



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN. SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1.

If the action of the House of Representatives in passing the bill excluding Chinese from the country, and thus abrogating certain express stipulations of the existing treaty with China, be sustained, foreign nations will have little regard for American honor as foreign bondholders of the Virginia State debt will have for the honesty of Virginia if the idea holds good that one legislature can repudiate the obligations incurred by a preceding one. The principle involved is the same in both instances. What is more; if the House bill shall pass the Senate and become a law, it would be no more than might be expected for the Chinese Embassy, now in Washington, and with whom arrangements for changes in the treaty existing between the two countries should be made, to break off all relations with this government and return to their homes, and for the Chinese government to exclude citizens of the United States from the enjoyment of the special privileges they are now reaping from their trade with China. The Secretary of State declares that the treaty with England, containing the objectionable clause relating to the Canadian fisheries, cannot be abrogated before the expiration of the specified time without the consent of both governments, but the House of Representatives, with a coolness only equaled by that of the members of the Virginia General Assembly who are intent upon passing laws impairing the obligation of contracts, has passed a bill abrogating the Chinese treaty without even requesting the government to inform the Chinese embassy that that treaty had become unpopular. International and all other obligations were ignored and set aside by the House of Representatives in the anxiety of its members to secure the vote of California at the next election for the party to which they respectively belong, democrats tying with republicans, as they did in the case of the arrears of pensions bill, in the perpetration of petticious legislation for the sole purpose of making party capital. The fact has long been apparent to clear observers, and is at last becoming generally acknowledged, that the sentiment of the people of the country send to Congress to attend to their interests, utterly disregard those interests and devote their whole time and attention to the prosecution of first, their own individual interests, and next, those of the political party to which they belong. The people in the mean time suffer, but continue to pay them fifty-five dollars and a half a day, besides mileage—the salary they receive for this session. Will it always be so?

Mr. Cockling, in a letter to a colored preacher of New York, thanking him for the interest he took in his recent re-election, says he is "not forgetful" of the sad injustice which the colored race still suffers under a flag which should protect every man of every race in all his rights before the law. As the Senator is a tolerably well informed man he was no less disingenuous when he wrote that sentence than he is now in his opposition to the administration for the insurrection of which he conceived the plan, and his emity to which was only caused by the wounds his pride received in consequence of his influence with it being less than his vanity had led him to believe it would be, for he must be aware that in no section of the country, certainly not in the South, do colored people suffer under "sad" or any other kind of injustice.

The judges of the Appeal Tax Court of Maryland, in their report of 1878, say that "there is such evident injustice in the present inequality of taxation between real and personal property that it is a matter of loud and general complaint, and some measure should be adopted to relieve and satisfy the public." For a nominally free and equal people those of the United States are the most slavish and unequal upon the face of the globe, and in no light is their inequality presented so glaringly as that in which they appear as tax payers. Some worth millions of dollars in high interest bearing stocks and bonds, and was recently made heir in the case of Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, pay no taxes, while others, whose property consists in real estate, pay more than the rents of the same amount to.

The February number of the Southern Historical Papers, Rev. Dr. J. W. Jones editor, has been received from its publishers, in Richmond. Its contents are: Memorial of the Campaign of 1864 in Virginia, by Gen. Wm. F. Perry; Gettysburg; Address of Gen. McLaws before the Georgia Historical Society—Pettigrew's Charge at Gettysburg; A Correction of Dr. McKim's Paper, by Col. J. R. Winston; An Alleged Proclamation of President Lincoln; Official Correspondence of Confederate State Department; the Death of General J. E. B. Stuart, &c.

We have received, through the kindness of the author, a copy of the History of Cumberland, Md., from the time of the Indian town, in 1728, to the present day, embracing an account of Washington's first campaign, and a history of Braddock's expedition, with many handsome engravings, maps, &c. This work, the product of the industry and research of Mr. Will H. Lowdermilk, is not only of interest to the people of Cumberland and its vicinity, but to the general reader everywhere, containing much valuable information as to the early days of this country, and many other very attractive features. The work reflects great credit upon the author. It is very handsomely printed and bound.

