



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1873.

THE ATTEMPT TO IMPEACH MR. COLFAX.—Yesterday in the House of Representatives Mr. Wood, of New York, rising to a question of privilege submitted the following:

Resolved, That the testimony reported to the House by the select committee appointed under the resolution of the House of Dec. 2, 1872 for the investigation of charges of bribery in influencing members of the House of Representatives be referred to the committee on the judiciary, with instructions to report articles of impeachment against Schuyler Colfax, Vice-President of the United States, if in its judgment there is evidence implicating that officer in the case that warrants impeachment.

Mr. Sargent, of California, made the point of order that this was not a privileged question. Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, objected to its reception.

The Speaker ruled that it was a privileged question, and that it rested with the House to decide whether it would consider it at this time. On this the yeas and nays were ordered and it was decided in the negative—yeas 106, nays 109.

Mr. Tyler then as a privileged motion, offered a resolution that the testimony taken by the select committee, of which Mr. Poland is chairman, be referred to the committee on the judiciary with instructions to inquire whether there is anything in said testimony that warrants the impeachment of any officer of the United States not a member of the House, or that makes it proper that there should be a further investigation in his case.

The resolution was adopted without dissent.

Credit Mobilier Committee No. 2, through its Chairman, Mr. Wilson, submitted its report to the House of Representatives yesterday. The Committee state that the entire cost of the road (fifty millions of dollars) was paid from the proceeds of the United States bonds given the corporation and the sale of the first mortgage bonds; the stock, the income bonds, and the land grants yielded the builders the sum of twenty-three millions of dollars, which seems to have been clear gain. These enormous profits were distributed in the shape of dividends to the Credit Mobilier stockholders. The Committee submit a bill as part of its report which authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to bring a suit in equity for the recovery of the money out of which the Government has been defrauded.

The committee who have been investigating the charges against Judge Sherman, of Ohio, in reference to his alleged lobbying for the New York Stock Exchange, have come to the conclusion, in view of the conflicting character of Judge Sherman's statement and letter, to refer his evidence and letters to the Judiciary Committee for such action as they may deem proper. The several subsidy bills before the Senate Committee on Commerce were considered by the committee at its meeting yesterday, and it was determined that no favorable report should be made on any of them.

Oakes Ames is said to be apparently the most unconcerned individual among the accused in the Credit Mobilier affair. He goes about the House as usual, and takes delight in calling the attention of the members of the committee to the comments of the press on their report. He informed Judge Niblack that on Tuesday next he would move to expell the committee, and he expressed the opinion that his motion would receive more votes than that of the committee. Mr. Brooks is quite ill, but manages to spend a part of the session in his seat.

A letter from Washington says:—"The Louisiana muddle is becoming more muddled than ever. Yesterday the committee on elections and privileges submitted their reports. The committee numbers in all seven, and five reports were made, expressing different opinions. The parties here in the Kellogg interest, who were declaring Wednesday night that the Kellogg government would be in effect sustained, were probably correct, for it seemed to be the general opinion yesterday that nothing definite could be evolved out of so many conflicting opinions."

The sixth annual commencement of Washington University took place in Baltimore yesterday, Prof. C. W. Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty opening the exercises by observing that the audience could well dispense with a laud, as they were more than compensated by the many beautiful faces that were present to greet them. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was then conferred upon the following young gentlemen from Virginia: Lewis S. Bristow, Robert H. Hoge, Geo. S. Luck, Julian R. Minde, Stacy T. Noland, and Layton B. Yancey.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"Col. John S. Mosby called on the Attorney General yesterday by his request, when the latter tendered him a position in his professional capacity in a Western State. This Col. Mosby politely declined, on the ground that his accepting the position might lead his friends to infer that his support of the President in the recent campaign was based on a desire to be rewarded by a Government office."

The Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives and a colored member named Williams have been arrested on the charge of conspiring to prevent the election of a United States Senator on the second Tuesday after the organization of the Legislature (as the act of Congress provides). The parties have been bound over to appear before Judge Busted at the next term of the United States Circuit Court.

The Southern claims commission yesterday heard the claims of Mary and Samuel Birch, the estate of John Birch, and that of William Walker, all of Alexandria county, Va. amounting in the aggregate to nearly \$7,000.

Mr. O. G. Grimes of Prince George's county, Md., who has had much experience in pruning fruit trees, in a communication to the Marlboro' Gazette, gives it as his opinion that theoretically and practically the best season to prune is when the trees are at rest and leafless as they are now, so that the frame work can be better observed, and when the orchardist has most leisure.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"We hail with satisfaction the efforts of the Old Dominion to save her somewhat dilapidated credit from more serious detriment. Virginia's resources have never been properly appreciated by her own people. She has only to summon her energies for the emergency that is upon her, and she will resume a commanding position among her sisters."

Some of the London papers are discussing American affairs freely. The Standard is indignant at General Butler's bill for distributing the Geneva award, and asserts that it shows clearly that the award was a million of dollars more than it should have been. It declares the Geneva decision a diplomatic defeat, the treaty of Washington a blunder, and arbitration a failure.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the bill providing for the recomputation of the accounts between the United States and the several States growing out of moneys expended by said States in the war of 1812 was considered at length and finally rejected—yeas 90, nays 118.

It is said that Gen. Butler's bill feeling toward Mr. Everts, of which he (B.) made a display a few days ago in the House of Representatives, originates in displeasure at some remarks made by Mr. Everts in a speech he made in the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson.

Bonner, the young man who shot Miss Dankworth, in Washington, has been discharged from the service of the coast survey by Superintendent Hilgard.

The House Committee of Ways and Means are authorized to investigate the charge that the steamship subsidy bill of last session was carried through by art of liberal expenditures.

Caldwell, it is said has no thought of resigning his seat in the Senate. He is disposed to leave his seat with an able by the action of the Senate.

Chicago City Lots Swindle. CHICAGO, February 20.—The Tribune this morning publishes a full expose of the swindle in so-called Chicago city lots. It appears from this account that G. W. Scott purchased a quantity of swamp land about twenty miles from the court-house at \$9 an acre, and subdivided it into lots which have been sold at \$200 each to hundreds of people in this city. The Tribune publishes a full list of over one thousand purchasers, besides many persons in other sections of the country. An examination of the plat of this subdivision, dubbed "Boulevard Subdivision," shows that the lots ranged in size from 15 by 35 to 9 by 20 feet. The streets average six feet in width, and the alleys thirteen inches. Many letters are received from parties East inquiring as to the value of the lots in the subdivisions, showing that parties are offering them for sale throughout the country.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.—In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Carpenter submitted the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, declaring that there is now no legal State Government in Louisiana, and that neither McMillen nor Ray is entitled to a seat in the Senate. A bill was reported providing for a new election. Dissenting reports were submitted by Messrs. Trumbull, Morton, Hill and Anthony. The army bill was reported with amendments from the committee on appropriations. The bill for the suppression of the trade in obscene literature was discussed, but no action taken. Mr. West introduced a bill to establish a Government telegraph in the city of Washington. Mr. Vickers presented the petition of John H. B. Latrobe, President of the Maryland Historical Society, and others, asking Congress to make an appropriation for the purchase of certain documents relating to early French discoveries on the Lakes and the Mississippi. The death of T. J. Spear was announced, and the House resolutions of condolence were adopted.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Fernando Wood, of New York, offered a resolution to the effect that the testimony taken by the Credit Mobilier Committee be referred to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report articles of impeachment against Vice-President Colfax. This resolution was lost by the close vote of 106 yeas to 109 nays. Eight Republicans voted in favor of the resolution. Mr. Tyler then offered a resolution to the effect that the testimony taken by the Poland committee be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to inquire whether there is anything in said testimony that warrants the impeachment of any officer of the United States, not a member of the House. This resolution was adopted without dissent. A resolution offered by Mr. Randall was also adopted, providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire whether any money was used in securing the passage of the Pacific Mail steamship subsidy. Mr. Wilson submitted the report of the select committee on the Union Pacific railroad. The committee find that there are persons connected with the Credit Mobilier holding such lands as are contemplated by the order of the House. They are not holders of the same in good faith and for value, but did procure the same illegally. They recommend that the United States refuse to pay these bonds or their interest without first ascertaining the facts. They think, however, that so many persons hold the first mortgage bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad in good faith and for value that the said mortgage ought not to be set aside. The death of T. J. Spear, of Georgia, was announced, and the customary resolutions of respect were passed.

