National Republican.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:
TUESDAY, - - DEC. 9, 1862.

☞ The Office of the National Republican is at 511 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania avenue and D street, (Up Stairs.)

THE POSITION.

On Friday two iron-clads and seven transports sailed from Hampton Roads for the South with sealed orders. A division commanded by Gen. Emory was on board the transports. The division consists of three New York regiments, a Pennsylvania regiment, and a Massachusetts regiment, containing altogether more than four thousand men. Some of the correspondents at Fortress Monroe say that this force has gone to reinforce Gen. Foster in North Carolina, but it is not readily seen why the transports need have been accompanied by iron-clads, if such is really their destination. It had been previously supposed at Fortress Monroe, that this force under Gen. Emory was to form a part of General Banks' expedition.

The wiseacres who would have it that Gen. Banks was going to James river, begin to doubt whether that extraordinary piece of strategy, with the anticipation of which they have been amusing themselves, is likely to be attempted. Nothing, indeed, could be more absurd than to suppose that the military authorities here, who, not long ago, withdrew Gen. McClellan from the James river, would now stultify themselves by sending Gen. Banks there.

That pet scheme of the semi-secessionists of the North, the concentration of our whole military power upon the capture of the worthless town of Richmond, is foiled. The Administration is too wise to listen to such suggestions of folly and treachery. Blows are to be struck upon the further South, where the rebellion is most vulnerable. That point is settled by the sailing of Gen. Banks' force south of the capes of the Chesapeake. Precisely where he will strike, will be known in due time; but our faith is strong that he will strike at the right place and strike heavily. Anywhere rather than at Richmond!

From the Southwest we have news of the success of the expedition from St. Helena under Gen. Hovey, in crossing to the left bank of the Mississippi and capturing Grenada, after compelling its precipitate evacuation by the enemy, and the destruction by them of large quantities of stores and of many locomotives and railroad cars. Grenada is in the line of the retreat of the rebel forces which are retiring before Gen. Grant, and its capture must compel them to take some other route. It is not to be doubted that this expedition of Gen. Hovey, which comes so opportunely in aid of the operations of Gen. Grant, was arranged in concert with him.

At St. Louis, the prevailing speculation is, that Gen. Grant will now strike off southeasterly towards Mobile, leaving the capture of Vicksburg to the expedition of Gen. McClernand, now about ready to start down the Mississippi.

From Nashville we have a dispatch, under date of the 7th instant, announcing a sharp engagement with guerillas in that vicinity, in which one of our brigades under Col. Morris was captured. The number of men in the brigade is not stated, and may have been small, as many of our brigades are reduced below the proper proportions of regiments. To offset this disaster, we have reported a handsome repulse of the guerillas who ventured an attack upon Gen. Frye, at Gallatin.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.

To-day, the question of admitting Western Virginia as a sovereign State into this Union, comes up in the House of Representatives. We can but hope for the complete triumph of freedom in the recognition of this struggling people for States rights.

It should be enough to satisfy every Republican member, whatever may be his notions of dividing States, that such men as Vallandingham go against the proposition. They would forever tie this people to the car of human slavery, as they would every free State of this Union. Go not with the men who would keep this true and loyal people tied to the Letcher government and to the bastard confederacy of Jeff. Davis.

Let every member of the House, who would now do a good work for liberty, give his vote and his influence in behalf of this measure.

There is one view of this question which we desire to present briefly. Should the Southern Confederacy succeed, which by the way we do not admit as a contingency likely to happen, though it is among the possibilities of the future, then it will be infinitely better that this people should stand as an independent State in the Northern Union, than that its territory and its people should be chained to the dead carcass of Eastern Virginia, which, in such an event, will go with the Confederacy, dragging down to perdition Western Virginia with them.

Let the members of the House contemplate every possible advantage and disadvantage, and then let them act for freedom, confident that the admission of this people is what freedom and justice require at their hands.

MASSACHUSETTS RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—This association held a large and spirited meeting at Willard Hall last evening. Our reporter furnishes us with the speeches of Senators Sumner and Wilson, Hon. Mr. Eliott and others, in full, but the crowded state of our columns prevents our giving them in to-day's issue. They will appear in our next paper, with a full account of the meeting.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. MCCLELLAN.—We understand that Gen. McClellan arrived last night, but we cannot state the fact positively, though we have little doubt of it, as he left New York on Sunday afternoon in the 5 o'clock train.

