amplification of what has been received by telegraph.

New York city has a Board of "Ten Governors," who govern the Almshouse, Penitentiary, and other charitable and reformatory institutions of the city. The New York Tribune is engaged in exposing the corrupt conduct of these Governors, charging them with Bribe, Ram, and Robbery, and all sorts of abominations, that are truly startling.

In the House of Representatives, last Friday, a bill came up, for the relief of the legal representatives of Col. Charles Porterfield, of the Revolutionary army. To this bill Mr. Stanton stated briefly his objections. Mr. Harris, of Virginia, who is a representative from the district of the claimants, asked to be heard in their behalf. He was heard and lived in the midst of the heirs and descendants of that gallant officer, Charles Porterfield. He knew them to be honest and just men, of the highest sense of honor, and the strictest integrity; men whose bare assertion of a right is, among those who know them, conclusive evidence of the justice of their demands. He would not go into the dry details of the bill, for it is one that should commend itself to all sections and all parties. The hero whose heirs were claiming the same young officer who, in 1775, led his native county of Jefferson, in Virginia, and passed over that memorable rock at Harper's Ferry so eloquently and touchingly described by Mr. Butler. To him (Mr. B.) the speaker need not appeal for support, for that blood-stained rock spoke in terms more eloquent and effective than any thing which he (Mr. Harris) could say. To the members from Massachusetts, and New England generally, to whose relief Col. Porterfield had hastened in the day of peril, he appealed with every confidence, and to the gentlemen of the South, to the aid of the old Palmetto, on whose soil the gallant young officer fell, Mr. H. appealed. He appealed also to that chivalry which had ever distinguished her sons, and he felt confident that it would not be wanting now in doing honor to the memory of a brave young officer, who fell in defence of her rights and liberties, and in doing an act of simple justice to his heirs and representatives. There being unmistakable indications of an approval of the measure, Mr. Harris refrained from further remarks, and on the passage of the bill, there appeared to be 67 to 14, but this being less than a quorum, the House adjourned.

Capt. Webb, of the schooner Thomas E. French, arrived at N. York, reports that on the 21st inst., four miles north of Barnegat, he picked up a boat containing a Chinaman, who stated that he had escaped from the sloop Spray, of Guilford, Conn., which had that day been in collision with the sloop Lucinda, of Newburyport. The Spray sank in ten minutes after colliding, carrying down with her the captain, named Leete, and his brother, who were the only persons on board besides himself. The Chinaman was supplied with a hatchet, compass and some provisions, and so far as regards the collision, his statement was correct, as it was subsequently ascertained that the Lucinda put into Little Egg Harbor in a damaged condition. It is suspected, however, that the Chinaman murdered the captain and his brother and then deserted the vessel.

The Charleston Mercury, the leading Democratic organ of South Carolina, is exceedingly severe in its denunciations of the Northern Democracy, alleging that, "as a party, they are against the South," and "striving to enforce their policy of Quarter Sovereignty upon the South"—that the Northern Democracy "are actuated by but two principles—to plunder the South, and to bully her"—and that the "entire Democratic party of the North, as a party, is utterly hostile to the Constitutional rights and interests of the South."

In the House of Representatives, last Friday was a real working day. The Committees having been called, three bills of a public character, and fifty-seven private bills were reported. Fifty-one adverse reports were made. In Committee of the Whole, twenty-three private bills were acted upon favorably, and seventeen were objected to and consequently passed over for the day.—After the Committee rose and reported, all the bills favorably considered in Committee were passed by the House, except three, upon which special votes were demanded.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal says: "The State Department is preparing a statement of the manner in which it will be proper to receive and entertain the Japanese mission, expected to arrive here next month, some seventy strong. Congress will be asked to make the necessary appropriations for defraying the expenses of this mission, by way of returning similar favors shown to us by the Japanese, and it is humorously suggested that there will be a demand for fat dogs and other oriental luxuries."

In the coming census, we hope that we shall have full details on commerce. We hope that we shall have a full account of the business of the banks, insurance companies, custom houses, railroads, and the other important institutions of our country. The census ought to be very complete in all respects. A large sum of money will be appropriated for the purpose of having it accurately taken, and no interest should be neglected.