SAVAGE.—A Pasha of Morocco has been indulging in a little frank of blood-thirstiness that should give him a high rank among the leading murderers of the day. It appears that the beheading of some forty rebels had been ordered, but the Pasha was not satisfied with the death of his enemies. Their heads did not allay his wrath, so he gave orders that the bodies should be pickled and sent to his master, the Sultan. But even this did not suffice to dull the edge of his rage, and he looked about for some yet severer way of adding to the indignities he had already heaped upon the victims. It suddenly struck him as a brilliant idea to make the Jewish butchers of Tangiers perform the pickling part of the business, and by way of adding to their comfort, insisted they should do it on the Jewish Sabbath, under the penalty of death. The poor men were forced to obey. But the Sultan has not condescended to see the humor of the jest, and it is highly probable that the factious Pasha has got himself into a greater pickle than that into which he plunged his victims.

President Grant paid a visit to Baltimore, yesterday, and visited the fair of the Union Orphan Asylum. There was a great crowd present.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

A flood is anticipated in the Alabama river. The Indiana Legislature has passed a prohibitory liquor law.

Prince Napoleon and his wife, Princess Clothilde, have arrived in Milan.

Another murderer is to be hanged at O'Jorne, Ill., on the 14th of March.

A telegram from Calcutta, dated yesterday, states that the encroachments of the Persians on Beloochistan have been checked.

The people of Cuba are represented as being almost unanimously in favor of the new Republic Government in the mother country.

Luizi Luizigiani, the Italian who murdered his wife by stabbing her in the mouth some months since, was yesterday convicted of murder in the first degree at Morristown, New Jersey. A motion for a new trial has been made.

A dispatch from St. Thomas says that the lease of Samana, San Domingo, by an American company has aroused the wrath of Cabral and other revolutionary chiefs, and that a campaign against Baz is contemplated.

The sailors of the United States steamer "Worcester" landed the ship's pumps and put out a disastrous fire in Havana, saving the Governor's palace from destruction, to the great admiration of the Havanaes.

A decree has been passed by one of the North Carolina State Courts ordering the sale of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad to satisfy the claims of the first mortgage bondholders.

In the Prussian Diet yesterday the Minister of Finance reported the surplus since last year to be twenty millions of dollars, and proposed measures for the reduction of the public debt. It is thought in Berlin to be probable that a decree will soon be issued evoking the Reichstag.

General Sikes, U. S. Minister to Spain, has intimated to the new Government that the United States will press no embarrassing questions concerning Cuba. There have been insurrectionary troubles in some of the Provinces, and the status of General Washington was taken down from the facade of the town hall at Barcelona.

A meeting of the River and Harbor Improvement Board of Baltimore was held yesterday, at which Mr. John W. Garrett made an argument in favor of the appropriation by the city of \$200,000 to complete the widening and deepening of the ship channel so as to admit ocean steamships of the largest size to the wharves of Baltimore.

The jury in the famous Jamel will case of Bowen against Chase, in New York city, have rendered a verdict in favor of the defendant, and have added a further verdict that Eliza B. Jamel had no interest in the lands claimed which were descendible to her heirs. The property involved is valued at six million dollars. Chase has now brought suit against Bowen to have him enjoined from bringing additional suits to recover the Jamel estate.

