Secretary of Senate

Daily National Republican.

VOL. XII.] WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3, 1872. [NO. 57.

WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

RECEPTIONS.

The President will hold receptions from 8 to 10 o'clock p. m., on Thursday, February 15.

Mrs. Grant's receptions will take place hereafter on Tuesday afternoons, from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Mrs. Colfax will receive on Wednesdays during the season, from 2:00 till 5 p. m.

Speaker Blaine's next reception will be held on Friday evening, February 9, from 9 to 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Secretary Delano will receive on Wednesday of each week.

Mrs. Attorney General Williams will receive Wednesdays at her residence, 1319 I street.

Mrs. and Miss McDonald, wife and daughter of ex-Senator McDonald, of Arkansas, will receive on Mondays, between 2 and 4 o'clock p. m., at the Arlington.

Mrs. Marshal Sharp receives on Fridays of each week.

The cards have been issued for the marriage of Miss Mamie Fishman and A. Herman, esq.

SECRETARY DELANO'S RECEPTION.

The second card reception by Secretary and Mrs. Delano, last evening, drew together as fine a gathering of ladies and gentlemen as was assembled at any reception during the present fashionable season. Beside the hostess was Mrs. John Delano and Mrs. J. C. Ames, assisting in receiving the guests and providing for their comfort.

The mansion had been thrown open from parlor to attic, and, by 10 o'clock, so large was the assemblage that all of the rooms were thronged. Handsome ladies, attired with elegant and costly toilettes, leaning on the arm of some distinguished gentleman, made vigorous efforts to promenade and display their rich dresses; but all their efforts proved futile, and they were forced to content themselves with the smallest allowance of space possible.

Later in the evening, many of the visitors having departed, a social and pleasant conversation was carried on. The host and hostess were lavish in their hospitality, and did everything possible to render their guests at home.

Among the distinguished company we noticed Vice President Colfax and lady, Miss Carrie Parsons, Secretary and Mrs. Fish, Attorney General Williams and lady, Lieut. Commander McCurley and lady, George Wm. Curtis, J. B. Thompson and lady, Rev. J. P. Newman, Lieutenant Commander Coranga and lady, Hon. Horatio King and Miss Flag, Colonel Hardie and Mrs. Hardie, Judge Walker and lady, Gen. and Miss Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Bolles, ex-Senator Cattell, Dr. and Mrs. Chickering, Prof. and Mrs. Chickering, Mr. and Mrs. Coburn, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman, Hon. James Brooks and lady, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, Miss Searle, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Mills, Miss Eva Mills, Col. and Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Hilgard, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Christy, Senator Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Granger, Chief Justice Drake and ladies, Hon. Jas. Bulliston, Gen. Lorenzo Thomas and lady, Gen. Brown and lady, Senator Sawyer and Miss Jefferd, Senator and Mrs. Ramsey, Hon. Freeman Clark and lady, Hon. John Wilson and lady, Hon. John Douglass, Dr. Harvey Lindsley, Senator Sherman and lady, J. C. Kennedy and lady, Minister from Equador, Gen. Nagle and lady, Senator Patterson and lady, John Hitz, esq., J. F. Blackfan and lady, Rev. Dr. Sunderland, Judge Macarthur and lady, Gen. Francis A. Walker, Gen. Packard and lady, Rev. Dr. McCook and ladies, Pay-Director Cunningham, Gen. Leggett, Senator Tipton and lady, Admiral Ingersoll, Marshal Sharp and lady, Col. and Mrs. D. C. Cox, Blacque Bey, Gen. N. L. Jeffries and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. McHenry, Minister from Holland, Col. Robinson and lady, Senator Corbett and lady, Senator Cole, Portuguese Minister, Justice Strong and daughter, Admiral Goldsborough and lady, Mr. and Mrs. Alley, Prof. Henry, Mr. Byington, Miss Lizzie Thurman, Senator Osborn, and many others.

SUCCESS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC.

The popularity of American securities in the financial market is illustrated by the return of sales of Northern Pacific seven-thirty bonds during the month of January of this year, when the total sales in the United States amounted to $1,500,043. Except in the matter of sales of Government bonds, no such success has been known in the financial history of this country. In England the Northern Pacific loan is now the leading investment of all the American securities, and its ready sale is no doubt attributable as well to the unquestionable security of the bond as to the fact that it pays an annual income of more than eight per cent. per annum clear of all taxes.