On the 22d inst., \$90,000 worth of property was destroyed by fire at Pekin, Ill. Mr. Hoffman, druggist, sustained a loss of \$10,000. Robert Vincent \$20,000; Rhodes & Co. \$6,000. The postoffice was also consumed.

Letter from Richmond. Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. RICHMOND, March 24.—The House of Delegates passed, on motion of Mr. Harvey, today, the bill incorporating the Northern Neck Bank, \$100,000 capital, on the old principle; incorporating the Cumberland, Morefield, Romney and Capon Springs Turnpike Company; amending the charter of the Southern Protection Insurance Company of Alexandria, so as to authorize Insurances on lives and Marine risks; to re-district the County of Calhoun; Senate bill amending the 4th section of an act amending the charter of the Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, passed 4th January, 1858; to incorporate the Masonic Hall Association, of the town of Harrisonburg, (this is a substitute for the close chapters of Old Fellows and Masons, against which the House has now set itself); to enlarge the capital stock of the West Milford and New Salem Turnpike Company; to provide for the collection of the State Revenue by the Sergeant of the city of Portsmouth; to pay the amount of a decree against the Commonwealth, in the case of John Morrow's heirs vs. McDaniel's estate, (says 12,000); to incorporate the Chesapeake and Potomac Turnpike Company, (says 10,000); to amend the charter of the Southern Protection Insurance Company of Alexandria, so as to authorize Insurances on lives and Marine risks; State aid \$4,800, says 87, says 27, amending the charter of Marshall and Ohio Turnpike Company; granting a pension of \$96 per annum to George W. Richardson, of Martinsburg, wounded at Harper's Ferry, in the John Brown raid. One or two more John Brown raids, and the State treasury will be pretty well drained.

The Senate has been engaged all day on the tax bill, and struck out the 1 per cent. tax, by ayes 33, noes 9, and adjourned. The Conference Committee on the Bank redemption, meets to-night.

"A LOOKER ON."

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times." Official despatches show that, apart from the direct followers of Cortina, the Mexicans have endeavored to retard rather than to encourage his forays, as has been represented. The people of Tamaulipas were much alarmed and fearful of an invasion by the Texans, of which, however, there is no probability.

The latest accounts from Denver city give the particulars of an exciting duel between Dr. S. Stone member of the Provincial Legislature, and at present Judge of the Miners Court, at Mountain city, and Acting-Governor Lucian W. Bliss, the regular Secretary of State, which was fought with double-barreled shot guns. Some five hundred people witnessed the combat. Dr. Stone was mortally wounded in the groin at the first fire.—His adversary was unharmed.

One of the items of Foreign news states, that "no more floating batteries with iron sides are to be constructed in England, owing to the Armstrong guns having completely riddled the immensely thick iron plates of the experimental vessel." How will this conclusion affect the iron floating battery, now process of construction at Hoboken?

Judge Lowe, of the United States District Court of Iowa, on Tuesday last, in the case of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce vs. the Rock Island Bridge Company, decided that the said bridge was a nuisance, and ordered that the defendant should remove the main pier by the first of July, and the lower part by the first of October. The case will be taken to the Supreme Court.

The captured Mexican steamers had six bomb-mortars, six 24 pounder cannons, 2,000 stand of small arms, 1,500 shells, and other munitions of war. The value of the prizes is estimated at \$60,000, though the steamer Gen. Miramon is said to be very badly injured, the first broadside of the Saratoga having completely riddled her, and in her attempt to escape, she afterwards ran aground. It was two days before she could be got off, and in her passage to New Orleans she again broke down and had to be towed.

Zadock Pratt performed the journey from San Francisco to St. Louis, without stopping at any one time for more than half an hour, the whole occupying 19 days, with 150 letters of four, five and six horses or mules to the team, about half being mules. This is a wonderful feat for a man nearly seventy years of age. There was a conductor and a driver, both armed to the teeth. In some places they carried water sixteen miles and then drove forty miles without water.

A few weeks hence, about the time of our Easter, our Hebrew citizens will celebrate their passover, on the 14th of Nisan—their first month; and on the 10th of Tshri they will observe the most important and solemn day in their entire ceremonial system.—"The Great Day of Atonement." On that day those who are by birthright children of the Hebrews, will present themselves in the tabernacle, no matter how indifferent they may be to the requirements of their law at all other times and seasons.