Mrs. McClellan will remain at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, until the return of her husband.

THE CONVALESCENT CAMP.—The *Star* of last evening says that "If a change is necessary, there are houses enough to be had in Alexandria to accommodate the whole camp." Certainly, a change is necessary, and, at least, all the convalescents ought to be put into houses, whatever is done with the stragglers. In fact, the military are already transfering some of the convalescents to houses.

A NEW WORK ON "THE RESULTS OF EMANCIPATION" is advertised in another column. It has attracted great attention in France, and now appears in a translation in this country. It can hardly fail to be received with interest at this time, when the important question which it discusses, occupies so large a place in the mind of the public.

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF COLORADO.—David H. Moffat, Jr., has been appointed Adjutant General of the Territory of Colorado.

COURT-MARTIAL OF GEN. PORTER.

MONDAY, December 8, 1862.

The court met at 11 o'clock.

The accused stated that since the adjournment on Saturday, when it was announced that they had concluded the examination of General Pope, several questions had occurred to them which they would ask the privilege of propounding to the witness. Permission being granted, various questions were put, but nothing of particular interest was elicited. We will, however, present a few of the points:

In the opinion of the witness, if Longstreet had left Gainesville at 1 o'clock, p. m., he would have had ample time to arrive on Jackson's right (who was 5 or 6 miles east of Gainesville), by 4½ o'clock, p. m., the time at which Gen. Porter was ordered to move. Jackson's strength at this time was estimated at 25,000. Witness saw the accused on the morning of the 27th, and of the 28th, when he arrived at Bristow station, but did not again see him until the morning of the 30th, when he arrived upon the battle-field. The joint order to Gens. McD. and P., given on the morning of the 29th of August, was designed not to place the one in subordination to the other but to have them operate independently, and each one in subordination to the witness. As far as the witness is aware, Gen. P. did not engage the enemy on the 29th of August. Whilst going from Warrenton Junction to Bristow station, on the morning of the 27th, he met altogether upwards of 1,500 stragglers, mostly from Hooker's division. They were in bodies of forty, fifty, and sometimes a hundred. The strength of witness's whole command on the 29th of August, independent of McD.'s and P.'s was about 25,000 men. McD.'s corps numbered, he thought, about 12,000 men. Longstreet's force was about this time estimated to be from 16 to 20,000 men.

Capt. Drake DeKay, late of Gen. Pope's staff, was next examined.

He was the officer who on the night of the 27th bore the written order from Gen. Pope to Gen. Porter, directing him to move at 1 o'clock a. m., on the morning of the 28th, up to Bristow station. He arrived at Gen. P.'s headquarters about half past 9 o'clock. He found Gen. P. in his tent in company with Gens. Sykes and Morrell. Gen. Butterfield was also there he thinks.

As soon as Gen. P. read the order he handed it to one of his generals with the remark, "Gentlemen, here is something for you to sleep upon." Witness told Gen. Porter that the last direction he received from Gen. Pope was to remain with the accused, for the purpose of guiding the column to Bristow's station. General Pope relied upon Gen. Porter being there by daylight. About 11 o'clock, receiving the impression that Gen. Porter did not intend to move until daylight, witness laid down, and took a nap. Gen. Porter stated, on reading the order, that his troops had just got into camp after a long march, and he thought they would be good for nothing in the morning if they started at the time mentioned in the order. Gen. Porter started with his command about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 28th, and marched at a moderate rate, (such as troops usually march when there is no great necessity for haste,) and arrived at Bristow station about 10 o'clock. No obstruction was met with other than that arising from the wagons, which was but slight. Gen. Porter, together with the members of his staff, used great exertions at several points on the road in removing the wagons, that the progress of the troops might be accelerated.

At half past two o'clock the court adjourned until this morning at 11 o'clock.

THE McDOWELL COURT OF INQUIRY.

MONDAY, December 8, 1862.

Mr. Peleg Clark, of Fredericksburg, was examined.

His testimony was to show that General McDowell, when in command at Fredericksburg, let off a man named Little, a lawyer there, who had been passing to and fro, on horseback, within the Union lines, playing the part of a spy for the rebels.