Sing Sing Penitentiary. SING SING, N. Y., Feb. 1.—Warden Davis, of the prison, reports that for the month of January the earnings were \$20,921.04; expense \$15,462.84; profit \$5,458.20. The number of convicts at the close of the month was 1,712.

Commander Kell, of the United States Navy, who heroically resisted the people of New Orleans during the yellow fever epidemic in that city, last summer, but who had the temerity to denounce Senator Kellogg for a base attempt to make party capital out of the sufferings the people he misrepresents were then confined to, has, by a court martial convened for that special purpose, been sentenced to dishonorable dismissal. Brave and gallant officers will learn by the experiences of Commander Kell that under a radical administration they must not criticize the notorious actions of fraudulent carpet bag Senators, except at the imminent risk of being ignominiously dismissed from their positions.

Senator H. E. Withers visited the Richmond Tobacco Exchange yesterday, and was cordially received by the members of the Association. Business was suspended and Col. Withers was requested to address the meeting on the subject of the tobacco tax. This he cheerfully consented to do, and said that he thought Congress might pass a bill reducing the tax, and that it might get through before long. His words seemed to encourage the tobaccoists, and the speaker was warmly applauded. But, on the whole, Col. W. was not confident that Congress would do anything with a reduction at all.

THE STATE DEBT QUESTION.

PROBABLE ADJUSTMENT.

[Special to the Alexandria Gazette.] RICHMOND, Feb. 1. The plan of settlement to be submitted to the conference committee to-day by the bondholders will be as follows:—It will be in the form of a bill and will probably provide for funding the principal of the debt in bonds bearing three (3) per cent. interest for a few years, say five, four (4) per cent. interest for the succeeding twenty five (25) years, and five (5) per cent. interest for ten next succeeding years, thus making the bond run for forty years with coupons attached receivable in payment for all public dues and exempt from all State taxation. The accrued interest will be made at fifty cents in the dollar, or will be paid in full in equal yearly installments running through twenty years without interest.

This plan, it is understood, has been prepared by Mr. McCulloch himself and meets with the approval of the other bondholders. It is believed that the proposition will be agreed to by the members of the Finance Committee and the debt settled upon this basis.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, yesterday, bills were introduced to amend the Code in relation to granting divorces, and to provide the times for holding the circuit courts in the third judicial circuit.

The Senate bill to authorize the condemnation of the use of the land now occupied by the Central Lunatic Asylum was passed.

In the House of Delegates bills were reported from committees to amend the Code as amended by the act in relation to the pay of county superintendents of schools; to provide for the disbursement of school moneys in the counties; to amend the Code in relation to the pay of district clerks; and to authorize school trustees to permit unused and unexpended public free school houses to be occupied by teachers other than those employed by school trustees.

Resolutions were introduced calling for information in regard to the oyster and fish culture, the extent of the public domain situated in this culture, the present and possible fish and oyster product of the Virginia tidal waters, and the peculiar advantages of our waters for raising and taking oysters and fish as they conduce to more intelligent legislation on this subject; and to authorize the Governor to appoint three persons commissioners to assess and fix the value of the oyster property, rights, and franchises of the Washington and Potomac Canal Company, with a view to sale thereof to the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad Company.

Bills were introduced and referred to amend the act to revise the criminal law; to amend the act incorporating the town of Fair Church, Fairfax county; and allowing further time to John H. Chichester, treasurer of Fairfax county, to make his returns.