Francis Barlow, a Virginian, who recently arrived in New York, was swindled out of \$25 on Tuesday by a sharper, who made himself familiar, and soon asked him to change a \$100 bill for him, as he wanted to pay a debt of \$25 at a store which they were then passing. Barlow could not change the bill, but lent the \$25, he promising to return it in a few minutes. He then disappeared, and was not seen until the afternoon, when Barlow had him arrested.

A complimentary entertainment was given on the 9th inst. at Nassau, to the Hon. C. R. Nesbit, Colonial Secretary of New Providence, promoted to be Lieutenant Governor of the Island of St. Vincent. Ex-President Pierce, Sir Gore Ouseley and other distinguished gentlemen of the United States were present. The health of the ex-President of the United States was proposed, that gentleman made a very handsome and eloquent response, which is reported in full in the Nassau Guardian.

P. T. Barnum, the showman, having paid off the last of his "clock notes," has taken charge of the American Museum in New York. The Tribune of Saturday, says—"To-day, the Tribune of the day, Mr. Barnum will appear upon his own stage, in his own costly character of the Yankee Clock-maker, for which he qualified himself, and will give a brief history of his adventures as a clockmaker, showing how the clock ran down, and how it was wound up."

Those inevitable hangers on at all great gatherings, the thieves, have already been demolished in Charleston, S. C., and commenced operations. On Tuesday night, two of the chevaliers robbed five travellers, at the Mills House, of \$500 and two gold watches. They were arrested. The same night a traveller at the Charleston Hotel lost his watch and a sum of money.

An invitation has gone forth to "all bearing the Andrews name" to meet in family convention in Wallingford, Conn., on Wednesday, August 29. Communications of replies should be addressed to Orrin Andrews, Secretary of the Committee, Wallingford, Conn. The invitation includes, also, all who are descended from the Andrews.

Mr. Thomas Ferris, a resident of Shelbyville, Tenn., has returned home with a fugitive slave, who voluntarily accompanied him to his old home, having tasted the sweets of liberty in several northern cities for the past six months. Mr. Ferris unexpectedly discovered his slave peddling apples on the railroad at Syracuse.

A convention of the Methodist Episcopal churches in Philadelphia, has voted in favor of taking measures to secure lay representation in the general and annual conferences of the church. The Philadelphia M. E. Conference, on the other hand, has declared against the proposed measure.

At Fort Wayne, Ia., March 24, a fire entirely destroyed the Times building, containing the Indiana Free Stock, the clothing store of J. G. Thiem & Bro., and other occupants. Loss over \$15,000. Thiem & Bro., are insured for \$6,000.

A rather destructive fire occurred at Sacramento on the 4th. Weston's brick building, occupied by A. Searle's carriage shop; Toll's brick stable and the old county court building, which was being fitted as a hotel, was burnt. Loss \$20,000.

That job of loss, the raising of the entire block of buildings on the north side of Lake street in Chicago, is progressing rapidly.—The buildings are being undermined, and huge timbers got under, and to some extent, the screws have been in operation.

As an evidence of the anticipated activity in the grain market, it may be mentioned that the New York Central Railroad Company has ordered the construction of one thousand freight cars for carrying wheat.

It appears that the amount of bonds subscribed by Pittsburg and Allegheny county, Pa., to various railroads in that vicinity, is \$4,100,000, and that the interest due thereon is nearly \$900,000.

James A. McCorkle, who embezzled \$15,000, of the funds of the People's Bank, at Richmond, Indiana, of which he was cashier, has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500, be disfranchised for five years, and incarcerated in the State prison for four years. After committing the crime, McCorkle fled to Texas, but was followed and captured.

A few of the Pages of the House of Representatives have already made their appearance on the floor, arrayed in a portion of the uniform which it is proposed to have them all shortly adopt. The uniform is to consist of an entire suit of Cadet cloth, with a dark stripe down the pantaloons.—This cloth is very serviceable, as well as exceedingly neat in appearance.

