National Republican

WEDNESDAY MORNING.....JANUARY 12, 1870.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Forty-First Congress—Second Regular Session

TUESDAY, January 11, 1870.

SENATE.

Mr. Hamlin presented a remonstrance of 175 citizens of Washington against the tunneling of M street. Referred to Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Sumner gave notice that to-morrow he would introduce a bill to authorize the funding and consolidation of the national debt, and to establish specie payments.

Mr. Howe introduced a bill more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States, which he said he should call up at an early day, for the purpose of making some remarks upon it.

Mr. Fenton offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to report what number of foreign-built vessels are now sailing under American registers, their tonnage, &c. Adopted.

Mr. Cattell called up the bill to exempt from internal tax canned and preserved fish. Passed.

The bill for the admission of Virginia was taken up, the question being on the motion of Mr. Wilson to postpone.

Mr. Sumner said it would be very unusual not to postpone this matter to give time to inquire into all the facts. He understood that important information would be here this week, and that this information should be awaited.

Mr. Stewart said all that had been done was plain and seen at the day, and now they were asked to wait to hear from a parcel of defeated candidates. It is a violation of principle to allow any longer delay in this matter.

Mr. Sherman said there was no reason why Virginia should not be admitted. That they should take the oath was not to be considered, for any fair construction of the reconstruction acts did not call for it. Still there was no urgent necessity for immediate action, and as it was not to be thought that the Senator (Mr. Sumner) was acting otherwise than in good faith, when he asked for delay, he (Mr. S.) was not unwilling to give him a few days to obtain the information he desired.

Mr. Trumbull said this was a question which called for immediate action, and there were no public reasons why it should be delayed—there might be some private ones.

Mr. Sumner said that matter had been pending but two or three legislative days, and he again asked that time for examination might be given.

Mr. Stewart said that if a desire to examine was really the object, ample time was afforded for that during the long recess which had just expired.

Mr. Sumner was not pleading for himself, but for justice, for the loyal people of Virginia, white and black.

Mr. Thurman asked Mr. Sumner how much time he had given the opponents of the Georgia bill.

Mr. Sumner said the Senate did right to press the Georgia bill to a vote, but it was not passed immediately upon its being reported.

Mr. Davis had watched the course of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) for the last eight years, and his observation was that the Senator was the most courteous member of this body to himself and the least so to any one else.

Mr. Trumbull remarked that as the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) had recently disavowed asking delay for himself for personal reasons to himself, there need be no embarrassment about voting against it.

The question was then taken on the motion to postpone, when it was rejected as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Bayard, Brownlow, Chandler, Chandler, Cole, Drake, Edmunds, Fowler, Harris, Howard, Howe, Morrill of Me., Morrill of Vt., Osborn, Patterson, Pomeroy, Pratt, Sherman, Spencer, Sumner, Thayer, Tipton, Wilson and Yates—23.

Nays—Messrs. Carpenter, Cassady, Conkling, Corbett, Davis, Fenton, Ferry, Hamilton, Harlan, Kellogg, McCreery, Morton, Patterson, Robertson, Ross, Saulsbury, Sawyer, Stewart, Stockton, Thurman, Trumbull, Vickers, Warner, Willey and Williams—26.

The question then came on the amendment of Mr. Drake, providing that if hereafter Virginia should undertake to withdraw its assent to the fifteenth amendment, it shall be immediately deprived of representation in Congress and remanded to its condition anterior to the passage of this bill.

Mr. Trumbull opposed the amendment. He thought it useless, as any subsequent Congress might repeal it. It contended that right of a State to withdraw its assent to a constitutional amendment. Any such attempted withdrawal would of course be null and void.

Mr. Drake said it was only the opinion of the Senator that any such withdrawal would be null and void. The Democratic party declares that it can be done, and all they are waiting for now is to get a case to bring before our masters, the Supreme Court. The great trouble with the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Trumbull) all through the reconstruction legislation was that he was never willing to put the grip on. He (Mr. D.) was well satisfied that if Virginia was admitted unconditionally, and her Senators and Representatives obtained entrance here, she would, within less than ten days, withdraw her assent to the fifteenth amendment.

Mr. Trumbull did not want to put grips on any one. He knew that no such grips as these could do any good.

Mr. Morton was in favor of the amendment, not that he believed that Virginia would attempt to undo its action; but the case was possible, particularly after the treachery which Georgia had displayed, and which he did not believe until it occurred. He held that even after these States are admitted they are not beyond the power of Congress.

Colonel Porter, the Private Secretary of the President, here appeared and delivered the first veto of President Grant, being upon the bill for the relief of Roland Clark.