Without concluding the examination of this witness the court adjourned until this morning at 11 o'clock.

THE MAIN QUESTION.—It is believed that the joint resolution, introduced in the Senate by Mr. Clark, approving the President's proclamation of Sept. 22, will pass both branches of Congress by decisive majorities as soon as the delays of debate and parliamentary tactics can be overcome. Not only is it felt to be due to the President that he should have legislative support in this most important measure, but Senators and Representatives are also animated by a laudable desire to identify themselves with a policy the success of which is so clearly foreshadowed by events. As the first day of January approaches it is more and more apparent that the proclamation will utterly crush the rebellion.

NAVAL.—The Navy Department has received information from Rear Admiral Lee, commanding the North Atlantic blockading squadron, of several important captures off Wilmington, North Carolina, and the adjoining coast—all vessels from Nassau, loaded with assorted and contraband cargoes, and bound with the intention of violating the blockade, as written statements from the masters of different schooners certified.

Rear Admiral Lee says that twenty vessels have been captured by the blockading force off Wilmington and the neighboring coast, since September 1, including one steamer, two barks, two brigs, and fifteen schooners. Most of these were sent North as prizes.

THE NATIONAL HOTEL.—This established and favorite house has just been thoroughly renovated by paint, and in great part refurnished. The new furniture in the ladies' parlors is of solid rosewood and of the most rich and costly descriptions. It was purchased from the same parties in New York, who filled the last order for refurnishing the President's House. The present managers of the National evidently mean to keep up with the times, and we are glad to hear that their large patronage enables them to do so. The house has been under their administration for now five years, and was never better kept, or more successful.

Washington's Will.

FAIRFAX C. H., VA., Dec. 5, 1862.

EDITOR REPUBLICAN: A statement appeared in your paper to-day that Washington's will was some time since stolen from the office here, and has been sold to the British Museum.

I am assured by a gentleman here, in whose statement I have entire confidence, that so far from such being the fact, the will in question is safe in Culpeper county, Va. It was removed by the former clerk of the court, Mr. Alfred Moss, in whose possession he saw it in May last; and subsequently, in September, he saw Mr. Moss, and was assured by him that it was still safe.

Although my informant does not feel at liberty to divulge its exact locality, for obvious reasons, there need be no uneasiness about its safety; but that when peace shall reunite our country, and afford security, this interesting relic of our country's father will be restored to its proper resting place in this county, the home of Washington.

Yours, truly,

JOB HAWXHURST.

We are glad to know that the will of General Washington is still safe, and that it will be preserved to the country.—[ED. REPUB.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS,
Second Session.

MONDAY, December 8, 1862.

SENATE.

Messrs. FOSTER, SUMNER, DIXON, LATHAM, FESSENDEN, GRIMES and KING severally presented petitions in favor of a general bankrupt act.

Mr. WRIGHT presented a memorial of Gov. Morton, of Indiana, praying for an increase in the pay of the common soldiers. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. HALE presented a petition protesting against the action of the advisory board of the navy. He also gave notice that he should introduce a bill to abolish the grade of medical officers in the navy.

Mr. NESMITH offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of War to report to the Senate the number and rank of aids-de-camp appointed under the act of August, 1861, and also the number and rank of those appointed, drawing pay and not in active service.

He said, according to his estimate, there were about 50 colonels, 34 lieutenant colonels, 221 captains; and there were, drawing pay and not in active service, about 20 colonels, 5 lieutenant colonels, 10 majors and 50 captains, drawing an aggregate pay of $13,230 per month and $158,760 per annum. The country was full of them. He knew one colonel, practising law; another, running a saw mill; another, keeping a lager beer shop; and many others campaigning about the hotels and drawing money from the Treasury. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of War to report to the Senate the number of major generals and brigadier generals now in the service of the United States, and where and how they are employed. Adopted.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the more effectual suppression of the rebellion and securing tranquility in the State of Missouri. Adopted.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution, that the call upon the Secretary of War for correspondence, &c., relating to the Army of the Potomac be extended, so as to embrace all such operations since the first movement of that army. Adopted.

Mr. McDOUGALL offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of War to inform the Senate whether any congressional district of the United States has more than two midshipmen in the Naval Academy; if so, by what authority or what law they were thus appointed. Adopted.