A Personal Discussion.

In the House of Representatives yesterday Mr. Farnsworth was proceeding to denounce the use of the Vanx roofing, and charging improper influences upon the supervisory architect of the Treasury, when

Mr. Platt, of Virginia, asked if he might be allowed to ask a question. Mr. Farnsworth, without appearing to notice the interruption, said it was very fine for gentlemen who were interested in contract and granite rings to appropriate money to be expended in this way.

Mr. Platt—I say, having in view the due responsibility for every word I utter, that if the gentleman insinuates that I am in any way connected with any ring, insinuates what is false, and lies when he makes such a statement.

A demand was made that the words be taken down, and they were written out by the reporter and read by the clerk.

Mr. Platt said he repeated the remarks, and said he had nothing to take back.

The Chairman (Mr. Tyler), of Indiana, ruled that the language was unparliamentary, and must be reported to the House. Mr. Eldridge, of Wisconsin, alluding to a former ruling by Mr. Ingersoll, of Illinois, a former member of the House, asked if the remarks were not "very pungent." [Laughter.] Mr. Farnsworth said he did not refer to the gentleman from Virginia. He was not even aware that he had risen. His shot was aimed at a larger man. [Laughter.] He was surprised to see this gentleman fluster so. He did not aim at that bird, and if he had been hit it was because he was in the line of the shot. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. Platt said he had risen in his seat (which is directly in front of that of Mr. F.), and asked if he would allow him to ask a question, and the remarks seemed to be in reply to that question. If the gentleman had not aimed at him he was like the orange-eyed man who was about to kill a calf, and was told by his assistant that if he was going to strike where he looked he must get some one else to help him. [Laughter.]

A division on the adoption of the amendment was demanded, when the chairman appointed Messrs. Farnsworth and Platt as tellers, creating much merriment, and when the two gentlemen took their position in front of the Speaker's desk with the customary shaking of hands, a roar of laughter burst forth from the floor and galleries, and in the ludicrousness of the scene, the previous belligerent attitude of the gentlemen was lost sight of, and harmony was restored.

LAW.—The following bills and resolutions have become laws since those last reported: In relation to the death of Commodore Matthew F. Maury; to amend the Code in relation to copies of records and papers in public offices as evidence; to amend the Code in relation to the inspection of tobacco; to amend the Code to prevent the destruction of wild fowl in the State; to amend an act to incorporate the Valley Railroad Company; to amend the Code so as the more effectually to require millers to grind for toll all grain brought to their mills for the consumption of the person bringing or sending it, or his family; to authorize the Washington City, Virginia, Midland and Great Southern Railroad Company to acquire and sell lands; to preserve all rights and remedies imperilled or destroyed by the loss or destruction during the late war of papers filed in the various public offices of the Commonwealth; to authorize the Washington City, Virginia, Midland and Great Southern Railroad Company to issue bonds to provide for the payment of the bonds and debts of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad Company, and of the Lynchburg and Danville Railroad Company, and for other purposes; to authorize the Washington City, Virginia, Midland and Great Southern Railroad Company to extend its railway from Alexandria to a point on the Potomac river opposite or near to, or above the cities of Washington or Georgetown; to authorize the trustees to sell Rappahannock Academy, in Caroline county; to amend an act prescribing the times for holding the circuit courts of the State; to incorporate the Manogue Wharf Company, on the Rappahannock river; and to amend acts in relation to the charter of the town of Jonesville.

President Grant paid a visit to Baltimore, yesterday, and visited the fair of the Union Orphan Asylum. There was a great crowd present.

FROM RICHMOND.

LEGISLATIVE.