Mr. Howard thought to pass this amendment would be to yield the principle for which the Republicans party contended—that a State having once ratified a constitutional amendment has nothing more to do with it—and he was unwilling by his vote to cast any doubt upon it.

Mr. Williams declared his opinion that no State had the power to rescind an amendment once adopted. He also had strong doubts of the power of Congress to impose conditions on a State after admission, and could not conceive from what source Congress derived the power to exclude a State from its equal representation in the Senate without its consent. He was advised that there was no probability of the legislature of Virginia ever attempting to withdraw its assent to the Fifteenth amendment, but he had a proposition which he should offer as a substitute, as follows:

Resolved, &c. That the State of Virginia having complied with all the conditions of the reconstruction acts, and having ratified the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, be entitled to admission to the Union.

Mr. Conkling expressed his opposition to the amendment for two reasons: First, for that stated by the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Trumbull), that it asks or lodges the right of a State to withdraw its assent to a constitutional amendment; and second, because, as he conceived Congress had no power over the State after it is once admitted.

Mr. Davis stated that there was no doubt that one day all these matters would be brought before the proper tribunals, when he had no doubt that it would be decided that an assent which was coerced from a State was not binding.

Mr. Drake argued in favor of his amendment, and expressed his surprise that Republican Senators should oppose it. He charged that it was inconsistent for those Senators who had steadily voted for the reconstruction acts to refuse to support his amendment. He predicted, and he desired Senators to note it, that if Senators and Representatives were admitted here unconditionally, within ten days Virginia would repeal its ratification of the fifteenth amendment.

Mr. Howe was in favor of the amendment. It was a novel proceeding, but they had done many novel proceedings since 1861, and he had no doubt of the power of Congress to do it.

Mr. Morton believed there had been too much haste in stating the power of Congress over these reconstructed States, and it was not at all improbable that we would have to deal again with some of those that have been admitted; we may have to do it for our very lives, and that ere long. Look at Tennessee. Its constitutional convention met yesterday and refuse even to take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. We all know the majority of that Virginia Legislature would be very glad to repeal the adoption of that amendment, and we must not give them a chance to do it. He held that the power of Congress over these States should never cease until that it should always have the right to counteract any improper movements that may be attempted, and he besought Senators not to surrender this power.

Mr. Sumner was glad to hear this opinion of the distinguished Senator, (Mr. Morton,) as it was in accord with what he (Mr. S.) had always contended. It was sound, legislative, constitutional doctrine. The power of Congress over these States extended forever, at any time in the future Congress can interfere to protect reconstruction.

Mr. Edmunds. Suppose that in a few years another political party has the majority in Congress. Under this doctrine, can they not repeal everything that we have done?

Mr. Sumner. I contend that the power of Congress is perpetual to protect reconstruction.

Mr. Williams had misgivings as to the power of Congress to impose fundamental conditions on a State claiming admission; but he denied absolutely the power of Congress to deprive any State of her equal representation in the Senate without her consent. This amendment was in violation of the Constitution, and he was surprised at Senators advocating it.

The Vice President laid before the Senate the message of the President returning, with his objections, the bill for the relief of Roland White; which message was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

[The bill vetoed relates to an extension of a pistol patent.]

Without reaching a vote on Mr. Drake's amendment, the Senate went into executive session, and shortly thereafter adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

When the Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read, it was recorded on Mr. Bingham's joint resolution for the admission of Virginia, that the yeas and nays on reconsidering the main question stood 17 to 17, and that the Speaker had voted in the negative, and thus the motion was lost.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, asked for an explanation of this, and, if necessary, proposed to move to correct the Journal.

The Speaker explained that upon an actual count of the roll call after the adjournment yesterday, it was found that upon Mr. Benjamin's motion to reconsider the vote it stood 17 in the affirmative, and 17 in the negative. The Speaker therefore allowed his vote to stand in the negative, and the motion was lost. Under the rule of the House, when in making up the Journal an error of that character was discovered, the Journal Clerk treated all subsequent proceedings as a nullity. The Clerk had so treated it in this case, and therefore the question recurred immediately upon the passage of the bill, and that was now its condition.

Mr. Bingham said that the Committee on Reconstruction had had a meeting this morning, and proposed to report a bill. He would therefore, with the consent of the House, withdraw his resolution and offer it as a substitute for the bill to be reported by the Reconstruction Committee.

Mr. Paine, of Wis., said the Committee on Reconstruction had agreed upon a bill, and had instructed Mr. Farnsworth to report. The committee had also determined to allow the largest latitude for debate and amendment.

Mr. Bingham here withdrew his bill, and Mr. Farnsworth reported the one agreed upon this morning by the Committee on Reconstruction, and asked that it be made the special order for to-morrow.