Mr. FOSTER offered a joint resolution to pay to the widow of the late John R. Thompson the amount due to him as a Senator.

Mr. LATHAM introduced a bill to provide for the development of the mineral resources of the United States and the public domain. Referred.

Mr. SAULSBURY called up the resolution relating to the arrest of certain citizens in Delaware.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, objected to the resolution. He said there might have been some mistakes in these arrests, but there were many more men who ought to have been arrested than who really have.

Mr. BAYARD thought this Government was especially valuable from its protection to the citizen. In no other free government was the citizen liable to arrest at the discretion of any and every officer. He urged the adoption of the resolution at some length.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said he understood that in all these cases of arrest the offer of liberty had been made, if the persons arrested would take the oath of allegiance, but they had refused. There had been complaint that the Government had been too lenient, and that many who had been simply imprisoned had not been hung or shot. He would like the resolution to lay over.

Mr. SAULSBURY said he had referred to these two persons, because he never heard of any charge against them. They were arrested in a loyal State and for no offence whatever. Peaceable citizens in Delaware and Maryland had been arrested and dragged from their homes, and he thought they had at least a right to inquire into the matter. There was no disposition to oppose the Government at all.

After further discussion, the Chair announced the special order to be the bankrupt act, which was informally laid aside.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill concerning judgments in certain suits brought by the United States, which was amended and passed.

Mr. DAVIS offered a joint resolution proposing certain amendments to the Constitution, to alter the mode of electing President and Vice President:

That the President and Vice President be elected in the following manner: Each State may, within thirty days next before the time appointed for the election of President, in any mode adopted by the State, nominate to Congress one candidate, and on the first Monday of February, next before the expiration of each Presidential term, the two Houses of Congress shall meet together, as a convention, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and all the candidates nominated by the States, within the preceding thirty days, not exceeding one from each State, whose nominations shall have been authenticated to Congress, shall be before said convention as candidates for the Presidency; and, thereupon, said convention shall proceed, under the supervision of the presiding officers of the two Houses, to vote by open ballot from among said candidates for President, and when any one shall have received a number of votes equal to all the members elected and appointed by both Houses of Congress, he shall be declared by the President of the Senate to be elected President of the United States.

In all cases where the balloting shall have continued in this mode through five days and no election shall have been effected, on the sixth day it shall be resumed, and after each ballot the officers presiding shall drop the candidate who has received the smallest number of votes, or two or more candidates who have received an equal number of votes and less than all the others; and the balloting shall be so continued among the remaining candidates until one shall receive the majority aforesaid, and thereupon the President of the Senate shall announce him to be elected President of the United States. The convention shall then proceed in the same manner from the remaining candidates to elect a Vice President of the United States. Whenever it may occur in the voting for President or Vice President, that all the candidates but two had been dropped, the balloting between them may, if necessary to make an election, continue two days longer, and if then no candidate shall have received the required number of votes, the officers presiding over the convention shall report the state of fact to the Supreme Court of the United States, and it shall thereupon pronounce which of the two candidates shall fill the office.

Ordered to be printed.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication, from the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to a resolution calling for the amounts paid for the prosecution and litigation of land titles in California.

Mr. ANTHONY offered a joint resolution increasing the bonds of the Superintendent of Public Printing to $40,000.

The bankrupt bill was then taken up, and read at length, and, on motion of Mr. Foster, postponed till Thursday, the 18th, and made the special order for that day.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, the Senate went into executive session, after which it Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER announced the select committee appointed by him to investigate the charges against Hon. Jas. M. Ashley, as follows: Harrison G. Blake, Ohio; J. P. C. Shanks, Ind.; J. W. Noell, Mo.; S. L. Casey, Ky.; Edw. Haight, N. Y.

Messrs. COLFAX and BINGHAM were originally named on the Committee, but on application to the House, were excused.

Vacancies on standing committees were filled by the Speaker as follows:

Mr. McPherson, of Pa., vice Mr. Blair, of Mo.; Mr. Yeaman, of Ky., vice Mr. Jackson deceased, on the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. J. A. D. Fessenden, of Me., and Mr. Walker, of Mass., were appointed to fill vacancies on the Committee on Private Land Claims.