The report of the joint committee on the usurpation of power by the Federal judiciary in Virginia, coming up, Peter J. Carter offered a substitute for the report of the committee, which was read by the clerk, the substance of which is as follows: "That under the Fourteenth amendment all persons are equal before the law, and every man has the right to be tried by a jury of his peers; that notwithstanding this fact the law respecting the summoning of jurors has been since the adoption of the present constitution of this State so administered that persons of African descent have rarely if ever been summoned either as grand or petit jurors; that in consequence negroes have always been indicted and tried by juries composed exclusively of white men; juries drawn from a race which formerly held them in bondage and regarded them as chattels. This administration of the law, so far as it relates to criminal proceedings, has resulted in the following evils:—Where persons are indicted by white grand juries and tried by white petit juries for the same class of offenses, two negroes are convicted to one white man. The tax of imprisonment upon negroes are generally double those imposed upon whites; that in fact of innumerable killings of negroes by whites it is of rare occurrence that whites are ever indicted for such homicides, and no white man has ever been hanged in this State for the killing of a negro, while on the other hand the hanging of negroes for homicides is of monthly occurrence; that these facts demonstrate that citizens of this State and persons within its jurisdiction are practically denied under the laws thereof—so administered and enforced—the equal protection of the laws; that all public acts of Congress, including those known as the civil rights bill and the enforcement act, are the paramount law of the land and ought to be faithfully carried out and enforced until repealed or set aside as unconstitutional by competent authority; and that the action of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia in the case of Leo and Burwell Reynolds, referred to in the report for which this is offered as a substitute, is a matter for the consideration and action of the Attorney General of this State under his oath of office, with which this Legislature has no concern; that the Legislature should in common fairness to a large class of citizens which is grievously oppressed by the present administration of the laws respecting summoning of jurors, enact some law for their relief.

Without a dissent the hour for the special order having arrived, The House took up and further discussed the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad bill.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Miss Ziehl has purchased the farm of Jas. W. Bradford, 79 acres, near Mr. Jackson, for \$120 per acre.

Mr. Elizabeth Cerecheval, of Berryville slipped on the ice last week, and broke one of her legs below the knee.

The dwelling house, a frame structure, of Miss Mary A. Bell, about five miles east of Orange C. H., accidentally caught fire on Monday last, and with almost its entire contents, was destroyed.

Mr. James C. Vasekier, of Loudoun county, had weighed at the scales in Leesburg, on Monday, three grade short hored steers, two years old, that weighed 430 pounds—an average of 1,433 each.

Mrs. R. A. Penick, residing near South Boston, was so badly burned on Thursday morning that death ensued almost instantly. She was alone in her chamber when the accident occurred, but it is supposed she was taken with a spasm and fell into the fire.

A colored man, named Bill Savage, was called to the door of Perry's stable, in the low part of Norfolk, Thursday night, by Geo. Ives, and while talking was shot through the heart and killed. He died before assistance could reach him. Ives escaped arrest.

Governor Holliday in transmitting to Mr. W. W. Corcoran of Washington, a copy of the joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia expressive of their appreciation of his kind regards for and noble benefactions to the State, says: "I need not say with how much pleasure I perform this duty, knowing that the resolutions express the heartfelt sentiments of all the people of this Commonwealth."

It is rumored that the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company has effected an arrangement with the Cumberland Valley railroad company whereby the latter agrees to build at once the link between Shepherdstown, Jefferson county, and Badinotown, Berkeley county, W. Va., a distant about eight miles, necessary to connect the two roads. It is said the agreement is that the link shall be completed by the 15th of March, provided the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company completes the work of laying the rails through Clark county in the same time.

The Louisville (Ky.) almshouse was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. There were 240 persons in the building, mostly invalids and cripples, nearly all of whom escaped. Henry Kepler perished in the flames; James Ridley, an imbecile, was fatally burned; Fred Meyer, in escaping, broke his neck; Thos. Dixon was killed by a fall, Nathan Caldwell was seriously hurt, and Mrs. Johnson was seriously burned and will probably die. The scene at the fire is described as horrible. The building was erected by the city of Louisville in 1874, at a cost of \$175,000.