The bill is as follows:

Whereas the people of Virginia have adopted a constitution republican in form, and by its provisions assuring the equality of rights in all citizens of the United States before the law; and whereas the Congress of the United States have received assurances and are assured that the people of Virginia, and especially those heretofore in rebellion against the United States, have renounced all claims of any right of secession to a State, and that they are now well disposed to the Government of the United states, and will support and defend the Constitution thereof, and will carry out in letter and spirit the provisions and requirements of the constitution submitted under the reconstruction acts of Congress and ratified by the people of Virginia; therefore

Be it enacted, &c., That the State of Virginia is entitled to representation in Congress as a State of the Union, under the constitution ratified on the 9th day of July, 1868, upon the following fundamental conditions:

First. That no person shall hold any office, civil or military, in said State who shall not have taken and subscribed one of the following oaths or affirmations, viz:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State to support the Constitution of the United States, and thereafter engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof;" or, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have been relieved from disability by an act of Congress, as provided for by the third section of the fourteenth article of the amendments of the Constitution of the United States."

Second. That the constitution of the said State shall never be so amended or changed as to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the United States of the right to vote or hold office in said State who are entitled to vote or hold office in said State by the constitution, except as a punishment for such crimes as are now felonious at common law, whereof they shall have been duly convicted under laws equally applicable to all the inhabitants of said State: Provided, that property qualifications for office and jurisdiction, shall not be made with regard to the time and place of residence of said voters.

Third. That all persons who shall at the time when said constitution shall take effect hold or exercise the functions of any executive, administrative, or judicial office in said State, by the appointment or authority of the district commander, shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors, or those upon whom such duties shall, under said constitution, devolve, are duly chosen or appointed and qualified.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the election of United States Senators by the General Assembly of said State, on the 19th of October, 1869, as shown by the return, is hereby validity as if made by previous authority of law.

Mr. Bingham offered as an amendment the bill offered by him yesterday, and said he would propose it as a substitute for the whole matter.

Mr. Eldridge, of Wis., asked whether making the bill the special order for to-morrow would not compel delay on an appropriation bill.

The Speaker said the appropriation bill was made the special order for the Committee of the Whole House.

Mr. Brooks, of N. Y., did not think any appropriation bill should be delayed to take up this bill, with its conditions.

Mr. Farnsworth said if there was objection to making the bill the special order he would enter the formal motion to recommit, and then it could be called up at any time.

Mr. Cox, of N.Y., gave notice that he would move to strike out the section that makes certain laws of Virginia irrevocable.

Mr. Wood, of N. Y., gave notice that he would move to strike out all of the first section.

The bill was finally ordered to be printed and recommitted.

The House resumed consideration of the pension agent bill, pending at the adjournment yesterday, the question being upon Mr. Benjamin's motion to recommit with instructions. The motion was agreed to—yeas 99, nays 32—and the bill was recommitted.

Mr. Logan, of Ill., from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to authorize the settlement of officers' accounts. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

Also, from the same committee, reported a bill to furnish artificial limbs to soldiers who lost their limbs in the late war. It provides that the United States shall furnish limbs to soldiers every five years, under such regulations as may be made by the Surgeon General of the army. The soldier, however, may, at his option, receive money instead of the artificial limbs, at the following rates, viz: in lieu of legs, $75; in lieu of arms, $50, and in lieu of feet, $40.

Mr. Shanks, of Ind., from the Committee on the Militia, reported a substitute to provide for the giving of artificial limbs to soldiers as they now are required to have.

Mr. Shanks' amendment was rejected, and the bill was passed as reported by the Military Committee.

Mr. Logan also reported a bill to amend the act of July 28, 1866, so as to construe if the officers who receive commissions shall be entitled to the rank and pay conferred from the date of the commission. Passed.

Mr. Logan reported adversely upon a bill to employ a chief veterinary surgeon in the army, and it was tabled.

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing that in future when witnesses are summoned before any committee of this House they shall be summoned by letter or telegraph, and no other amount shall be allowed for summoning witnesses than the expenses actually incurred.

Mr. Cobb, of Wis., from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to amend the bounty act. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

Mr. Stone, of Md., from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported an act to extend the charter of the Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown Steam Packet Company for a further period of 20 years from Jan. 1, 1869. Passed.

Mr. Scofield, of Pa., from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to transfer the navy yard at Philadelphia to League Island, and demanded the previous question.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., hoped no such action would be taken. This would involve a large expenditure of money—too much to be expended under the operation of the previous question.

Mr. Scofield did not propose to rush the bill through under the operation of the previous question. After that was seconded he would yield to any member for a minute. He wanted the previous question, however, because the morning hour would expire in a few minutes.