RICHMOND, Feb. 19.—In the Senate, to-day, bills were introduced to regulate the vote of counties, cities and towns holding shares in the capital stock of railroad or other internal improvement companies; providing for the location and building of a lunatic asylum in Southside Virginia; to amend an act directing the State for county judges; and to repeal the provisions of the insurance deposit law as far as regards foreign companies doing exclusively a marine insurance business.

The bill to regulate and define the jurisdiction of the County and Circuit Courts, &c., was laid on the table.

The bill to secure and provide for paying the railroad debts of counties, townships, cities and towns, was amended and ordered to be engrossed, and made the order for to-morrow.

In the House of Delegates bills were placed upon the calendar to refund tax erroneously assessed on the land of Thomas M. Arnest, of Westmoreland county; to amend the act to regulate the imposition, assessment and collection of taxes, &c.; to incorporate the United States Gold and Silver Amalgamation Company of Virginia; to amend the code as to the maintenance of illegitimate children; to amend the law with reference to commissioners in chancery; and to amend the law regulating the taking of fish for the purpose of manufacturing oil or manure.

Mr. Suttle presented a series of resolutions, passed at a meeting of the citizens of Stafford county, in favor of economy in all branches of public expenditure, and the payment of the State debt, and advocating an increase of taxes for the latter purpose if necessary. Mr. Suttle expressed his concurrence in the resolutions.

Bills were passed to provide for dividing the several counties of this State into townships; to authorize the issue of duplicate land warrants, &c., where the originals have been lost or destroyed; giving the consent of the State for the purchase, by the United States, of land in this State for the erection of light-houses; to incorporate the New York, Norfolk and Charleston Railway Company; memorializing Congress to modify the law imposing a tax on land; and to authorize the formation of the Virginia Mining, Manufacturing and Transportation Company; to protect farmers and others from embezzlement by commission merchants and others, as amended to protect commission merchants from fraud on part of farmers. [Yeas, 58; nays, 38.]

The House bill to authorize the purchase of James S. Barksdale, late sheriff of Adams county, to discharge the judgment against him in favor of the Commonwealth with the bonds of the Commonwealth, failed to receive a constitutional majority.

The bill for the assessment of taxes on persons, property, &c., was passed by a large majority.

Bills were introduced to incorporate the town of Louisa C. H. in Louisa county; to regulate the vote of counties, cities and towns holding shares in capital stock of railroads or other internal improvement companies; to amend the act prescribing the duties and compensation of certain township officers; also petitions of Lloyd G. Harris, R. F. Staton, John Morris and others praying an amendment of the Farmville, Charlottesville and Staunton-vile Narrow Gauge Railroad Company; and of ladies of Mr. Jackson, in Shenandoah county, praying an amendment to the charter of said town.

The consideration of the bill in relation to the interest on money or other thing, was taken up, an amendment pending to alter the second section of the bill so as to provide that where a greater rate of interest is contracted for on money, &c., than six per cent, the lender shall only forfeit the excess of interest beyond the legal rate.

The amendment was rejected by 49 yeas to 57 noes.

Mr. Brooke offered the following to be added to the second section: "Except that where the interest contracted for shall not exceed nine per centum per annum, the said contract shall be deemed for an illegal consideration as to the excess above the principal and legal interest."

Mr. Satchell spoke at length in opposition to the restriction of interest to six per cent; and at the conclusion of his remarks the House adjourned.

RICHMOND, Feb. 20.—In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Herndon, from the committee on courts of justice, presented a report declaring it inexpedient to legislate on the subject of a resolution as to the more effectual protection of land-owners from depredations of persons riding through their farms, pulling down fences, &c.

Mr. Taylor, of Norfolk, from the committee on roads, reported Senate bill to amend the charter of the Petersburg railroad company, with the recommendation that it do not pass. [This bill was laid on the table and made the order of the day for Thursday next.]