THE COMING NEW YORK MAN.—"Gail" has discovered the man who is to take Fisk's place, and writes thus about him in the Chicago Tribune:

"In conversation to-day with a prominent Wall-street broker, he told me that 'the coming man' of the street was Mr. Henry Smith, and then he told me a little something about the man, which I will repeat. Mr. Smith is a young man—active, energetic, ambitious and far-seeing. He was formerly a member of the firm of Fisk, Gould & Marshall, but withdrew therefrom some time since, and has since been operating in his own name. He spends his whole time in Wall street, dealing almost exclusively in railway shares—sometimes carrying millions of dollars' worth. My authority says that he made four millions of dollars clear last year, and that he is now worth from seven to ten millions. He is a bold, fearless speculator, who, having once calculated the chances, persistently pushes forward till the crowns his efforts. He goes out in bowles so called reckless—but only as all speculation is reckless—but he carefully makes up his mind, and then is bold and fearless in the execution of his plans. It is predicted of him that his immense railroad interests will yet necessitate his becoming manager of some of the great railroad corporations. Vanderbilt, Gould and other 'princes' recognize in Mr. Smith a 'foeman worthy of their steel,' and prophesy that he will become the 'dictator of the street.' As to his morality in business matters, he probably has as good a supply of that commodity as any of his brother speculators. Mr. Smith now has a large following of operators in the street, as does every new man possessing vigor, originality and success. The prophecy as to his future is worth recording."

HOW A SERMON OF DAN. VOORHEES WAS REPORTED.—The Louisville Ledger tells this story of the journalist, Daniel O'Connell, who was buried the other day from the Morgue, in New York. It relates to the time when he was on the Courier-Journal, in Louisville: "But in an evil hour, when sent to report a speech Dan. Voorhees was to deliver at New Albany, the mantelpiece of the great Irish orator fell by the wayside, and spent the day with some rollicksome friends in Portland. Returning to the editorial rooms that night he gave Mr. Haldeman a circumstantial account of the difficulties he experienced in getting near enough to hear every word Voorhees said, but claimed that he had got the 'bones' of the speech, and many of the orator's 'fancy flights,' and could reproduce them verbatim. Waiting his head with ice water, he sat down, and in two hours cent up with flaming headlines the most tremendous speech that was ever circulated on the historical credit of the Tall Sycamore of the Wabash. The 'fancy flights' were especially toploftical. Grattan and Curran were nowhere, and even Phillips was totally eclipsed. Brilliant extracts from his report went the rounds, and yet Dan. Voorhees was ungrateful enough afterward to say he would not for a thousand dollars have had that speech published as his."

ENGLISH RAILWAYS AND THEIR RECEIPTS.—The total traffic receipts on railways in the United Kingdom for 1871 amounted to £66,171,125, or about $320,555,625. The increase in the traffic over that of 1870 was £2,044,520, and the aggregate increase in the past three years has been £6,947,879. The London Times remarks that the receipts would have been much larger had not great restrictions been placed by all the companies on "third-class traffic," or the carrying of passengers by third-class carriages. The companies objected and made trouble, because they found that even in the rich districts through which the main lines pass thousands of people traveling short distances prefer to take third-class tickets, thus bringing transportation down to ruinously low rates. It is this fact, more than any other, which has condemned to a preference among the companies for the American system of cars, and it is seriously thought that it will be adopted. The average receipts for England and Wales now show a proportion of 19.06 per cent. for first class, 29.95 for second class, and 49.48 for third class. Still the total of the receipts constantly increases, and the directors of all the roads will do well to do away with every foolish restriction of class.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

THE Eastern Siberia gold mines are yielding handsomely.

THE falls of Minnehaha have been bought by a far-seeing speculator.

THE Ohio State Chess Tournament opens in Cincinnati, February 19.

A TOO confiding damsel of 71 has sued an Adonis of 80 for breach of promise in Illinois.

NINE GRAINS of corn have been removed from the ear of a Wisconsin boy.

MR. DILLINGHAM KEMP has been so diligent, matrimonially, in England, that he is in trouble as the husband of six wives.

A MANCHESTER (England) paper advertises "a large supply of American oysters, just rivers, just arrived."

BROOKLYNITES are rapidly arming in view of the numerous highway robberies and murders that have lately occurred in their city.

AMERICAN TOURISTS are carrying off the Temple of Baalbek "by the sackfull," as a Scotchman writes to the London Times.

A MANKATO plumber rejoices in the name of Orpheus, which is eminently appropriate for a piper.

THE Irish societies in Boston, after much discussion, have decided upon a public parade on St. Patrick's day.

THE Italian Government is said to contemplate the construction of a new railroad from Rome to Brindisi.

THE average yearly number of visitors to the South Kensington Museum during the last five years has been 905,084.

A CASE of "drunkenness in high life" is agitating Louisville, the victim being a lady of "aristocratic" standing.

ALASKA is wetted by rain 240 days in the year, and dampened by fogs nearly 100 of the remaining 125 days.

THE author of a new English work, "The Secret of a Long Life," thinks part of the secret is being "able to lane judiciously."

A LOVELY Japanese princess is going to Yazoo. She can balance herself in a washtub on a telegraph wire in seven Oriental languages.

CHARLESTON, S. C. ships daily to England a thousand tons of fertilizers, manufactured from the phosphate beds in the vicinity of the city.