On the call of States for resolutions,

Mr. EDWARDS moved that the Committee on Indian Affairs be instructed to inquire whether any further legislation is necessary relative to the Indian trust bonds held by Government in trust for the Indian tribes, and to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. TRAIN introduced a bill providing for the imprisonment of persons convicted of crimes in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING moved that the President be requested if not incompatible with the public interest to transmit to this House the latest official report to the War Department, of Major General Buell. Adopted.

Mr. VAN WYCK introduced bill to provide for the immediate payment of clothing lost by soldiers in the service of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. VAN WYCK introduced a bill to increase the pay of private soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and musicians. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. HAIGHT introduced a bill relative to witnesses in the courts and tribunals of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. STEVENS introduced a bill entitled "A bill to indemnify the President of the United States and other persons for the suspension of the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus act, and for acts done in pursuance thereof." The bill was read a first time.

Mr. STEVENS moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill till Thursday next, and to make it a special order for that day, after the morning hour.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM moved the rejection of the bill, and called for the yeas and nays thereon.

The motion for rejection was negatived—yeas 34, nays 90.

Mr. STEVENS then moved that the bill be put on its passage at once, and moved that the rules be suspended.

The yeas and nays were demanded by Mr. VALLANDIGHAM on the main question, which was ordered by a vote of 83 to 47.

Mr. OLIN suggested the postponement of the bill till Thursday next. A bill of this kind should be met with fairness and with all the deliberation the House could bring to its consideration. There were a variety of opinions concerning the bill, and it was one besides of great importance. Such a bill might not be necessary at all to indemnify the President, as he had only acted in accordance with the powers already vested in him by the laws. Nevertheless, he concurred with Mr. Stevens that a bill of this character was proper under the circumstances. But concurring with him, he would regret above all things to see such a measure thrust through the House without a moment's consideration. It would be discreditable to the country and to the House; and for himself, he would be ashamed to go back to his constituents if the bill was passed without debate or consideration.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM. The objection raised is not to the postponement, but to making it a special order.

Mr. COLFAX. The motion of postponement being withdrawn, the question comes up whether the bill shall lose the place on the record or be passed at once. He thought the majority of the House were prepared to pass it now, and instead of it being discreditable to the House to do so, he thought it would be creditable. The question was fully understood; it had been discussed all over the land, and it was admitted that all the President had done had been done by the authority of law; but notwithstanding that, he was willing to pass a bill to indemnify the President. He had taken the responsibility of saying so before his constituency, and he would take the responsibility of acting here.

Mr. STEVENS, before the main question was put, desired to close the debate.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM objected, and was sustained by the Speaker.

Mr. HOLMAN moved to lay the bill on the table; upon which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The motion to lay on the table was negatived—nays 88, yeas 45.

On putting the question on the passage of the bill—

Mr. STEVENS addressed the House. He said, I have but a single word to say, in consequence of what has fallen from other gentlemen. It was not my intention to ask to put the bill upon its passage at the moment, but I desired that it should be passed as early as possible, so that it should not fail at this session of Congress. Hence it was I asked that it be postponed till next Thursday, and to make it a special order. Gentlemen already know enough of the bill, and from that knowledge now oppose it, and seem determined that it shall not be postponed and made a special order. I presume every gentleman in the House knew every provision contained in it, and therefore that there was no time necessary for them to examine it for the purpose of correctly understanding it. Still, believing with the gentleman from New York, (Mr. Olin,) that it would look better to give time to the House to examine it, I offered to give that time, but was not permitted.

I have made up my mind, for one, that the bill shall not fail if there be a majority in this House to pass it, and that is the reason I have demanded the previous question upon the passage, and shall adhere to it. I should not have, perhaps, said a single word had I not seen it stated in some of the public papers that there was a provision to indemnify everybody during the suspension of the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus*, that the President had arrested in the name of the Government. The bill has no such absurd provision in it. The bill simply provides that the President, the Secretary of State, and the Cabinet, and all who, in pursuance of that authority, have made arrests during this rebellion, shall be indemnified and made harmless. That is the full extent of the bill. He would not vote for a bill with such a provision as that he referred to.

Mr. THOMAS had no objection to the bill so far as it was an indemnity to the President and Cabinet, for such a measure was strictly necessary. But many illegal arrests had been made, and, as he understood the bill, it deprived those persons of any remedy.