The general committee to whom was referred the Governor's message, presented the following as a substitute for the original resolutions: Whereas, the Governor of Virginia has transmitted to the General Assembly his special message, recommending the assumption and payment of the existing debts of all the states by the United States government; therefore,

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia, That it concurs in the said recommendations of the Governor as wise, just, and expedient.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to present copies of these resolutions, together with the message, to the General Assembly of each of the States, and request their concurrence therein, and that our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to give this matter their earnest and careful attention.

These resolutions were made the special order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Thomas, from the committee on finances, presented a report asking to be discharged from the consideration of a resolution to repeal an act prescribing the times for holding the circuit courts, &c.

Bills were introduced to authorize the corporate authorities of Winchester and the supervisors of Frederick county to subscribe to the capital stock of the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Society; to amend an act in relation to the establishment of hospitals by counties and cities; to amend the act prescribing and defining the jurisdiction of the county and corporation courts of the Commonwealth, and the times and places of holding the same; to incorporate the Farmers' Bank of Lynchburg, Virginia; also a resolution inquiring into the expediency of requiring railroad companies to bear an equal burden with the landholder in making and keeping in repair fences on both sides of said road when they traverse enclosures.

The joint resolution in relation to the centennial celebration to be held in Philadelphia in 1876, was referred.

The oyster tax bill, as passed by House, was considered.

In the House of Delegates bills to incorporate the town of Louisa Courthouse, and directing the Board of Public Works to sell the State's interest in the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad company, were reported.

of members of the General Assembly; to authorize certain counties to vote upon the question of effecting certain loans to establish a line of steamboats from landings on the Rappahannock river to Norfolk and Baltimore; joint resolution instructing the second auditor to pay interest on State bonds held by the school trustees of Prince William county; to incorporate the United States lithographic stone company of Virginia; and to incorporate the United States gold and silver amalgamating company of Virginia.

The bill to amend the 1st section of the act to distribute and apportion representation in the General Assembly came up. Mr. Smith moved to dismiss the bill, which was not agreed to.

Mr. Neade moved to amend by inserting "the city of Alexandria shall be entitled to one delegate and the county of Alexandria to one delegate," which was pending when the morning hour expired, and the bill taken over.

The interest bill was then taken up. Mr. Brooks's amendment (referred to above) pending.

Mr. Loveston offered an amendment to allow interest as high as eight per cent., when agreed by the parties to the contract and witnessed in writing, which was rejected.

The bill was further amended and still under consideration when the House adjourned.

The bill authorizing vacation orders in relation to roads and bridges was dismissed.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

In the Senate yesterday the joint resolutions expressing the concurrence of the General Assembly in the recommendation of the Governor as to the assumption of the debts of the States by the Federal government were taken up.

Mr. Penn moved that the resolutions be adopted and made an earnest, eloquent and able speech in support of the views contained in the Governor's message and in advocacy of the passage of his resolutions.

Mr. Quesenberry said that at first he had looked upon the Governor's message with disfavor, but was now inclined to give it his support. He had it to give up the Virginia ideas of the past, but thought they had proved the most advantageous, and would afford to surrender them for \$24,000,000.

Mr. Cochran was willing enough to have the Federal government assume our debt, but was opposed to the proposition to amend the Federal constitution by inhibiting the States from contracting debts, and thereby regulating their internal affairs in the future. That, he thought, would be to place the espouse upon the edifice of federalization.

Mr. Broome favored the resolutions, and believed that if they did no good they would do no harm.

Mr. Herndon declared that the resolutions possessed the extraordinary merit of saving neither one much nor too little; he had long since yielded most of his ideas about State sovereignty, and thought we could go right to the Federal government and ask for the assumption of our debt by it, in consideration of the history of the war and the fact that the Federal government had wiped away nearly all our property.

Mr. Cochran explained that he was not hostile to the proposition to get the United States to assume our debt, but saw the most mischievous results in the proposition to encourage the general government in its march towards centralization.

Mr. Penn argued that that provision was to be inserted in the Federal constitution by the vote of the States and would be the action of the people's representatives.