Mr. Dawes did not think such an attempt as this to put the bill through with such haste was treating the Treasury of the United States as it deserved to be treated by the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs. The measure would involve the expenditure of millions of dollars.

Mr. Scofield said that was a mistake, as no money would be required to be expended under the bill.

Mr. Dawes said a discussion would bring out that fact, and he therefore saw no necessity for haste.

Pending further discussion the morning hour expired, and the bill went over under the rule.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, offered a resolution changing the rooms of certain of the House committees. It was proposed to give the Ways and Means Committee the rooms now occupied by the post office; transfer the post office to the room of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads; the Post Office Committee to the room of the Committee on Appropriations, and the latter to the room to be vacated by the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Schenck urged, as a necessity for this, the number of important business pending before the Ways and Means Committee, and the necessity for a larger room to accommodate the various delegates and committees that were continually appearing before that committee.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Kelsey, of New York, in the chair.)

Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, obtained the floor and proceeded to address the House on the internal industry of the United States, reviewing at length and attacking the late report of Mr. Wells, commissioner of the revenue. Mr. Kelley read his speech, a very slim House being his auditors for a short time, and the reading was not concluded until half past four o'clock, when the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

CITIZENS' RAILROAD MEETING.—The usual weekly meeting of the Citizens' Railroad Association was held last evening in the Aldermen's chamber, City Hall, Vice President H. N. Easby in the chair, and T. C. Connolly, secretary.

Mr. J. E. Brown, from the executive committee, reported that they had secured the Aldermen's chamber as the permanent place of meeting. They had also engaged several prominent Western members to address the association.

The resolution offered at a previous meeting by Mr. Easby providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the practicability and advantages of the several proposed lines of railway connecting this city with the great West, and also to inquire into the feasibility of constructing a railroad to the mouth of the Potomac river, and report a plan for the organization of a company to construct those roads, was taken up and adopted.

Mr. Brown moved that the secretary be instructed to prepare a roll to be signed by all the members pledging themselves to attend the meetings.

After addresses by Messrs. T. C. Connolly, A. Scott, J. S. Brown, J. E. Snodgrass and B. Milburn upon the advantages of railroads, &c., the meeting adjourned.

THE ADVENT LECTURES by Elder B. Matthews began on Sunday in the Fifteenth-street Presbyterian church, and will be continued through the week.

THREE SUITES of elegantly furnished rooms in a new house, corner of Fourteenth and I streets, with all the modern improvements, are for rent.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

Kelly, the Murderer of Marders, Brought Up for Sentence—To be Hanged.

James Kelly, convicted on the 16th of November last of the murder of John Marders, on the — of July last, at the foot of G street, in this city, was called up yesterday about noon to hear the sentence of the law.

The Criminal Court-room was as much crowded without the bar as at the Surratt trial, and there was quite a large crowd within the bar.

Upon the entrance of the convict there was some commotion produced by a desire to catch a glimpse of his features. Kelly is a man of moderate stature, thick-set, his hair showing far greater mark of age than he exhibits otherwise. His countenance is that of a pleasant, good-hearted man, and from his looks no one would suppose that his natural disposition was blood-thirsty or revengeful.

It is, however, disclosed by the evidence that on a pleasant night of last summer he vented a horrid spite upon a fellow-craftsman, employed with him on a river-boat, and who had given him no cause of offence. He took his companion's life apparently without scruple, stabbing him with a deadly weapon, withdrawing the blade and again inflicting a murderous wound; and afterwards, with his victim dead at his feet, vaunted his murder, and defied the law to do its worst.

When he came into court it was known that the capital sentence would be passed upon him, and it is impossible to overstate the eagerness with which the motley assembly which daily gathers about the court-house sought a view of the convict, or discussed in whispers his crime and its probable punishment.

Judge Fisher at first called on the prisoner to stand up, and when released from bonds he stood upright. The Judge then asked him if he had anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be pronounced upon him.

Kelley seemed to have been prepared for the question, for he had in his hand a paper containing apparently the notes of what he wished to say. He denied that his conviction was just, declaring that the jury had been misled by false testimony. He spoke of the principal witnesses against him as "Captain Miller and his hirelings;" accused them of false swearing, evincing great animosity against them. He declared that the blows which he inflicted upon Marders were struck in self-defence; that if he had not killed Marders his own life would not have been safe. He undertook to explain the nature of the rencounter; again accused the witnesses of perjury, and concluded by saying that he had the consolation of knowing that he was going to appear before a Judge who would judge his case justly, and Judge his accusers as well as himself.