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BILL DEFEATED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House of Representatives yesterday in committee of the whole had up the bill to pay to the trustees of the Episcopal Theological Seminary, near this city, rent for use and occupation during the war.

Mr. White, of Pa., opposed the bill. It was essentially a war claim, for the payment of which the Government was in no way liable. The passage of this bill would set a dangerous precedent, and would be followed by an avalanche of similar claims against the Government.

Mr. Hunton advocated the bill. The payment of the claim was prohibited by the technical rulings of the law of 1867, but it was because the claim came within the equity of the law that Congress was asked to pass the bill. Alexandria had been in what was called the loyal district of Virginia, which had been represented in the United States Congress throughout the war.

Mr. White inquired if it had not been represented in the Confederate Congress. Mr. Hunton replied that it had not. Not a vote in that district had been cast for a Confederate officer of any description. In no sense of the word had the institution been a sectional one. Most, if not all of its professors, had come from the North, and its students from all parts of the country.

Mr. Cogger opposed the bill. Congress should not pay rent for buildings while the United States was prosecuting them from destruction.

Mr. Potter favored the bill. It was the first principle of government to do justice, and to do justice about war claims as about peace claims, the settled and necessary rule was that the Government was not liable for property destroyed in the enemy's country by operation of war. This country had made an exception to that rule, and given the loyal citizen in the South a right to payment for property destroyed. That right had expired by limitation, and he was opposed to renewing that right. The time had gone by for the payment of those loyal claims, and it would be a mistake to again open the doors of the Treasury for their payment. But this was not a war claim, and not subject to the objection that it was for property destroyed in the enemy's country. The property lay within the defenses of Washington city, not in the extraordinary territory at all. It lay in territory excluded by proclamation of President Lincoln.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Episcopal Council at New Orleans, La., has decided, by the vote of both the clergy and laity, to select the Right Rev. J. H. Wingfield, missionary bishop of Northern California, to occupy the vacant seat vacated by the death of Bishop Wilmer.

The House bill repealing the charter of the Louisiana Lottery Company has passed the Louisiana Senate by a vote of 19 to 17, with an amendment that the law shall take effect only after March 31, 1879. The Lottery Company will appeal to the courts.

So incensed have some members of the Brooklyn Presbytery become over Rev. Dr. Talnage's style of preaching, his alleged denunciations from the pulpit, and the resolutions recently made in the trial of Wm. G. Nelson against the Brooklyn Presbytery, that the matter will be freely discussed, and some definite action taken by the presbytery at its meeting to be held on Monday next.

Judge Woodhull, of the Camden, N. J., Court, having refused to accept a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree in the case of Thomas Graham, indicted with Benjamin Hunter for the murder of John M. Armstrong, Attorney General Stockton has applied for a writ of removal, which will be granted, and the case will be tried in the Supreme Court in case at Trenton, on the fourth Tuesday in February.

Mr. Columbus Alexander appeared before the grand jury at Washington city, yesterday, for the purpose of having Hon. Egan Houston, of Virginia, indicted for sending him a challenge to fight a duel last summer. Mr. Alexander was examined at some length, and, showing his evidence, gave the names of a number of witnesses, who will probably appear on Monday, the grand jury adjourning to that day.

Latest Foreign News.

ATHENS, Feb. 1.—King George has formally thanked the French Minister on behalf of himself and the Greek nation for the efforts of France in favor of Greece.

ROME, February 1.—The Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday discussed the estimates for foreign affairs.

Signor Depretis, president of the Council, announced that in order to facilitate the Italian expedition to Central Africa a diplomatic agent would be sent to Shoa in Abyssinia, and a Consulate established at Zula, a sea port town of Adel, near the frontier of Abyssinia.

Signor Visconti Venosta, referring to the British occupation of Cyprus, declared that it would prejudice Italy's commercial relations with England. He condemned the Italian agents' agitation and urged the government to re-establish and maintain good relations with Austria.