Mr. Johnson thought this a great question, and the Senate should consider it carefully before giving it their approval. He asserted that our debt, though large and burdensome, was not beyond our capacity to bear, if we were determined.

Mr. Broome spoke again for the resolutions.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said the resolutions involved principle as well as policy, and he moved that they be referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, so that they might be so worded as not to commit us to any ideas of centralization.

Mr. Herndon complimented the zeal of the Governor, but thought his scheme impracticable. He thought, too, it might raise false hopes. He was for carrying out the Funding bill, and believed that much-abused measure was as fair a settlement as Virginia could have obtained under any circumstances. But he would vote for the resolutions if put in a shape to ask Congress to assume our State debt. Virginia had good reason for asking for the assumption of her debt by the United States because of her Federal dismemberment. He would like to have the resolutions referred and put in more acceptable shape.

Mr. Penn moved, as a substitute for Mr. Fitzpatrick's motion, that a special committee be raised to consider the resolutions.

Mr. Fitzpatrick accepted the substitute.

Mr. Nowlin thought the resolutions ought to be referred to one of the standing committees.

Mr. Connelly opposed reference and said he would vote for the resolutions; all that he asked in return was when members were called upon to vote for an appropriation to pay the interest upon the public debt they would not say, "Let's wait to see the result of this scheme."

Mr. Anderson, of Rockbridge, thought the main idea of the scheme of Governor Walker feasible, but wanted to have it separated from the proposition to amend the constitution.

Mr. Penn wrote out his resolution as follows: Resolved, That a special committee consisting of seven be appointed by the chair, to whom shall be referred the special message of the Governor and the resolutions in reference thereto, on the subject of the debt of the States, with instructions to report as soon as practicable.

Mr. Boykin favored the reference of the resolutions. He was willing to vote at any time for a resolution asking Congress to pay our debt, but would like to vote upon the other resolution separately.

Mr. Cochran admitted that State sovereignty was an abstraction; but Virginia had no part in making it so. He had no idea that either the Northern or Western States would give up their right to regulate their own affairs, and thought the proposition to amend the Constitution would only embarrass this scheme.

The resolution was agreed to—yeas 26, noes 5; and the resolutions of Mr. Penn were therefore referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Penn, Quesenberry, Cochran, Fitzpatrick, Pridemore, Nowlin and Greene.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Governor Walker's Message. The message of Governor Walker on an important question with regard to the "State debt," and emanating from a source that has a life in financial resources, is entitled to proper consideration and thought. In fact as far as message, which proposes a general redemption of all the States, is especially applicable to our own, it possesses one desideratum, at least, in proposing a definite and digested scheme by which it is intended we may be relieved of our financial difficulties. This we have no assurance that the Legislature will ever do as long as the disposition to shirk responsibility shall prevail.

The first objection which would naturally be made to the scheme proposed is that it is a "State's Rights" which, though we may have been willing to concede to be a good idea in this government, is not a practical proposition, and to all intents and purposes is a remote future to be hoped for by persons of remote and obsolete views, and with the spirit of manhood suffer all the perfections and imperfections which that power, though it be fully assumed, will impose? It is not that we shall we do? Are there not many instances of the exercise of this power of entrenchment manifested in the enactment and enforcement of reconstruction laws for the different Southern States to a far greater extent than what is exhibited in the relief praying for in this instance? Would this then be carrying the doctrine further than that has already been pronounced? If not, then surely it is not establishing a precedent—but it would be merely coming back to a different source, respecting and endorsing precedents which exist. Here the power has been exercised, without our consent to oppress, we have exercised no veto on the matter—we have never evoked the energies which called for it, or the justice of an encroachment, yet, notwithstanding our remonstrances, it has been done, and every indication that it will continue. This is but one view in which our course in this regard can be considered under the circumstances to be at all rational, and that is that at some future day we may fall back upon our rights, which, though violated, we never acquiesce in, and though forced to endure, we do with a mental reservation, hoping for the day when we might reassert the principles and rights which were never waived. Our course is analogous to what the lawyer would call "serving a point" for the consideration of some superior power or occasion. Now in this case what superior power is there to render the action of the Federal government, or what occasion can we look for with any confidence, when these rights can be reasserted with any assurance that they will be respected by reason of their never having been waived. The present condition of affairs with us, tendency promises none surely. Would it not then be wise under a pressing emergency and need, to avail ourselves of the benefit of the aggression as far as it can be done while we are compelled to suffer its inconveniences and grievances? This is all that is proposed in the message before us. A voluntary acknowledgment of what exists, and cannot be remedied, that we may enjoy its benefits, while forced to endure its evils.