DAYTON, OHIO, is again mystified about its "sleeping beauty," who, as fat and as dead-looking as ever, has now commenced her annual somnolent humbuggery.

A BILL is before the Utah Legislature providing that boys of fifteen and girls of twelve may marry, with the consent of their parents.

THE announcement is made that there are in America and Europe more than 250 manufactories of India-rubber articles, employing some 500 operatives each, and consuming more than 20,000,000 pounds of gum per year.

MR. JOHN MARTIN, who lives in Cannon county, Tennessee, is reported by the Woodbury Press as being one hundred and nineteen years old. He is unquestionable "the oldest inhabitant" in the State.

A YOUNG Illinois girl used sealing wax as a substitute for chewing gum, and the Venetian red it contained poisoned her. She lingered a few days and expired in great agony.

CINCINNATI is the most densely populated city in the country, having thirty-six thousand to the square mile. New York, which ranks next, has but twenty-three thousand. Cincinnati average fifteen houses and fifteen to the square acre; London has but forty, and Dublin thirty-two.

THE temperance reformers of Massachusetts having denounced tobacco and rum in a lump, and declared that the love of liquor is stimulated by the use of tobacco, the New York Tribune asks, "Why is it that the Mohammedans, who are both temperate and long-lived, are the 'most inveterate smokers in the world?'"

A PLOT of land in London, opposite the Mansion house, the public property of the Lord Mayor, a locality well-known to all who have visited England, is said to have been recently let at a ground rent almost equal to $1 per square foot per annum, which represents a capitalized value of about a million and a half sterling per acre, or $7,500,000.

IT may be sometimes beneficial to have the smallpox. At Troy, N. Y., a man who had been insane for over two years caught the contagion, and, after the usual run of the disease, recovered not only his health, but his senses, and is both physically and mentally a well man. He is a carpenter by trade, and is about to resume work.

ON THE EAST SHORE of Lake Michigan a fruit grower has undertaken the cultivation of figs, having three hundred trees of that fruit in his orchard. He intends to bend them up each winter for protection from the frosts, and owing to his care and judgment has had two crops from them each season for the past two years. Thus far he has made the fig crop a source of considerable profit.

PROFESSOR MARSH is busily preparing a report of his Rocky Mountain exploring expedition. The specimens collected by the party in the aggregate amount to several tons, a portion of which is now snowbound on the Pacific railway. It will be some time yet before the whole is received and subjected to a thorough examination, before which no intelligent statement can be made as to the value of the discoveries.

THE time card for the special train which conveyed the Grand Duke Alexis over the Union Pacific railroad, from Omaha to Maj Pherson, on the 19th ult., on his way to the great buffalo hunt, was very elaborately and handsomely printed in blue and gold. The imperial arms and the seal of the Union Pacific Railroad Company were displayed on the card, together with a representation of the sports in prospect—a buffalo hunt.

THE Schenectady Star says: "An illuminated hat band is the latest novelty. It can be used as a lantern, giving such powerful light that the bricks in a man's hat can be readily enumerated. It throws its effulgence ahead, and will enable belated lovers to steer clear of gas lamps and horse-blocks. With this illuminator there will be no excuse for a man pulling his neighbor's bell for his own in a fit of ignorant bliss."

AT Lowell, Mass., a few days ago, a lady attending a prayer-meeting in a basement vestry, was so affected by the atmosphere, spiritual or otherwise, that she fell into a deep slumber. When she awoke she found herself a prisoner in the dark vestry, and could not, by the utmost efforts of her hands and lungs, get released. About noon next day she succeeded in climbing out of a window and summoning aid to help her over the high fence of the church yard.

THE "Great West" is not alone in furnishing examples of "mushroom cities," the oil regions of Pennsylvania being equally remarkable for such growths. St. Petersburg, in Clarion county, which had about a dozen houses before oil was "struck," now numbers about one thousand inhabitants, and "Gas City," Venango county, now contains forty business stores, where a few years ago there were only half a dozen scattered farm houses.

A UNIQUE and rather sensational performance is that of Herr Holtum, the "Prussian Hercules," at the Holborn amphitheatre. A stage gun, drawn into the arena by two horses, is loaded by an artilleryman, in sight of the audience, with a twenty-pound ball. Holtum faces the muzzle, gives the order "fire," and after a flash and a boom which shakes the building, the cannon ball is caught by him. On one occasion the cannon-ball passed over his head and rolled into his hands, and as if to prove "that there was really no deception," carried away a portion of one of the pinasters.

WHILE in Milwaukee the Duke Alexis was shown the shipping, and being a practical navigator, of course took an entire interest in all he saw. Among the vessels was one of peculiarly attractive proportions, that seemed to be just what he had been looking for as suitable and appropriate for the inland seas of Russia. On inquiry, he was informed that the builders were Messrs. Quayle & Martin, of Cleveland, which he immediately dispatched an order for a model of a vessel that would be equal to the one under inspection. Mr. Martin immediately set to work, and has just finished the model, which is an elegant piece of workmanship, made of pine and black walnut, five feet long, and finished completely. Accompanying the model is a letter of specifications and full directions for construction.