Judge Fisher, in delivering the sentence, referred to the evidence as showing the commission of the crime on which the jury had based their verdict. Even upon the confession of the convict he was guilty of murder, for he had defended himself against a simple assault by the use of a deadly weapon, for a fatal purpose. The law did not permit this. It held human life sacred. No man was held excusable who took the life of man except upon an absolute necessity. The party must retreat, must endeavor to escape with the shedding of blood, and it is only when the choice has to be made between one's death or serious injury and the death of his assailant that the law excuses homicide.

In conclusion, Judge Fisher pronounced the sentence of the law, as follows:

"The sentence of the Court is, that you be taken hence to the common jail of the District of Columbia, from whence you came, and that, on Friday, the 11th of May, A. D. 1870, you be taken thence to the place prepared for execution in the jail yard of the District of Columbia, and there and then, between the hours of twelve o'clock and three o'clock in the afternoon, you be hanged by the neck until you shall be dead; and may the Lord have mercy on your soul."

The silence which had reigned in the court-room during the utterance of the sentence gave way to the confusion, and then to a noise, which needed the bailiffs to quiet.

Kelly, who seemed unmoved while Judge Fisher spoke, took his place in the dock quietly at the conclusion of the sentence, and was soon after taken from the court-room by Bailiffs Sprague and Coakley, telling the bailiffs, on his way out, that he intended to devote the remainder of his life in preparing for death.

THE LATE JOHN D. BARCLAY—RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.—At a meeting held by the clerks of the office of Commissioner of Patents, Hon. N. Sargent presiding, and Henry A. Lockwood secretary, the following resolutions upon the death of the late John D. Barclay, a clerk in that office, were introduced and adopted:

Resolved, That in the death of our revered associate, John D. Barclay, for sixty-five years connected with the Treasury Department, we mourn the loss of a gentleman whose courtesy and kindness to us, his fellow-clerks, will ever be fondly remembered, and from whose long experience we have constantly drawn valuable instruction, which he was ever ready and desirous to impart to those entering upon the proper performance of official duties.

Resolved, That his faithfulness, constancy and accuracy in his official duties, his genial and courteous demeanor to his associates, and his high sense of honor and uprightness and integrity in his daily intercourse with us, challenge our admiration, and demand of us continued emulation.

Resolved, That he was truly and emphatically an honest man and a faithful citizen, and by his long and unwearied labors in the civil service he has merited, as he won from all who knew him, the highest esteem and veneration.

Resolved, That the peaceful death of an honest man and Christian gentleman, full of years, and honored by a multitude of friends, inspires consolation with sorrow, and that this great decimate of an old Roman integrity when was his, coupled with faith in the blessed Redeemer,—that our last days may be as peaceful as his.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathies to his family in their bereavement, and that in testimony of our respect we will attend the funeral ceremonies on Wednesday next.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this meeting communicate these resolutions to the family of our deceased friend and brother.

A LAWYER IN A QUANDARY.—Yesterday morning a well known and indefatigable member of the Washington bar appeared before Justice Walter and inquired whether a case was set for trial before his honor in which he (the lawyer) was concerned. The Justice looked over his papers and produced the trial docket for the day, but could not discover the name of young Blackstone on any of the papers as counsel, pro or con. The Justice, however, informed the lawyer that a lady had called at his office a few days ago on some business, in which legal advice was required, and from a word dropped from her lips, he felt assured that she desired the services of a lawyer, and from the description of the gentleman, it was possible that she wanted Mr. C. to defend her. The hour set for the appearance of the lady was 11 a. m., and the lawyer, (not knowing his client,) after waiting until 12 m., in a quandary as to whether he was to appear for the defence or prosecution, departed for his library to consult the books in such "cases made and provided."

GOVERNMENT AID ASKED FOR—PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.—Dr. J. A. Rowland, chairman of the committee on schools of the Levy Court, has prepared a memorial to Congress, setting forth that since the war a large non-tax-paying population, with numerous children, has come into the county; that the operations of the army upon the farms of the residents during the war caused them so much loss as to diminish their ability to pay taxes for the support of the public schools. Congress is therefore asked to extend such aid, either in the form of a donation of the public lands, or an appropriation of money for educational purposes as will enable them to put into vigorous operation the system of education recently established for all the children in the county of Washington. Exertions are being made to have the petition presented at an early day.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE DISTRICT.—A circular has been sent to prominent citizens, setting forth that steps should be immediately taken for the purpose of securing proper legislation by Congress for the improvement of the District of Columbia, and announcing that a meeting of citizens in furtherance of the above object will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock at the office of Messrs. Kilbourn & Latta, corner of Seventh and F streets. We trust that the meeting will be largely attended, and fully believe Congress is well disposed toward our city, and will legislate for its improvement, provided the citizens will take hold and endeavor to render their share in the matter.