ST. PAUL, February 1.—Ex President Grant and party sailed to-day for Bombay.

EDINBURGH, Feb. 1.—The High Court of Justice to-day passed sentence upon the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank. Robert Sumner Simpson and Lewis Porter, convicted of fraud, theft and embezzlement, were sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment. The five other directors, John Stewart, Robert Skiddum, William Taylor, Henry Lewis and John Louis Wright, convicted of receiving stolen goods, were sentenced to six months imprisonment.

LONDON, Feb. 1.—A dispatch from Edinburgh, published in the morning edition of the Standard, says: The students imposed upon the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank created considerable surprise on account of their leniency. Lord Justice Mansfield, the presiding justice, in passing the judgment of the court said they considered the circumstances that the prisoners had not falsified the accounts for their own personal benefit but in the mistaken belief that it was for the public good.

THE ARLINGTON CASE.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American (B.A.) says: "It is the general opinion among lawyers familiar with the subject that the Arlington judgment suit, which the United States District Court has just decided in favor of the Lee family, will be decided by the United States Supreme Court, to which it has been appealed, in favor of the plaintiffs. The judgment of the lower court restores the estate to General Lee, and calls for the payment of all taxes which have been in possession since the transfer of the land in 1862 to the Lee family. The Lee family has a tenant of the National Cemetery, the fifteen thousand bodies of dead Union soldiers rest there, and the government signal office and station at Fort Myrtle. This decision undoubtedly will give encouragement to the managers of the Lee estate, which they have been endeavoring to purchase the property. It is just to General Lee to say that he has no desire to disturb the patriot dead or to regain possession of that part of Arlington Cemetery proper, which is but a trifling portion of the whole estate. General Lee has only wished to establish his property rights to the lands in question, and is quite willing to surrender that portion of the estate or the whole of it to the government at a fair valuation. This decision shows that the courts have been unwilling to sustain one of the most arbitrary and oppressive acts of the War Department, Secretary Stanton. It is certain that he declined to receive the tender of taxes, made prior to the sale, by Northern relatives of General Lee, on the ground that General Robert E. Lee was a rebel and no relatives should be permitted to redeem property. Secretary Stanton and others had no authority to do this, and it is practically upon that act alone that the whole case turned."

THE TORNAO IN MISSISSIPPI.—A dispatch from Iuka, Miss., says that at seven o'clock on Tuesday evening the place was visited by a terrible storm. It came from the southwest and took a northeast course, striking the southeast portion of the town, on a hill mostly occupied by colored people, instantly killing one colored woman and her child and four other colored children, two of whom were not found until Wednesday morning. The children of one being carried from the house. Eight other colored persons were wounded, one of whom died on Wednesday morning. The others who were wounded are doing well, though one had his thigh broken and another his arm. Four houses were blown down and one church. A wagon was carried about a mile and embedded in the ground. The tornado lasted but a few minutes and its track was not over two hundred yards in width. It swept everything before it. Its course was toward the Mississippi river, where it struck Newport, badly damaging that town and breaking a cotton gin, and one church. The houses blown away were found two miles distant.

Tennessee Finances. NASHVILLE, Jan. 30.—Information was received here late to-night that arrangements are being made by a combination of the holders of the funded coupons of Tennessee bonds, amounting to \$5,000,000, to bring a suit against this State, which will be almost as vital and important as the suit recently instituted against the railroads. It is held by many eminent lawyers that one State cannot sue another. It is now proposed to put this question to a test. A company of \$100,000 in funded coupon bonds will be made to a certain Southern State for the benefit of her charitable institutions. It is understood that proceedings will then be instituted by which that State will bring suit against Tennessee for the amount of these funded coupons held for such institutions. The question is regarded as one of the greatest possible interest in connection with the present status of the Tennessee debt.

THE STATE DEBT CONFERENCE.