Travellers in western New York report the growing wheat as promising, and apparently safely through the winter. From the western States the limited information we have is also favorable. In no quarter have we noticed other than flattering accounts thus far, unless we except the late snow wheat in a part of Kentucky.

The St. Louis papers notice the ceremonies of the second Annual Commencement of the Homeopathic Medical College of that city. The Express of that city states that the 23rd of practice has gained very much in popularity in the West, and particularly in that city.

At Memphis, Tenn., March 23, the steamboat Persia, loading for Cincinnati, caught fire, and was towed into the stream, where she burned to the water's edge. Her cargo, which included 300 bales of cotton, was totally destroyed, upon which there was an insurance of \$5,000.

A French republican club has been formed in New York, the object of which will be to spread and propagate the doctrines of the republican party, and to act in concert with it in all measures, having the exclusion of slavery from the territories, and the safeguard of free labor for their end.

During the progress of the trial of a cause in one of our courts yesterday, says the Boston "Traveller," a witness, in reply to the question, "What is your business, sir?" answered, "I am a retired merchant, sir, without means." The answer created a smile all around the court room.

At New Orleans, March 23, the sloop of war Preble arrived with the balance of the prisoners of the prize steamers Gen. Miramon and Marquez. All on board of her are well. We have no further news from Mexico by her.

The Mayor of Cincinnati, imitating the celebrated Caliph of Bagdad, nightly ploughs about the city disguised in an old slouched hat and a coat ragged and torn, in order that he might the more effectually satisfy himself of the watchfulness of the police force.

Virginia News. W. C. Knight, of the Ninth Senatorial District of Virginia, has resigned his seat in the State Senate—the resignation to take effect at the close of the present session of the Legislature.

The clerk's in Petersburg were to hold a meeting last Saturday, to protest against the law which unceremoniously taxes their salaries.

A meeting of the Democratic party was held in Madison County, last week, at which animated speeches were made by different gentlemen, which caused some little excitement for a while, and resulted in the success of the Hunter men, in as far as the main issue was concerned. Nearly every Hunter man in the county was present at the meeting, which amounted to the enormous quantity of 51 out of about 900 voters in the county. The Wise men made no effort to carry any point.

In Norfolk, Va., on Saturday last, the butchers and hucksters "struck" and would not rent any stalls from the city, alleging that the minimum price charged by the city (\$100 and \$75) was too much. The auctioneers could not get more than two of the stalls off. The butchers, however, soon changed their minds on learning that the authorities intended to ask double pay for all stalls not rented before Monday.

R. L. T. Beale, who has resigned his seat in the Virginia Senate, to take effect from the 1st of May, represented the counties of Richmond, Lancaster, Northumberland and Westmoreland. We make the following extract from his card—"The only safe foundation for individual action, is a sound morality; a sound morality is only taught in the Word of God; and though within the pale of no church, I do not hesitate to point you to that morality inculcated by the Bible as the only sure foundation of civil liberty."

According to the statement of Mr. Dickinson, of Prince Edward, the present legislature has appropriated between nine and ten millions of dollars. Our public debt before, was some thirty-one millions, making a present indebtedness of some forty millions of dollars.

At the term of the Circuit Court of Mecklenburg, two respectable and intelligent negroes presented petitions praying that they might be permitted to enslave themselves to masters of their selection.

A manufacturing Company has been incorporated at Danville, to bring into requisition the superior water power with which Danville is favored. It is proposed to erect cotton and other woolen factories along the canal.

The residence and store of Mr. J. D. Worley, in Clarksville, was destroyed by fire on Saturday morning last.

On Saturday, the 17th inst., there was presented a flag to the Richardson Guards, by the ladies of Madison county.

The Warrenton Whig says—On Friday evening last, a large concourse of friends composed a procession which bore to the grave the remains of "Aunt Fanny Warner," as she was called and known in Warrenton. She was, in every respect a most excellent and faithful woman, and I leave even among the white people of the place, many who will regret her departure.

At Jefferson Court, held 23d day of March, 1860, James W. Campbell, refusing to qualify as Executor of John Brown, who was executed on the 2nd day of December last, his estate was committed to the hands of the Sheriff of the County.