THE largest stationary engine in the world was put into operation a few days ago at the Lehigh Zinc works, at Friedensville, Lehigh county, Pa. It is of three-thousand horse power, its weight 650 tons, and is capable of pumping, if necessary, from 15,000 to 17,000 gallons of water per minute, and this from a depth of three hundred feet. The heaviest pieces are sections of beams weighing 24 tons. The cylinder is 110½ inches in diameter, and the length of stroke is 10 feet. Two crosshead shafts weigh 16 tons each. Crank pins, 3 tons each. The piston-rod is 14 inches in diameter. The cross-head weighs 8 tons. The connecting-rods weigh 11 tons each; their length is at free 25½ inches, and their diameter 9 inches in the neck and 15½ in the middle.

CARL SCHURZ IN MISSOURI.

[From the St. Louis Democrat, Jan. 27.]

For many months Senator Schurz has been playing on the national stage the part of injured innocency, protesting that his course and conduct were solely those of an independent and conscientious Republican, seeking the good of his country through the purity and efficiency of his party. Declaring himself a Republican of Republicans, his whole action tended to break down the party that elected him, and naturally aroused suspicions of deliberately meditated treachery. This was so far back as the early part of the last session of Congress. The expression of these suspicions began in the country press of Missouri, among the journals that had gone with Schurz and defended him in the bolt of '70. The Missouri Democrat was tardy and reluctant to admit these suspicions, or to contemplate as morally possible the perfidious attentions attributed to him. But, as time passed, the action of Schurz's adopted intimates in St. Louis, the avowals of his own journal, his constant coincident expressions and acts, and his coterie's affiliation with Democratic leaders, and the systematic cooperation of Democrats and Schurz men in this city, with his steadily increasing demonstrations of hostility to his party, left it unquestionable that a thoroughly premeditated plan of warfare against that party in the Presidential campaign was being persistently worked out by this arch hypocrite and demagogue.

Nevertheless Mr. Schurz has repudiated any such designs with so frequent and lofty apostrophes to the virtues as to have long retained a large share of the sincere respect of many Republicans in other States, especially in the East, less favored than we with opportunities of discovering the hollowness of his professions and the mockery of his consummate cant. As late as the last issue of Harper's Weekly that journal took occasion to express its confidence that Mr. Schurz' sole objection to the Republican party was his apprehension that it would renominate Grant, and that in no other event could the Senator appear in hostility to the Republican standard. Mr. Curtis and some other generous Republicans, of more comprehensiveness than accuracy of vision, could not conceive that Carl Schurz was playing a double part, thereby proving moral turpitude in the confidence of just such Republicans as they, and the infernally treacherous to use it to defeat them in 1872. We trust they are now convinced that Blair was more in his secret than they, when months since he declared that Schurz had left his party and burnt his ships behind him. The bummers' mass-meeting the other day at Jefferson, the shabbiest trick of desperate politicians, shows Schurz to be for a national mass-meeting to nominate a Presidential candidate in opposition to the candidate of the Republican party, whoever the latter candidate may be, and upon whatever platform he is placed.

Thus it is clear at last what Schurz meant in his envenomed attacks upon the President in the Senate last year, and in his eloquent protestations of intending thereby to benefit the Republican party. It is plain what he meant in sending Republican colonels to distract them and frustrate them. He meant what was in his mind, and almost escaped his tongue, when he add send his servitors and the Democratic central committee at the Southern hotel, last summer. The meaning he has made many long speeches to intimate, ever with systematically growing success, is now out in blunt fulness. His Jefferson City bummers have blurted it. It is, as it has all the time been, while Westliche Post was chuckingly reminding its readers that Schurz's silence was golden, deeply and deliberately meditated treason to his party. Under false pretences of seeking to "elevate" (!) that party he has been studying to ruin it. He has claimed its trusts and its confidence as its truest friend in order the most effectively to stab it. He has assumed his special championship that he might the more completely betray it. If, twelve months ago, his actual position had been divulged as his friends have now disclosed it, he could not have had a hundredth part of the opportunity he has had, and has improved, for mischief.

The Senator's latest reported outgiving is precisely what we should have expected. His bummers have met and unfurled his standard. He has measured the success and the weakness of their strategy, enjoyed the former and studied the latter, and a result is that this little item is sent over the wires, dated New York, 26th:

"A Washington telegram to the Herald says that Senator Schurz asserts that he will bolt if Grant is renominated. He expresses himself as confident that Grant will not be renominated."