Mr. COX. It would be more proper for the gentleman [Mr. Stevens] to withdraw the call for the previous question, instead of attempting to pass the bill in such indecent haste. Let it go to the Committee on the Judiciary, where a judicial exposition can be made of its contents.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the gentleman for his advice.

Mr. COX. I did not advise.

Mr. STEVENS. I have become so provoked with the opposition that I cannot the gentleman act as a kindness.

Mr. COX. You are provoked with the action of the people in the late elections.

Mr. STEVENS. I will act in this matter without any unkindness beyond expressing my determination to pass the bill, should the House think fit. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Thomas) will find, upon examination, that I have drawn up the bill precisely according to the English precedent, and that I have used the precise language used by all the bills of indemnity passed for two centuries by the British Parliament, with this exception: that, in their bills, they acknowledge the illegality of the acts committed, and which the bills of indemnity render necessary. I have not confessed the illegality of the acts of the Government, for this reason: the Attorney General of the United States, and the Administration generally, have held that the President had such full power; and if he had the power to authorize all these acts, there would be no remedy for anybody. A remedy can only exist where a wrong has been done. If the President had a right to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, and under that authority arrests took place, I would like to know who would have a right to look for indemnity. There can be no such thing, under the circumstances, as false imprisonment; and if there be, it must extend to indictments as well as civil suits. If the President was right, in supposing he had authority to suspend the privileges of the writ, no harm can be done by conferring additional power to do that which was done before. But I have a doubt upon this subject. I do not put my opinion in opposition to that of the Attorney General and Cabinet, but I doubt the authority of the President to suspend the privilege of the writ except during an absolute necessity, when the safety of the country is at stake. I hold that Congress is the depository of the power to suspend the writ, and not the President.

Mr. W. J. ALLEN. In the event of the postponement of the bill, will discussion be allowed or stifled?

Mr. STEVENS. If it had been postponed till Thursday it was not my intention to call the previous question, and the bill would have been open for discussion; but we were not allowed that privilege, but were compelled to take it up now. I do not choose now to put the bill into the hands of its enemies and the enemies of the Administration. While I do not agree that the President has the right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, except until the meeting of Congress, it seems to me that we have a right to give him that power now. The bill of indemnity is the proper remedy practiced by all governments in cases of this kind where the safety of governments are imperilled. The bill provides for all costs arising under it. I have carefully copied the bill from the precedents laid down by the English Parliament, the last of which was passed but five years ago. The only additions made are those demanded by the circumstances of this country. If, as the Attorney General says, the President had the power, then this bill confers no new power and can do no harm. If the President had not the power, it is but proper he should receive it; that he should be indemnified for exercising a power in the extremity of peril, when traitors were to be found in every household and township, in the North as well as in the South. I now demand the previous question.

The yeas and nays were taken, and the bill passed—yeas 90; nays 45.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM move to amend the title of the bill, but was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

On motion of Mr. CLARK, 10,000 copies of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury were ordered to be printed.

Mr. WICKLIFFE moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the direct tax and excise law, so as to repeal the section which requires the manufacturer of spirits, beer, and porter to make certain returns of materials, &c.

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill empowering collectors, assistants, and overseers to administer oaths, &c. The subject was postponed.

Mr. HICKMAN introduced a bill for the suppression of rebellion and insurrection, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. BROWN, of Virginia, desired to present a petition of 5,000 persons of Western Virginia, asking for the admission of Western Virginia as a State into the Union.

Mr. BLAIR, of Virginia, said he had a similar petition signed by 6,900 citizens.

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill providing revenue for the support of the Government. Recommitted.

Mr. WRIGHT submitted a resolution, in effect, that the rebellion in the seceded States against the Government, the laws and the Union was deliberately waged without reasonable cause, the compact being perpetual, and no State having the constitutional power forcibly to secede. That it is the duty of the Government to put down the rebellion in the shortest period of time and in the most effectual way.

Mr. LOVEJOY moved to lay the resolution on the table, but the question was negatived: yeas 42, nays 69.

The consideration of the resolution was postponed until to-morrow week.

Mr. McKNIGHT moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing that section of the excise law imposing a tax on advertisements. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. MORRIS moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of adding a clause to the tax bill imposing a tax of ten cents upon all resolutions offered in this House—each resolution to have a ten cent stamp attached thereto. (Laughter.)