From California. New York, March 25.—The steamer Baltic, from Astoria, arrived this afternoon with California dates to the 5th inst., and \$895,000 in specie. This shipment is unusually small, on account of very large investments in the Washoe silver mines.

The frigate Roanoke, frigate Sabine, and storeship Relief were at Astoria.

There is no news of consequence from California. The Democratic State Convention of Oregon had elected delegates to Charleston, and the Republican State Committee had appointed delegates to Chicago. Lieut. Mallan's wagon-road expedition was in winter quarters when last heard from. The road was completed for a distance of three hundred miles from Fort Wallawalla, and was expected to be finished to Fort Benton next fall.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Saturday, Mr. Isbell, by leave, introduced a bill, allowing a pension to Mrs. Bridget Burke, widow of Thomas Burke, who was killed at the Harper's Ferry affair. Read the first time.

Mr. Armstrong offered the following joint resolution, which, under the rule, lies over: Resolved, by the General Assembly, That the board of commissioners appointed to audit the accounts growing out of the recent invasion of the State, at Harper's Ferry, in the county of Jefferson, be instructed to allow, in accordance with the restrictions and limitations of the act heretofore passed on the subject, the claims of such provision, of the 23rd Regiment, as were in actual service on the occasion aforesaid, provided that no such claim shall be allowed, unless it appear that the person making such claim was in service under an order which by law he was bound to obey.

House bill, imposing taxes for the support of government, came up on its passage, as the order of the day.

Mr. Wickham moved to amend by striking out from the section on licenses, the following words, and in lieu thereof, in proportion to the sales, one per centum on the amount of taxable sales, except that on licenses granted in the year eighteen hundred and—

This motion was advocated by Messrs. Wickham and August, opposed by Mr. Brannon, and agreed to, by the following vote: Ayes—Messrs. Armstrong, August, Bruce, Carson, Carraway, Carter, Claiborne, Coghill, Coleman, Day, Douglas, Finney, French, Isbell, Johnson, Knight, Layne, Logan, Lynch, Newhall, Massie, McKenney, Nesbitt, Newton, Newman, Rives, Smith, Stuart, Thomas of Henry, Thompson, Townes, Urquhart Wickham—43.

Noes—Messrs. Brannon, Dickinson, Gatewood, Grosvenor, Neal, Paxton, Pennybacker, Richmond—9.

Mr. Early said he had paired off with Mr. Pace.

Mr. Wickham moved further to amend by striking out the following words in the same section, "without making any of the distinctions required to be made in 'not making regulations concerning licenses,' except the distinction of the sales of goods directly imported by the seller into this State from some foreign country," so as to leave the tax bill as it is, so far as merchants' licenses are concerned.

Mr. Paxton moved to amend by inserting the following clause: "And when the tax is in proportion to the sales, if the sales be less than \$5,000, the tax shall be one per cent, on the amount thereof; if the sales be of or over \$5,000, and under \$50,000, the tax on the excess above the first \$5,000 shall be three-fourths of one per cent.; if of \$50,000, and under \$100,000, the tax shall be, on all over the excess of the first \$50,000, one-half per cent.; and if of and over \$100,000, the tax shall be, on the excess over the first \$100,000, one-fourth of one per cent."

Mr. Paxton moved to amend by providing for a tax of one-tenth per cent, where the sales exceed \$250,000. The President ruled Mr. Paxton's amendment out of order.

Mr. Newman's amendment was sustained by Messrs. Brannon and Brannon. Before taking a vote, the bill and amendment were laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Paxton.

In the House of Delegates, bills were passed to amend the 1st, 3d, 4th, 6th, and 11th sections of an act passed January 3, 1854, entitled of an act to incorporate the Southern Protection Insurance Company of Alexandria, Va.; and to incorporate the Northern Neck Bank of Virginia.

On motion of Mr. Phelps, it was Resolved, That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to report to this General Assembly, the amount of the expenses incurred by him in guarding the prisoners, Stevens and Hazlett, until their execution.

A bill "prescribing the duties of commissioners of the revenue," was made the order of the day for Monday next, at 12 o'clock M. A pension of \$96 was granted to George W. Richardson, of the town of Martinsburg, who was wounded at Harper's Ferry.