Missourians will smile at this. It tells what we all knew as a precious morsel of intelligence. It expresses a confidence we all know is but a fear, while the hope and confidence of Schurz and his friends are that Grant will be nominated, and that the queer Democrats in his whole point in the inference it would suggest to the reader, i. e., that Schurz would support any other candidate the Republican party should name. This utterance is for Curtis and such as he, that, purchased, they may still believe in the pious devotion of Schurz to his party.

HOW THE PIUTE INDIANS LIVE.—The Virginia City Enterprise, of January 6, says: "One would naturally suppose the situation at present with the Piutes encamped on the hills surrounding the city to be rather rough, yet we hear of no sickness of any kind among them, nor any complaint about anything. They console town—men and women, great and small—as regularly as usual; look as sleek as ever, and are just as jolly as in midsummer. As there is not a stick of wood of any kind on the hills whereon they are camped, or not even a sagebrush as large as a man's finger, it is wonderful how they manage to keep from freezing to death during the heavy, driving snow storms. The tops of boards and small sticks which the squaws are able to find about town scarce suffice to cook their meat, and is so scanty and so precious that they dare not venture the extravagance of burning it for the purpose of keeping themselves warm. In order to keep warm they must huddle in bands in their brush huts—old and young, great and small, piling up together irrespective of condition. By going to the distance of twenty or thirty miles from the city, they might find camping places where they could obtain an abundance of wood, but they would find their means of subsistence most precarious; in fact, did they depend entirely on game, all would starve to death. Here they are able to find plenty of good, strong food, and having that, they appear to defy the inclemency of the season. One stormy night recently even the best of their sage-brush huts—a structure resembling a muskrat house—would probably be the death of any white family that might risk the trial; yet the Piutes laugh at the storm, and in the midst of the whirling cloud of snow cry "Ha! ha!"

JAPANESE GOOD SHOP.—The grog shops of Japan are neither more nor less than teashops. All along public roads, at frequent distances, are planted pleasant tea-houses. They "tea," according to a correspondent, when they must stop by the wayside, and in such little bits of cups that one could drink the contents of twenty of them and then want more. Pretty tea girls stand by the entrance, and (their teeth not yet blackened) with pretty ways and courtesies so fascinating that tea even without sugar or milk becomes agreeable. On pretty lacquered waiters the tea girls hand you little they cups with a mouthful in them, and you squat down on the nice clean mats, if squat you can, and you sip and sip this mouthful of hot tea as if the gods' nectar was going down your throat in infinitesimal drops of microscopic invisibility. The keeper of a Japan tea-house picks out as pretty a place for the tea-house as she or he can get. The keeper covets, if possible, a view of and the air of the Bay of Yeddo, along which most of the way here runs the Tocaido. The grand tea-house is cut up into numerous little rooms, with paper partitions to part them running on slides, but all removable at will, to restore the whole to one grand room. Cakes, sweetmeats and candies are brought in with the tea, all put on the clean matted floor, (there are no seats,) and all squat or stretch out on that floor.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING IN PARIS.—Within the last three months the price of living in Paris, says a correspondent, has augmented to an extent which is really alarming. Form-ty the city was heavily taxed as the seat of Government, the residence of Court and Parliament, the abode of rank and fashion, the paradise of foreigners and the "other side of Jordan" for good Americans; but now these advantages have departed, course have been driven out of the country, the Assembly hides its diminished head at Versailles, people of wealth and rank prefer to go elsewhere, and even "shoddy" finds Paris dim and joyless.

Commercially speaking, Paris has suffered more than any other part of France; it was invested for four months and a half and then had to endure the Commune. Still, however, it is taxed as the most favored spot, and what with taxes on real and personal estate, has to pay 26,092,689 francs to a government which does not restore confidence.

IN THE great gas case at Memphis, the plaintiffs have amended their bill so as to make it for $700,000 damages.

CAPITOL AND DEPARTMENTS.

THE wife and daughter of Mayor Mattil, of Chicago, are the guests of the President.

THE Committee on Ways and Means have still under consideration the appeals of merchants and others to reduce the duty on salt.

POSTAL.—A new post office is ordered at Dale, Enterprise, Rockingham county, Va., with Christian H. Bank as postmaster.

THE Senate Committee on Commerce have agreed to report favorably the nomination of W. T. Haines for commissioner of customs.

THE Virginia tobacco manufacturers will write at once in a memorial to the Committee of Ways and Means, praying for a uniform tax on tobacco, but leaving the tax to the wisdom of Congress.

THE President and Vice President are expected to attend, this evening, the fair for the benefit of the Union Orphan Asylum, now being held in Baltimore.

AT THE session of the Cabinet yesterday it was decided to refer the case of the steamer Hornet to the Attorney General, and he has the question whether she is entitled to clearance papers now under consideration.

MR. CHARLES HALE will answer in person the charges preferred against him while consul at Egypt. If his defence should be satisfactory, his nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of State will be reported favorably.

THE House Committee on Elections heard, yesterday, the argument of General Butler in favor of an extension of time for taking testimony in the case of Niblack, who is contesting the seat of Wells.