Mr. WICKLIFFE introduced a bill for the relief of citizens of Kentucky and others, whose slave property had been stolen, reduced and abstracted by the soldiers of the United States army. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MENZIES introduced a bill to provide for the payment of claims against the Government of the United States, arising and resulting from the naval and military operations in Kentucky, since the 1st of February, 1861. Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. STEVENS presented a series of resolutions referring the various branches of the President's message and accompanying documents, to appropriate standing committees.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS the House went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union (Mr. Dawes in the chair.)

Mr. RICHARDSON proceeded to review and discuss the President's message, which he termed one of the most remarkable public documents ever submitted to Congress. Every page of it, he said, was devoted to the negro, while not a word was said about the bravery, the chivalry and good conduct of the soldiers in the field. No word expressed, no mention made of the maimed, the sick and the wounded; no sympathy expressed for the widows and orphans; no word about the progress of the war, which could have been avoided by honorable compromise if the President and his friends had desired so to do. The whole sum and substance of the message amounted just to this, "take care of the negro." Ay, fight, mortgage the white man and his children for ever, all for the benefit of the darkey. That was the sum and substance of the message. While there was no word of hope for the white man, oceans of blood and countless millions of treasure were not enough for the negro. The people had looked in vain to the message.

The President, in his message, calls upon us to compromise for the benefit of the negro. He trusted in God that the people of this country would soon compromise to save the Constitution and restore the Union, and compromise with white people—not with black. The people are sick of this eternal call to legislate for the benefit of the negro. Then the President's proclamation of the 22d September was astonishing and most extraordinary, and drove from his support all who hoped to save the Union.

In that proclamation he [Mr. Richardson] thought the President had violated the pledge he made on the 4th of March, 1861. If its object was not to spread the rebellion, that was its effect, for it drove every man in the South into the rebel army, as, before that, it was not necessary to have provost marshals in every town to arrest deserters.

Mr. R. then referred to the causes of General McClellan's removal, and said, the removal was not because McClellan was not competent, but because he failed to endorse the President's proclamation in his address to his soldiers; and, after his removal, they assembled a commission to try and find some justification for what had been determined upon beforehand, and, from the findings, he should judge they were the lineal descendants of Justice Shallow.

There seemed to be some curious coincidences in this matter of the negro, and all the departments seemed to be run for the negro, and not for the white man. In March last, his colleague (Mr. Lovejoy) heard that two negroes had been arrested, and a committee was formed to inquire into it. On the first day of this session he (Mr. Richardson) had offered a resolution inquiring why white citizens of Illinois had been arrested without any charge and imprisoned in the Bastiles of the country; but that resolution was laid on the table. Every department of this Government is for the benefit of the negro, and not the white man.

The committee then rose, and the House adjourned.

OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 6, 1862.

Releases from the draft on the ground of allenage have been allowed in the following cases:

Name.	*Where drafted.*
Valentine Lewis	Montgomery co., Pa.
Wilhelm Kreyer	Pepin county, Wis.
Daniel Thomas	Waukesha co., do
P. A. Adraiaens	Brown co., do
Frederick Vandenplatz, alias Daniels	do do
Jean Baptiste Massart	Door co., do
John Shuler	Monroe co., Penna.
John Roberts	Waukesha co., Wis.
Applications Denied.	
Lorenz Biendinger	Ozaukee county, Wis.
Michel Lecher	do do do

OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 25, 1862.

The Secretary of State will hereafter receive members of Congress on business on Saturdays, commencing with Saturday, the first of next month.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

PASSES ON THE POTOMAC.

On and after the 17th instant day of September, passes will be required from all vessels, boats, &c., navigating the Potomac river. These will be issued by the Commanding Officer of the Flotilla, and may be obtained from the naval vessels stationed at Alexandria, or at the mouth of the river.

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
September 11, 1862. sep 14

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

The Western Virginia Legislature have requested Senator Carlile to resign his seat in the United States Senate. His course is in opposition to the wishes of the people of that State.

The steamer City of Washington, which sailed from New York, took out $920,000 in specie.