Foreign News. The Espana of Madrid of the 28th of February has the following: Mr. Preston, the resident Minister of the United States in the City of Madrid, will shortly leave this city with his family, who will remain in Paris until his return from America to Spain in the next spring. It is believed that the voyage of the American Minister is not foreign to the arrangement of our affairs with the United States.

The last arrival from Europe brings us intelligence of the death of one of the few remaining officers who served under the first Napoleon—Marshal Reille, who was among the most prominent men in the wars of the first Empire. In 1817 Louis Philippe, then King of France, and he was, from 1852 to the time of his death, a senator of France. By his death, Jerome Bonaparte is the oldest living Marshal of France.

It is said that "a valuable discovery" has just been made in the vaults of an eminent London banker. The discovery consists of a large box of letters, containing the correspondence of Mr. Bradshaw, Secretary of the Treasury in the reign of George III—a man very well known to the readers of Wallcut's Letters and of the Secret History of the Court Intrigues, when Queen Victoria's paternal grandfather was regent.

Discharged in London, General John Davenex, aged 82. He raised the Irish legion which, under Bolivar, engaged in the successful struggle for independence in Colombia.

The provinces of Central Italy were to decide, on the 11th inst., by popular vote, whether they should be annexed to Sardinia or be formed into a separate kingdom.

The Pope, says a private letter from Rome, continues to enjoy good health, although his troubles seem rather to increase than to diminish.

REVOLVING BRACELET.—A New York letter describes a piece of jewelry which is destined to make a sensation among the "female persuasion." It is a strap bracelet of fine link chain, of a quaint Venetian pattern. The centre, set in a circular head, is a cluster of diamonds, having an outside waving edge of black enamel, divided into twelve compartments, each nestling a dazzling brilliant. Between the edge and the central glory is a vine of gold gilt with small pearls, "round arms," each turn embracing one of this cluster of diamonds and from this vine buds of fine diamonds burst into light. But in the centre of all are two wheels, set in black enamel ground, each having eight arms, and each arm twelve diamonds. These wheels turn on a common axle, the hub being the largest diamond of all, and by an ingenious piece of machinery, which is wound up with a key, these wheels are made to revolve in opposite directions for two hours. Imagine the effect of this pyrotechnic display in a brilliantly lighted saloon, with a fair plump arm beneath it, if you can! What admiration it would command from the men; what enrygies and heart-burnings it would excite in the women.

DEMOCRATIC USAGE IN VIRGINIA.—Mr. Robert H. Glass, one of the Hunter-Delegates to Charleston, elected in the Farmville District, is the federal postmaster at Lynchburg. This is in direct derogation of the established democratic usage in Virginia. At all elections, heretofore, the Virginia Democracy have uncomplacingly opposed the election to such a post of any appointee of the Federal Executive.—Rich. Eq.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Political Assemblies.—BY J. S. JOHNSON. It is eminently right that the people should, upon all proper occasions, assemble to consider their welfare; for they owe it to themselves, and to their country, frequently to collect in bodies, for the purpose not only of discussing those things which concern their public or political interest, but to examine the conduct of those whom they have chosen to represent their will. But this province, like all those functions which possess a facility that may be easily turned to subversive vicious ends, is often prostituted, and we observe, in many instances, those demonstrations which cannot be regarded as the quackery of Political Assemblies, which is evinced, not in the feeling of an assembly, but in the sentiment of designing individuals, who make such gatherings the instruments by which to put their sophisticated schemes in force, and who, making the most of their circumstances, proclaim them to the world as the "proceedings of a large and enthusiastic meeting."

It is thus that we account for the hotbed manner in which resolutions are digested by public meetings. Official individuals present themselves at almost every political assembly, with their hats filled with "valedictories" and "eulogies," and carry them through, without allowing the mind of the audience to pause to consider whether the object assumed in the resolutions expresses the sentiment which is to govern the future action of its members.