NAVAL ORDERS.—Ordered: Captain John Guest to the navy yard at Philadelphia, and Commander A. W. Weaver to the Washington navy yard. Detached: Captain Pierce Crosby from the Philadelphia navy yard, and ordered to the command of the Powhatan.

THE WOMAN QUESTION IN JAPAN.—Several of the lady clerks of the Executive Departments are anxious to enter the Government service of Japan, and are soliciting the good offices of the officials with Minister Mori and the outgoing embassy to that end.

THE Commissioner of Internal Revenue will to-day hear the argument of the attorneys of the New York Central Railway Company against the assessment of the tax on the script dividend, which amounts to $23,020,000, the tax claimed being about $1,000,000.

AT A JOINT session yesterday of the Senate and House Committees on Commerce and Post Offices and Post Roads it was agreed to recommend to the Postmaster General that the contract for carrying the Atlantic and Pacific mail should be awarded to the Williams and Gulon line.

A DELEGATION of distillers called on Commissioner Douglass yesterday, and urged him to recommend to the Committees on Ways and Means the consolidation of the tax on distilled spirits. They do not want the tax increased a cent but contend that the tax should not exceed seventy-five cents per gallon.

MAJOR JAMES G. BENTON has been assigned under orders of the chief of ordnance, to duty of superintending the armaments of the sea coast from Charleston, S. C., to Mobile, Ala. Capt. A. R. Daughtry, the ordnance department, has been ordered to duty as assistant to Major Benton in the performance of the above mentioned duties.

REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.—An official statement issued yesterday by the Secretary of the Treasury, shows that the public debt has decreased from March 1, 1869, to February 1, of the present year, from $2,320,468,202 67 to $2,264,000,000, a reduction of $56,468,202 67. The interest charge since March 1, 1869, is $17,300,324.48.

SECRETARIES FISH AND BOUTWELL were before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday, and after listening to their arguments in favor of carrying the fishery clause of this treaty into effect, the committee agreed to report a bill without recommendation.

AT THE session of the Southern Claims Commission yesterday, the cases of James Robinson, of Prince William county, Va., for $2,000; George Harris, of Fairfax county, Va., for $2,900; Owen Harris, of Fairfax county, Va., $974, and Jesse Harris, of the same county, for $600 were heard. The latter stated that he was the father of twenty children, all living.

THE majority report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate in favor of giving ex-Senator Abbott, of North Carolina, the seat now vacant, and to which Gov. Vance was elected, is very voluminous, and is signed by Senators Morton, Rice, Carpenter, and Anthony. The minority report is signed by Senators Thurman, Hill and Logan.

THE Secretary of the Treasury yesterday called in $1,750,000 of the three per cent. temporary loan, embracing the following numbers: $5,000, Nos. 3,332 to 3,414, and $10,000, Nos. 3,196 to 3,332. Interest on above certificates will cease March 1st, after which time they will be no longer available as a portion of the lawful money reserve in possession of any national banking association.

THE Third Auditor has under investigation the accounts of W. T. Collins, who has just resigned the office of pension agent for the District of Columbia. It is not believed that he is a defaulter, but it is admitted that his disbursements have been irregular, as in a number of cases he has advanced money to pensioners on account. His successor will not be designated until the accounts of the officer are fully settled.

GOVERNMENT STATIONERY DEPOT.—There is some prospect that among the economical measures to be devised for a reduction of national expenses is the plan for establishing a Government stationery depot for the supply of all the legislative, executive, and judicial offices at the seat of Government. By defining and limiting the schedule of articles to be kept for issue, and prohibiting the expenditure of the contingent fund for outside purchases, it is believed that a great saving could be made.

MILITARY RESERVATIONS AT SAN FRANCISCO.—The engineer officers on the Pacific coast complain that the rapacity of railroads and land speculators is stripping the Government of one of its military reservations around San Francisco as to seriously impair the defensive capacity of the city, and subject the United States to the probability of buying back its own property, with costly but useless improvements, whenever it becomes necessary to use the Pacific coast as a war footing. For these reasons the War Department is opposed to Senator Cole's bill to turn the valuable Presidio reservation into a city park, and will continue to retain the property, as it has done for several years.

— A resolution inviting Alex is to visit Cincinnati was lost in the Board of Aldermen of that city yesterday.

— A special from Nice to the American Register states that Minister Washburn gave a grand banquet to General Sherman and Lieutenant Grant on the eve of their departure for Italy. An American squadron was ready to sail for Italian ports.

— At a special meeting of the Workingmen's Union in New York, a report was read that no change has taken place in the aspect of the cooper strike, which still continues. The society declined to aid the striking coopers who have now gone to work in the shops, not recognizing the rules of the Union.