RICHMOND, Va., February 1, 1879. The sub-committee of the Joint Committee on Finance, of the Legislature, charged with the duty of conferring with the representatives of the bondholders, met at the Exchange Hotel last night.

Mr. McCulloch made a statement of his conference with the debt, in which he seemed to recognize the impracticability of securing an increase of taxation. His opinion was that as the State is now paying out about \$1,200,000 per annum by means of coupons, and as only about \$500,000 of that amount actually reaches the bondholders, some arrangement should be made to procure for bondholders, who now receive nothing, the difference between the sums named, and to add to that whatever may be realized from new subjects of taxation available. If, however, as he understood from the remarks made at the previous meeting, the Legislature had determined not to pay more than three per cent, he would say that in his judgment that sort of a settlement would not be so equitable to those whom he represented, and if that was the best that could be done, he begged very respectfully to say candidly he considered it unnecessary that he should remain here any longer.

Mr. Barbour said that he had given it as his individual opinion that 3 per cent. was the highest amount of interest that he could safely promise to pay; but he did not mean to lay down an ultimatum for the Legislature, but did mean to say that under no circumstances would the Legislature agree to a rate of interest that would occasion any increase of the present rate of taxation. Mr. Brock thought that 3 per cent. was all he could safely promise to pay. Virginia wants to make a settlement that will be a finality. There are a few members who would probably vote for a small increase of taxation, but the majority would not think of it. Then it must be remembered that we are to have a re-assessment of lands, when we may expect a reduction of taxable values. If we could pay a little more than 3 per cent. now, we could get reassessment. He impressed upon the financiers the fact that the people are desirous of making a permanent and lasting settlement.

Mr. B. inquired if his friends could not frame a scheme of compromise on a graded scale of interest, commencing at 3 per cent.

Mr. Ward inquired if in talking about three (3) per cent. it meant 3 per cent. on all classes of the bonds.

Mr. Havie said he is plainly understood that he never would consent to any agreement which did not put creditors and consuls on an equal footing.

Mr. Key said his position in New York caused him to know that the interests of this State were injured by delaying this question, and after hearing the statements of the gentlemen representing the State about its condition, he had suggested the funding of the debt in new bonds, to run 45 years and bearing 3 per cent. interest for 15 years, 4 per cent. for 15 years, and 5 per cent. for the remaining years, but would be equal to 4 per cent. in the aggregate.

Mr. Fulkerson said that he did not suppose the creditors of the State would ask or accept any readjustment of the debt that could not be demanded with the people; that the security these bondholders claimed in the coupon was wholly unreliable, because the Legislature could make no contract binding the future revenues of the State or of any other character, beyond the control of the people in their sovereign capacity; that the Legislature could, if it saw proper to do so, in twenty-four hours, render this security utterly worthless. That if the creditors would make a proposition that the people could endorse, that he would feel it his duty to carry it out religiously.

Mr. Modest explained the situation, and stated that there were a great many past due coupons which might come upon us at any time and any arrangement we might make for the present rate of interest, we must take into consideration the possibility that a great deal of our revenues might be absorbed by these coupons. He contended that the main object of the graded scale of interest suggested by Mr. Brock.

Mr. Brooke stated it might be that after hearing the views of the different members of the Legislature present in the conference, the representatives of the creditors present might be willing to make out and suggest a plan for an adjustment.

After further conference, and at the request of the sub-committee, Messrs. McCulloch and Isaac H. Curlington—the latter agent for the Council of Perpetual Bondholders—agreed to prepare such a plan as they thought proper, and to call a meeting of the bondholders to view the occurrence of the General Assembly.