Examples of what we denigrate the quackery of political assemblies, are quite abundant, and one who observes the proceedings of such bodies, finds that, by the inconsiderate use of the "ayes" and "noys," they resolve to do things which they ought not to do, and afterwards do not do, and not to do things which they ought to do, and afterwards do. As an example, we have a political assembly, for the purpose of appointing delegates to represent the voters thereof in a proposed Convention, which in turn is to designate other delegates to a second Convention, to nominate a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. After the appointment of the delegates, a member of the assembly arises and offers a resolution, declaring that the members of the meeting deem it inexpedient to express a choice for any one of the various aspirants presented for their suffrages, and, without a moment's thought, the assembly passes the resolution, and it is published to the world that the people, in their primary meeting, do not intend to elect any man they would like to have represent them in any given office. Hence, it is plainly seen, by non-committal resolutions, the people fail, in a remarkable degree, to exercise their will, and compel themselves to accept any man whom a pre-concocted Convention may offer, and willing or unwilling, pleased or displeased, to be whipped into his support by the cry of nominee.

How truly absurd it is to say, the people deem it inexpedient to express a choice for an individual, who is composed of their vested or yielded rights, and the exercise of which would have a direct influence upon their lives, liberty, and happiness! What! the people deem it inexpedient to express a choice? Who are the people? What higher political authority have we than popular sentiment? Have the people grown so lost to the appreciation of principles, as to be forced to put their judgment and honor in the keeping of a certain set of delegates? Or, have party hacks, plant placement, and impudent demagogues, grown so powerful, as to overrule the people, and proclaim, "You shall not express a choice, but shall leave the selection of a candidate to us, and you shall blindly support any name we shall, in our pleasure, indicate; for we, the wire-workers, are your party masters, and the possessors of political tactics."

If an individual is an office-holder, or an office-seeker, and a number of aspirants are before the people, he may deem it inexpedient to express a choice, for by doing so he might risk his position or his chances for a share of the patronage, in the election of one against whose claims an expression of choice may have been manifested. But the policy of an office-holder and office-seeker, but the people have no selfish end to subservise, and it is, therefore, expedient for them to express a choice whenever a suitable occasion presents itself, or the nature of the times demand it. For if the people wish to maintain their rights in purity, and have the offices, which are made by their suffrage, administered in the spirit in which they should be, they must select good, true, and competent men, to represent them; and the only way in which they can make such a selection, is to examine carefully the history of those who desire to serve them, and ascertain whether the past course and conduct of such aspirants will justify them in placing them in power. Let them sustain true men to represent their will, such as can and will discharge, in a quiet and dignified manner, the duties of the offices to which they may be elevated; and not, as is too commonly the practice, accept the impudent services of those mouthy, flippant politicians, who are always twaddling about party, and talking of the science of government, to the neglect of the responsibility of their positions, and the interests of those whom they represent.

The spirit of quackery which we wish to mention next in this connection, is made manifest in what is called the "Packing process." This is generally accomplished by the concerted action of a few individuals who desire the elevation of some particular favorite with whom they have made the bargain—if you will further my interest, I will further yours. These few individuals decide to have a political assembly, and in pursuance of a notice, a meeting of the voters is called. Mr. A., seeing the place of the meeting pretty well crowded with the yeomanry, at the earliest allowable moment, moves that his friend B., who is aware of his intention, be called to the chair. The meeting is not so impatient to reject B. for such an inconsiderate office as chairman of a common meeting, and thus Mr. B. is declared chairman of the assembly. A gain move that another friend, C., with whom it is also pre-arranged, be appointed secretary; and, again, that the chair appoint a committee, of a certain number, to present the names to be voted upon as delegates by the meeting. The chairman selects the committee, and A., of course, is made chairman of said committee, to indicate suitable persons to be voted for as delegates. The affair is now most securely packed, and the three having the whole machinery in their own hands, select just such delegates as will represent their particular prejudices. Then A., in order to make his scheme more perfect, follows his premeditated work with a resolution to commit all the voters of the meeting to support the nominee of the expected Convention. Thus, by manoeuvring, A., B., and C. have fixed the whole proceeding, and proclaim who shall be presented to the voters, independent of the majority. Thus tricksters rule Conventions, Conventions rule the people, and Conventions the country.

Political assemblies should be very circumspect in their proceedings; for the abuse of the peoples' confidence, and the doctrine of expediency, have given rise to more political catastrophes, and a greater political inconvenience, than all the governmental errors beside.

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