— A fire, which originated in the grocery house of Ewing & Co., on South Market street, at Nashville, on Saturday, destroyed buildings valued at $150,000, and stocks estimated as follows: Ewing & Co., $22,000; A. M. Perine & Co., $21,000; J. Lumsden & Co., $13,000; Noell & Flatter, $5,000.

— The railroad convention at St. Louis, on Wednesday, elected the following officers of the new association: President, Thomas Allen; vice president, Albert Fink; secretary and treasurer, J. H. Sheldon; executive committee, E. J. Flemming, A. Mitchell, W. R. Arthur, J. C. McMullen, and O. H. Nettleton, Atlanta, Ga., was selected as the next place of meeting, on the first Tuesday in April.

— After a long debate the Kansas Senate on Tuesday adopted a resolution to investigate the charges of corruption in the Senatorial election last winter. An exciting time is expected, and it is supposed that a large number of witnesses from all parts of the State will be summoned to the capital.

— Timothy Lynch and Florence Sullivan quarrelled in the street of Newport, R. I., on Wednesday night, after playing cards, when Lynch knocked Sullivan down and cut his throat, so that he died in fifteen minutes. The murdered man leaves a family. Lynch was arrested.

— A dispatch from Austin says: The indictments against Gov. Davis, Secretary of State Newcomb, and Attorney General Alexander were returned to the court on Wednesday by the district attorney. One of the charges is for misdemeanor in office in giving a false certificate of election to W. T. Clark as member of Congress from the Third district, whereas Gridiy was elected by a clear majority of six thousand.

BY TELEGRAPH

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN.

The New York Custom-house Investigation—Meeting of Steamboat Owners in Philadelphia—Statements of the Chicago Relief Fund—John H. Farnsbar Appointed Secretary of State of Indiana—Banquet to the Japanese Embassy at Sacramento—The Congressional Investigation at New Orleans—Alexis at Memphis—Three Thieves a Republic Consul Raid in France—Great Excitement in Paris Caused by Gordon's New Play—Termination of the Commercial Treaties Between France, England and Belgium—Revolt in the Philippine Islands—Two Hundred Insurgents Killed.

NEW YORK.

The Custom-House Investigation.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The Congressional Committee this morning examined E. C. Johnson, formerly in the general order business, who stated that he had offered to present the holders of the business $60,000 for it. The present high prices are owing to the high sums which have to be paid for the privilege of obtaining the business.

Johnson gave a long testimony of what he had heard of inspectors taking bribes, of men in the custom-house running primaries, half of the employes, in his opinion, being hired ever since Jackson's Presidency for their abilities in cheating as sections. He did not believe the collectors knew anything about the custom-house business. He said the charge of fifteen cents for storage and labor would be right, but owned that he never charged as low as that when he had the general order business.

James Young, an inspector, testified to the effect that inspectors were paid by the steamship lines for extra work, and that liquor was liberally furnished them on Sunday.

Inspector Young testified that one James Davis, a custom-house broker, is allowed free access to the baggage which arrives by steamers, indicating to the inspectors what must be passed. If not passed as he wishes, the inspector gets discharged. All reports of such things were attended to with poor results. The compromise system he thought a curse to the Government. He said that the Government has lost the pier of the National steamship line, but would never try it again without a revenue cutter and troops. Witness also said the merchants generally cared nothing for odor taken at the custom-house, or knew that any action has been taken by the Government. All deputies to the contrary, and to America professing to give accounts of the proceedings in Cabinet on this question are pronounced by the Reuter Telegraph Company's agents in Washington, they are mostly made up of irresponsible newspaper statements.

THE COMING THANKSGIVING CEREMONIES.—In proceeding to St. Paul's church on the 21th instant, to be present at the thanksgiving ceremonies fixed for that day, Her Majesty will, for the first time, deviate from the customary route along the Strand and Fleet street via Charing Cross and Temple Bar. The royal procession will take on this occasion the new Thames embankment, facing Westminster to new Blackfriars bridge, which, with the immediate approaches, embankments, gardens and the public buildings and private buildings facing the river will be decorated with flags, flowers and other evidences of loyal good will.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD LOAN.—The governing committee of the London stock exchange has appointed a special settling-day for the Northern Pacific railroad loan. The loan is now quoted at 2½ per cent. premium.

THE OWNERS OF THE DAVE'S POISON ARRESTED.—The owners of an indecent pictorial weekly published here and in New York, have again been arrested and held for trial, as they persist in the offence of selling and circulating the paper.

EMIGRATION.—The number of emigrants who sailed from Liverpool in the month of January exceeds that of December by 1,120. The burning of Chicago seems to have stimulated the emigration of carpenters and masons.

FRANCE.

Thiers Despairs of the Republic.

[Herald Special.]

LONDON, Feb. 1.—In a recent conversation with General Billot, President Thiers is reported to have said: "I am sincerely in favor of a moderate republic, and long thought it possible; but I now see I was mistaken, and the republic cannot exist, even with my aid. I am compelled to seek the happiness of the country elsewhere."