It is said that there is a band of guerillas on the Potomac river. They made an attempt to attack the Dragon, a Government vessel, the other day, while she was lying by in consequence of damage to her machinery. Capt. Wright, of the Dragon, let fly a shell into one of their boats, when they beat a hasty retreat for the shore.

Senator Wilkinson and Representatives Aldrich and Windom, have sent a strong protest to the President, asking that no clemency shall be shown to the condemned Indians. These men feel strongly, as it is natural they should, and so also do all the people of Minnesota. We confess to a pretty strong feeling with them in this matter, from what we have recently learned of the facts in the case.

The working classes of England are strongly with us against the Southern rebellion. It is the aristocracy that favors *secesh*. The common people love liberty and hate despotism, and though they now suffer for bread, even their sympathies are all with the North, while the British aristocracy, the haters of republicanism, desire to see our country overthrown. May the starving operatives be fed, and English snobism yet see the American Union restored, with not a slave in all its borders.

The Eastern North Carolina Free Labor Association have nominated General Banks for President, and ratification meetings are to be held in different parts of the State. It is said that the native North Carolina troops belonging to the organization strenuously insist on a vigorous and prompt enforcement of the confiscation and emancipation acts of Congress. Of course they do. It takes the Northern men like Richardson, Vallandigham, Fernando Wood, and John Van Buren, to advocate the continuance of slavery, and thus the continuance of the war. Enlightened slaveholders will very soon see who are their friends.

Many people are anxious to know the destination of Gen. Banks's expedition. The public mind, a short time since, rested upon the assured fact that it was bound for Texas. We had as well believe this to be the goal as any other point. Without doubt, Gen. Banks will give the country to understand, at no distant day, where he is, and what he is doing.

Let speculation fret itself till that hour arrives.

News from St. Louis is to the effect that Gens. Hindman and Marmaduke have a force of 25,000 strong, with which they attempted to force General Blunt's position at Cane Hill. The enemy drove in our pickets three miles, but on our being reinforced, the enemy was repulsed. The opinion of Gen. Blunt is that the demonstration made is to cover their retreat, as they were felling timber all night, probably to obstruct the road to prevent pursuit. Blunt held the enemy in check four days. He is already reinforced.

JAMES M. SPENCER, Esq., of Michigan, was yesterday admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court.

Governor Pierpoint, of Western Virginia, sustains fully the President's emancipation policy.

DANIEL A. MURPHY, of Ripley, has been appointed assessor for the Sixth district of Ohio.

There has been a great fire at Lockhaven.—The loss incurred is $400,000.

SEE a woman in another column picking Sambuel Grapes, for Speer's Wine. It is an admirable article, used in hospitals, and by the first families in Paris, London and New York, in preference to old Port Wine. It is worth a trial, as it gives great satisfaction. tf

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M. Cochin is an ex-maire and municipal councillor of the city of Paris. He has had great advantages for research among both public and private documents, and has devoted his life to the subject on which his forthcoming volume treats. He recently received the order of knighthood from the Pope, in acknowledgment of the ability displayed in this book; to which, also, was recently awarded the first prize of three thousand francs by the French Academy.

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I street, near 16th,
dec 9—1t* Washington, D. C.

HAND'S LINE—NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES. The steamer "S. Seymour," Capt. Room, from Philadelphia, has arrived.
Freight ready for delivery.
HYDE & DAVIDSON, Agents,
de 9—1t* Georgetown, D. C.

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nov 21—dtjan1

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE FRONT.

DEATHS FROM EXPOSURE TO THE WEATHER

The Supplies not Landed in Consequence of the Ice.

THE ARMY PROVISIONED FOR TWELVE DAYS

CREDIT DUE THE ARMY QUARTERMAS'R.

Regiment Erecting Huts—Probably for Winter Quarters.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Our Forces Surprised and Captured, after a Brief Fight.

SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE.

The Whereabouts of Breckinridge, Buckner, Kirby Smith, and Joe Johnston.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
December 8, 1862.

Reports from the river stations note several deaths from exposure during the past forty-eight hours.

Large quantities of supplies are prevented from landing at Aquia and Potomac creeks, by the low water and ice. The latter is two inches thick. Notwithstanding this, the army generally is provisioned for twelve days ahead.

Credit is due to army quartermasters and commissaries for their energy in overcoming great obstacles and massing