Benjamin Hunter. This individual, who was recently murdered at Camden, N. J., (I wish I could call it by a better name,) because he had murdered another man, has cast a gloom all over the country where he was known. I have known him, and of him, for many years, and he was noted for his philanthropy and benevolence, and brought up as he was, and family connected as he was, and the life he had lived up to that time, he could not have conceived and carried out that murder he was charged with, had he not had some aberration of mind; and to judicially murder him under the circumstances is terrible to contemplate. I repeat that he was benevolent and kind to an extreme. Up to the very time he was charged with the crime he committed, whenever any of his relatives needed any assistance he was ready to give it unasked, and to very considerable amounts, hundreds of dollars. One of his relatives he sent to a boarding school for a whole year, and would have continued to had the money been willing to receive it. His regard for the condition of his mind and about the time of the murder, it must have been unobscured, and I am surprised that his counsel did not make that plea of partial aberration of mind. He was here and attended our Farmers' Club a few days previous to the murder of Armstrong, and made a speech, which was incoherent and irrelevant, and every one that heard it wondered what it meant. He had two near relatives who have been inmates of an insane asylum—not many years since. Every one acquainted with the character of the insane knows that their best friends are the most obnoxious to them. Is it not time this relic of barbarism, the death penalty, was discontinued in a perfectly Christian community—a relic of the olden time? "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy, but I say unto you, Love your enemies. Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you, that they may be the children of your Father, who is in heaven. For he maketh the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?" Is it not high time now to act Christian, as well as profess it, and place all our unfortunates where they have the opportunity to reform, or discharge, if afterwards found innocent, instead of destroying the men. Ages there is devastation of the innocent suffering, instead of the guilty. For innocent? A pedlar once entered a house and found a murdered man with the weapon, a knife, round a thrush and stuck in the back bone. The pedlar withdrew the knife and cared for the man, while the murderer gave the alarm. The pedlar was arrested, condemned and executed, and the murderer went free and afterwards confessed his guilt. How much better, therefore, to be on the safe side, and not take the life of any one. C. GILLINGHAM.

The Controversy Between Mr. Conkling and the Administration.

The proceedings in the executive session of the Senate yesterday were commenced by the reading from the clerk's desk of the message of President Hayes and the accompanying letter of Secretary Sherman. The reading of these documents and of a supplemental communication, including a statement from a Mr. Farmer, who alleges that he was declared by Collector Arthur because he had testified before the Jay commission to the existence of certain irregularities in the New York custom house, consumed an hour or more.

After calling attention to Secretary Sherman's letter, Mr. Hayes says: "The custom house in New York collects more than two thirds of all the customs revenues of the government. Its administration is a matter not of local interest merely, but is of great importance to the people of the whole country. For a long period of time it has been used to manage and control political affairs. The officers suspended by me are, and for several years have been, engaged in the private personal management of the party politics of the city and State of New York. The duties of the office held by them have been recorded as of subordinate importance to their partisan work. Their offices have been conducted as part of the political machinery, under the control of a partisan political management."

Mr. Sherman begins his letter with a complaint that his request to Mr. Conkling, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, for a copy of Arthur's letter, was not noticed, and he adds that he does not believe it was communicated to the committee. He declares that all his objections against Arthur and Cornell in his first letter are re-stated in the clearest proof, and that he will reply them if the Senate will give him an opportunity. He admits that he could not prove his case against Arthur in a court of justice, but adds: "But, if it is to be held that, to procure the removal of Mr. Arthur, it is sufficient to establish that he has been guilty of administrative malfeasance, and increased duties, his incontinency; that many persons have been regularly put on his bills who rendered no or no service; that the expenses of his office have increased, while collections have been diminishing; that bribes, or gratuities of the nature of bribes, have been received by his subordinates in several branches of the custom house; that efforts to correct these abuses have not met his approval, and that he has not given to the duties of his office the requisite vigilance and attention, then it is submitted that the case is made out. This form of proof the department is prepared to submit."

Mr. Conkling said that, although perhaps another Senator told as great an interest as he in the vindication of the public accounts, he never has done so, and he does not consider it necessary to ask that an opportunity be given to Messrs. Arthur and Cornell to answer the extraordinary communications which had been presented to the Senate. They contained, with two exceptions, nothing new.