SELLING LIQUOR WITHOUT LICENSE.—Johanna Waggaman, Robert Smith, John Rochford, Daniel O'Sullivan, Catharine Mahoney, and William P. O'Connor, doing business in the eastern section of the city, were arraigned before Justice Schmidt on a charge of selling liquor without license. The former was dismissed, and the balance fined $50 each, upon which an appeal was taken.

CLOSING OUT SALE.—We are selling off our winter clothing regardless of cost.

N. B. We are making suits to order at prices correspondingly low. Oak Hall, 505 Seventh street, opposite Post Office.

THE NAVY YARD.

Improvement in Prospect—The Ordnance Foundry to be Finished—Other Items.

In 1863, while Admiral (then Commodore) Dahlgren was ordnance officer at the navy yard in this city, he caused plans for an elaborate building, to be used as an ordnance foundry, to be prepared by the well-known architect, Adolph Cluss. The plans were adopted, and soon the magnificent structure was erected. About $200,000 was expended in its construction up to the time that the Admiral left the yard. Then the work ceased, leaving the building in an unfinished condition, and it has so remained to the present time. We are glad to announce that since the Admiral's advent as commandant of the yard he has been endeavoring to obtain the necessary order to finish the work, and by his persistent efforts has succeeded, thus insuring steady work to a large force of mechanics and laborers for some months to come.

The building is in the Norman style of architecture, and is a splendid structure. To complete it in accordance with the plans and prepare for its occupation the estimated cost is $49,793. The necessary requisitions have been made, and the material to complete it will soon be on the ground. An addition on the south side is to be built, in dimensions 147 feet long by 37 feet wide. This add-tion will contain an engine-room, two boiler-rooms, store-rooms and ovens. There will be six furnaces in the entire building, with all possible improvements for the casting and finishing of heavy ordnance. There will be a large lathe for turning guns, hoisting apparatus, &c.

The work necessary to complete the building will be under the supervision of Gen. E. A. Stratton, civil engineer of the yard. The first work that will be done when the foundry is completed will be the casting of a 9-inch gun.

The ordnance foundry is rendered more interesting to visitors from the fact that in the southwest corner of the structure is buried a memento of the late war, being a portion of the body of the brave boy, Ulric Dahlgren, son of the Admiral, who lost his leg at Hagerstown, and was subsequently killed at Ashland, Virginia, twenty miles from Richmond, while engaged in leading one of the most daring cavalry raids that occurred during the war. A tablet is set in the wall bearing this inscription:

"Within this wall is deposited the leg of Col. Ulric Dahlgren, U. S. V., wounded July 3, 1863, while skirmishing in the streets of Hagerstown with the rebels, after the battle of Gettysburg."

Business in the yard is not very brisk, and the men are kept at repair work mostly. The steam-tug Mercury will to-day be freighted, and start this evening for Norfolk.

The steamer Kansas is lying on the ways, having her planking removed. It will be necessary to renew her exterior entirely.

The steamer Tallapoosa is lying at one of the wharves, having her boilers removed. They will be replaced with those which were in use on the steamer Chicopee, recently condemned as unfit for Government service.

The force in the sailmakers' department has been largely increased, and they are now engaged in making and repairing sails for the frigates Savannah and Macedonian, schoolships at the Naval Academy, Annapolis.

Admiral Dahlgren has issued an order that when the head of any department of the yard thinks an employee should be suspended from work he will report the case to him, through the executive officer of the yard.

WARD DIRECTORS AND VISITORS OF THE PROVIDENT AID SOCIETY.—The list of ward directors and visitors of the Provident Aid Society as published some time ago having been incorrect, we give below the corrected list for general information:

First Ward—Directors, J. P. Tustin, 316 I street north; John F. Cook, 234 Sixteenth street; Dr. George Clymer, corner H street and Connecticut avenue. Visiting committee, E. N. Horner, G street, near Twenty-second street; Benj. F. Moffitt, 195 G street north; G. Hine, Twentieth street, near G; F. G. Harris, Seventeenth street, near E; Cornelius Clark, G street, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth; D. T. McGuire, corner Sixteenth and I streets; Mrs. Eustis, H street, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets.

Second Ward—Directors, Wm. H. Chase, 1125 Eleventh street west; B. H. Sincenzi, 234 Pennsylvania avenue; E. C. Weaver, 55 Pennsylvania avenue. Visiting Committee, David L. Finch, corner of Twelfth and S streets; Walter S. Baker, corner Fifth and S streets; John T. Brooks, corner Vermont avenue and B street; James B. Boyce, Twelfth street, between U and V; Dr. J. H. Bushnell, corner of Thirteenth and N streets; Israel Dills, O street, between Tenth and Eleventh; Dr. J. Walter, 372 E street; Mrs. Hoover, corner of M and Thirteenth streets; Mrs. M. Putney, corner of M and Thirteenth streets; Rev. Mr. Lowery, 472 M street; Mrs. Chas. Peters, 451 M street.