Another objection is urged that it is a denial of liability which our pride will not suffer so plainly arising at the bar of Congress, by mentioning it in our suretyment which has been brought about by no fault of our own, and asking that too which, under the circumstances, had we the power, might justly be demanded. Virginia has not come to this! It is said, but Virginia has well nigh come to a worse, which may be the virtual repudiation of all solemn obligations. It is good enough to be honest rather than to be clothed with that quality which would lead her to solicit that which would preserve her integrity and honor. As to the success that would attend this course, if adopted, it would be difficult to determine, depending, as it does, upon so many contingencies, but the end in question is of sufficient importance to justify the experiment certainly, if it can be called nothing more.

We believe that the last proposition submitted in the message is objectionable in its features, and would be in effect impracticable. It is intended to prevent the States from contracting debts, except such as may be found necessary to the execution of governmental functions, or as may be required by sudden and great emergencies. It is objectionable in that it would give the Federal government a direct and controlling power over all State finances and State policies, which might often have to be legitimately and necessarily exercised. It would be impracticable if the States should be justified in the contracting of debts for the same purposes that they are compelled to incur, if not every occasion upon which it would be necessary to contract a debt, and with the further authority that it recognizes in the Federal government, would justify it in occasionally interfering in State affairs. We do not, however, think that so far as our own State is concerned its actual condition demands so desperate a remedy, but if the question of our interest shall continue to be tampered and trifled with as they have been, it is hard to say how long it may be before we are forced into a situation in which we would gladly except if there are upon any conditions.

Now that the amended Bankrupt act has passed, there is no necessity for undue haste or precipitancy in entering into the bankruptcy courts. Attorneys, agents and official course interested in making large fees and getting control of the property and effects of people contemplating bankruptcy. But it should not be forgotten that a far better compromise can now be effected with the creditor, in most cases, and at a little of the expense, and besides bankruptcy may be gone into, and yet the \$2,000 exemption is liable for debts of a certain class, such as fiduciary obligations, trusts, labor, &c. A consultation with prudent experienced attorneys (not professional agents) to relieve the dear people's soul from such trouble in the future to all parties.

Valley of Virginia, February 20th, 1873.

DEATH OF JUDGE JOHN KENNEY.—Judge John Kenney died at the residence of his son, Judge Jas. Kenney, in Harrisonburg, on the 17th, in the 83d year of his age. Judge Kenney was a man of great worth and one of the purest men we have ever known. His integrity and rigid maintenance of what he believed to be right were proverbial. He was a lover of long and successful practices, up to 1850 when he was elected to the State Constitution Convention. After the adoption of that instrument, he was elected Judge of the Rockingham Circuit Court, and discharged the duties of the position ably and satisfactorily until 1858. He then resumed the practice of his profession, and continued in the faithful and laborious discharge of its duties, until 1861, when he was appointed receiver under the Confederate States government. After the war he remained on his farm in Augusta county, until a few months ago, when he returned to Harrisonburg, and ended his days at the home of his wife, with his eldest son.—Spartan, Virginia.

There is a proposition before Congress to connect the several departments of the government, in Washington, by telegraph.