In regard to the Farmer letter, he said that Arthur could readily prove that Farmer's dismissal was not the result of political malfeasance, but merely an incident of a reorganization of the clerical force. But he did not think there was any need of delaying action upon the pending nominations in order to afford an opportunity for the answer to be made.

Mr. Conkling next next next to the Senate recently five members of the New York Legislature returned to the capital signed by their colleagues the United States Senate to confirm the nominations of Messrs. Merritt, Bart, and Graham for collector, naval officer and surveyor of the port of New York.

The students of the telegrams individually inform Mr. Conkling that they signed the memorial upon the strength of private representations that it was his, Conkling's, desire to leave such a memorial signed and forwarded, as a means of enabling him to withdraw from the contest without discredit, or, as some of them phrased it, to "let him down easily."

One telegram read to the Senate was from ex-Congressman Thomas Murphy, stating that such a memorial was in circulation, and that if Mr. Conkling desired, he, Murphy, could get signatures for it. Mr. Conkling said he answered this, expressing surprise and indignation, and informing Murphy, that he had never thought of such a thing. This answer seemed to have called forth the telegrams from members of the Legislature above referred to.

Senator Conkling, continuing his remarks, denounced this attempt to induce him to sign a memorial in plain language. He said the whole thing was a trick—not the work of an amateur, nor the result of an accident, but a well devised though nefarious scheme, which he believed had its origin in this city. He intimated also that he possessed positive information that ten men started from Washington with his relations to undermine him in this way, and that they had confidentially divulged their secret purpose in New York city. He closed with an expression of opinion that the Senate should proceed to consider and act upon the pending nominations without further postponement.

Senator Matthews then offered a resolution providing first that the message and accompanying documents should be printed and laid on the table, and that further consideration of the nominations should be postponed until Monday.

The first branch of the resolution was agreed to without a division of the Senate, but the proposition for postponement gave rise to extended discussion. Messrs. Matthews, Thurman and Bayard advocated it on the ground that if the communications were worth anything at all they should be examined and read in printed form, as it was impossible to understand them or compare the charges with the replies or the replies with the rejoinders in any other way. Messrs. Eaton, Davis, of Illinois, and Corbush favored immediate action. They argued that the Senate had read the charges and the replies, and that, in connection with the papers which had been read in their hearing, furnished all the information requisite. Mr. Eaton also expressed his opinion that the charges against Arthur and Cornell had been conclusively answered, and that the papers read contained absolutely nothing worth reading.

Mr. Blaine briefly opposed postponement on the ground that the appropriation bills and other public business were in pressing need of attention, and that the Senate should economize the short remainder of the session.

A vote of yeas and nays was then taken upon Mr. Matthews' resolution, and resulted in its adoption—yeas, 35; nays, 25. The affirmative votes were cast almost by Democrats, and the negative votes by Republicans. Messrs. Matthews, Hunt, Dawes, Burnside, Windom, Washburn, Mitchell and Ferry, however, voted in favor of postponement, and Messrs. Eaton, Barsum, Voorhees, Davis, of Illinois, and McPherson were recorded in the negative.

This vote does not absolutely foreclose favorable action upon the nominations, for several Senators who voted for the postponement are definitely known to be opposed to them, but the advocates of confirmation have been greatly encouraged by it, and confidently expect success in the final vote on Monday.

New York, Feb. 1.—In the case of Sherman and Golding against the Union Steamship Company for over \$200,000 damages for the destruction of a cargo of wool which the plaintiffs were shipping to England by one of the defendants' steamers, the jury this morning in the Supreme Court returned a verdict of \$3,514 93 for the plaintiffs.

A reduction in the rate of discount from four to three per cent, by the Bank of England has improved the London stock market by increasing the disposition to buy.

The name and name of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup are known throughout the land and every where it is relied upon as the specific for coughs and colds.