Third Ward—Directors, James E. Fitch, 523 M street north; A. C. Richards, police headquarters; Dr. W. W. Potter, 491 Eleventh street. Visiting Committee, Mrs. Martin Johnson, 392 E street, between Ninth and Tenth; Mrs. A. M. Sampson, 488 M street, corner of Eleventh; Mrs. James M. Blanchard, 670 M street, between Fourth and Fifth; Mrs. David McClelland, Boundary, intersection Rhode Island avenue and Fourth street; Mrs. Olive Freeman, 413 Tenth street; Mrs. S. E. Fenwick, 523 I street, between Sixth and Seventh; Rev. Henry Bailey, Eighth street, between R and S; Sergeant Jas. Johnson, Seventh street station-house; Sergeant John F. Kelly, corner Ninth and K streets; Sergeant Greer, Central guard-house.

Fourth Ward—Directors, L. W. Kennedy, 457 North D street; John H. Johnson, 454 Louisiana avenue; Wm. Hart, 406 Seventh street. Visiting committee, Mrs. William Powell, New York avenue, near First street; Mrs. Reynolds, 611 I street; Mrs. Boss, corner H and Fourth streets; Mrs. Jones, H street, near First; Mrs. J. W. Clark, No. 214 D street; Mrs. Sophia Tilley, corner Missouri avenue and Four-and-a-half street; P. A. Byrnes, Seventh street, near G; Captain G. F. Needham, 465 Missouri avenue.

Fifth Ward—Directors, A. P. Clark, East Capitol street, between Fourth and Fifth; Josiah Kellogg, 23 A street; J. W. Clark, 214 D street north. Visiting committee, Mrs. W. T. Nicholson, corner Fourth street east and G south; Mrs. James H. Springham, 575 Pennsylvania avenue; Mrs. Gen. N. P. Chipman, corner First street east and B street north; Mrs. F. Oyer, First street east, between D and E; Mrs. A. P. Clark, 120 East Capitol street.

Sixth Ward—Directors, James C. Dalin, I street, between Fourth and Fifth east; E. A. Adams, 502 Eighth street east; J. L. Roberts, corner South B and Ninth streets. Visiting Committee, Mrs. William Baron, Eighth street, near Wallach School Building; McGill Pearce, Howard Buildings; Rev. Isaac Cross, M street, between Third and Fourth.

Seventh Ward—Directors, S. B. Baker, 158 C street south; W. Boyd, 423 Virginia avenue; F. A. Boswell, City Hall. Visiting Committee, Anthony Bowen, E street, between Ninth and Tenth; Isaac Johnson, L street, between Third and Four-and-a-half; S. L. Boyd, 423 Virginia avenue; Mr. Gunnel, corner F and Sixth streets; Miss Gibson, corner Eighth and D streets; Mrs. Sarah F. Edson, No. 522 Tenth street.

N. B.—Applicants for charity must first call upon the nearest visitor of the ward.

A NEW WAY TO PUNISH CRIME.—A short time before Christmas the money drawer of Mr. Valentine Harbaugh's drug store, on K street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, was robbed of about $18, and from the description given of the thieves, Officers Yeager and Dyson arrested Reuben Nelson as one of them. Mr. Harbaugh identified him as a man who came in and asked him to give him something for the rheumatism, occupying his attention, while his "pal," Dick Barnes, (now in jail for stealing a buffalo robe from Benjamin Sammy, of the county,) went through the drawer and ran off. Nelson told Mr. Harbaugh he would go after him, and started. After his arrest he was asked why he did not come back. He replied that he did not care to. After hearing the evidence Justice Wall dismissed Nelson, he promising to pay Mr. Harbaugh back a portion of the stolen money every week until it was all paid. Is not this a new mode of punishing theft?

CHARGE OF FORGERY.—Yesterday morning Detective McDevitt arrested a colored man, named J. Beckett, charged with forging the name of Henry D. Gunnell, commissioner of the Seventh ward, and obtaining the sum on forged papers to the amount of between $500 and $600 in the months of September and August last. The accused was taken before Justice Walter, where he gave bail for a hearing on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

FULLY COMMITTED.—Richard Ross, colored, charged with stealing $50 from Randall Bradley, colored, was brought out before Justice Smith yesterday afternoon, when the evidence was conclusive as to his guilt, and Ross was fully committed for court.