SERIOUS SNOWSTORM IN FRANCE.—A snowstorm of unusual severity has set in at Paris. Feb. 3.—The railway laborers at Arles have struck work, and threaten to stop the trains. Troops have been sent thither to strengthen the hands of the authorities.

WILD SCENES OF ENTHUSIASM AT A THEATRE.—A new play by Victorien Sardou, entitled "Ragabas," has just been brought out at the Vaudeville. It contains some expressions in favor of imperial rule, which the Communards, which have caused wild scenes of excitement at the theatre. The agitation extends outside, and last night, after the performance, crowds passed through the boulevards shouting, some, "Down with the Bonapartes!" and others, "Vive l'Empire!" At one time a disturbance was threatened, but the crowds finally dispersed without coming to blows. To prevent a recurrence of such disorderly agitation, Thiers has ordered General D'Administ to suspend the performance of the play, and, if necessary, to temporarily close the theatre.

TERMINATION OF THE COMMERCIAL TREATIES BETWEEN FRANCE, ENGLAND AND BELGIUM.—

MOTION TO RETURN TO PARIS REJECTED.—Deputy Duchatel's motion that the Assembly and Government return to Paris was defeated. M. Lantrain, the newly-elected deputy for Paris, spoke vehemently in support of the motion. He was frequently interrupted. There was much confusion, and in the midst of great uproar the motion was rejected by a vote of 527 to 84.

A MINISTER'S THREATENED RESIGNATION.—Minister Casimer Perier threatens to resign.

TURKEY.

Barbarian Attack Israelites.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 2.—A barbarious attack has been made on the Jews in Ismaila on the Monachan frontier. Several were killed and many wounded, and all who could, men, women and children, fled from the place to save their lives. The fugitives have been kindly received by the officers of the Porte.

CUBA.

Schooner Wrecked.

HAVANA, Feb. 2.—The schooner Vesta, from New York for Galveston, has been wrecked near the Spanish Key Alacos. A part of the cargo of the brigantine Dodge, consisting of iron bullers and coal, has been brought to Nassau. The Dodge was found abandoned on Cayo Lobor.

SPAIN.

Revolt in the Phillipine Islands.

MADRID, Feb. 3.—Dispatches have been received from the Governor General of the Phillipine Islands, announcing a serious attempt at revolt. A company of two hundred native soldiers belonging to the artillery service, rebelled and took possession of the fort. The place was subsequently carried by assault by the regular troops, and the insurgents were killed.

MEXICO.

General Quiroga Cannonades Camargo.

MATAMORAS, February 2.—General Quiroga cannonades Camargo last night, rendering the place untenable. Durfina to-day telegraphed that he would fall back upon Reynosa. The national guard has been called out here, and will be drilled to-morrow. General Palacio is using every means to strengthen the fortifications and put this city in a state of defence. There is unanimity, patriotism among the people indicating a disposition to volunteer and assist the regular troops.

Alexis Arrives at Memphis.

MEMPHIS, February 2.—Alexis and his party arrived here this p. m., and were escorted to their hotel. A reception took place this evening, which was followed by a ball and banquet. The movements of the party from this point are uncertain. If the weather continues to moderate, they will doubtless wait for the steamer Great Republic, which is now on hand above Columbus.

A Swindler Arrested.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2.—James Thompson was arrested here yesterday for swindling Farley, Smith & Co., of Montgomery, out of $3,300, which he obtained on forged drafts some days ago. Nearly all the money was found on him.

Secretary of State of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS, February 2.—Governor Baker has appointed John Farnsbar Secretary of State, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Col. Eddy.

Orphan Asylum in Louisville Partially Burned.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 2.—A fire to-day considerably damaged the Orphanage of the Good Shepherd in this city. The thirty-three inmates were all saved, together with the furniture.

— A San Francisco dispatch says: Christian Lenz shot and killed himself on Thursday, at his wife's grave in Lone Mountain cemetery. Lorenzo A. Phelps shot himself through the head and body, at his residence, New Patrero, while insane.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

Banquet to the Japanese Embassy at Sacramento—Attempted Murder and Suicide.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2.—The steamship Constitution has arrived from Panama. One fatal case of smallpox occurred on the trip. The vessel is temporarily quarantined, though there is no sickness among the passengers.

A grand banquet was given to the Japanese embassy in Sacramento last night. The company proceeded afterwards to the Tavern.

A bill appropriating $20,000 to enlarge the claims of settlers in the Yosemite Valley will probably pass the Legislature.

Charles Billings, of Humboldt Mills, Nevada, attempted to murder Miss Sheldon because she refused to marry him. He fired two shots at her ineffectually, and then blew his own brains out with a revolver.

CHICAGO.

The Condition of the Relief Fund.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The committee appointed by the Presbytery of Chicago to receive donations for the sufferers by the fire has now on deposit $38,436, which will be mainly devoted to r