CLOTHING! CLOTHING! CLOTHING! regardless of cost, at Oak Hall, 460, (new number, 505) Seventh street, opposite Post Office.

N. B. Suits made to order at prices correspondingly low.

RELIEF OF DESTITUTE COLORED WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—The National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children held its annual session yesterday morning at the residence of Mrs. Senator Pomeroy, on H street, near Vermont avenue.

Among the ladies present were noticed: Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. George W. McLellan, Mrs. Oakes Ames, Mrs. Nilson, Mrs. Pitts, Mrs. Crandall, Mrs. Mayor Bowen, Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. J. Sayles Brown, Mrs. Underhill, Mrs. Blanchard, Miss Barker, Miss Wilbur, Mrs. Bingham, of Michigan, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Moses.

The report of the treasurer, Mrs. Pitts, was read and approved. It shows that at the last annual session the amount remaining in the treasury was $652.97; received from members, $60; annual subscriptions, $128; donations, $1,386.61; Government appropriation, $3,000; total, $7,227.58; expenditures, $2,934.71; balance, $4,292.87.

The secretary, Mrs. Pitts, then read her report, which was adopted. It is as follows:

The executive committee of the "National Association for the Relief of Destitute Women and Children," in presenting their seventh annual report, are happy to be able to state that the institution has continued in a prosperous condition during the year past, and that nothing has occurred to discourage its patrons or those immediately connected with its management in regard to their contributions and labors for the well-being of those intrusted to their care.

The number at the Home January 1, 1869, was 81—women, 9; boys, 47; girls, 25. Received during the year—women, 5; boys, 21; girls, 12—38. Returned to friends—women, 3; boys, 3; girls, 1—7. Sent to service—boys, 7; girls, 10—17. Transferred to hospital—1 boy. Died—1 woman; boys, 6; girls, 8—15. Remaining at the Home January 1, 1870, 78.

At the commencement of the year there was considerable sickness among the children, mostly measles and whooping-cough, though there were several afflicted with opthalmia. Several of the deaths were from consumption. It may be well to state here that a large number of the children, when brought to the Home, were suffering from hereditary diseases, caused probably by long neglect and want of proper treatment, all of which adds materially to the care and attention necessary for the comfort of those homeless little ones thus thrown upon our hands.

The health of the matron, Mrs. Freeman, was such that she tendered her resignation in March last. In June following Miss A. M. Hathaway, of Maine, took charge of the Home, and continues as matron. We cheerfully bear testimony to the wise, faithful and judicious manner she discharges her duties, the kind treatment of, and sympathy with, those looking to her for protection and care, and her deep interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the Home.

The housekeeping, under the care of Miss Hattie Stickney, is a perfect pattern of neatness.

Miss Susan Fowle remains the presiding genius of the school, where the children are taught reading, writing and the rudiments of arithmetic and geography, and is more than ordinary successful.

The industrial school, under Mrs. Sougers, is worthy of notice. The children are taught not only to braid and sew their own hats, but many other useful things, and the patience and perseverance necessary to secure the results attained is praiseworthy.

These ladies deserve the thanks of the friends of the Home for their faithfulness in their self-denying labors, for the elevation of the poor and the outcast; but we trust their best reward is the consciousness of doing the work approved by Him who came to succor and save those that were lost.

In conclusion, your committee would remark that the success of the institution thus far, under the Providence of God, in rescuing hundreds of these neglected children from starvation, want and degradation, in securing homes for a large number in families where their material and spiritual wants will be supplied, and where they will be trained for usefulness, instead of being left to become a dead weight upon society; also, in the refuge afforded the aged, who have worn out their lives in hard toil for others, without just compensation, enables us to appeal earnestly to the benevolent for a continuation of that aid so necessary for its continuance. And while we indulge the hope that, as the causes which have tended to create this great necessity are removed, and as enlightened public sentiment, under the influence of a purer Christianity, abolishing the spirit of caste and prejudice, and thus removing the obstacle to the elevation of a long-degraded race; when all these influences shall be brought to bear the need of these efforts may be less. Yet, for the present, with this large and dependent family upon our hands, we feel that we cannot abate our most urgent appeals for a continued support of an institution which confidently claims the charities of the benevolent, because of the poverty and wants of those in whose behalf we plead, remembering the declaration of our Lord and Master, and pleading it for encouragement: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me."

All of which is respectfully submitted by

MRS. H. PITTS, Secretary.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers, which the following resulted: President, Mrs. S. C. Pomeroy; vice president, Mrs. Gerrmond Crandell; secretary, Mrs. F. Bartlett; managers, Mrs. O. O. Howard, Mrs. R. M. Bigelow, Mrs. Harriet Underhill, Mrs. J. M. Bl