National Republican.

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THE ARKANSAS QUESTION.

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE J. M. JOHNSON.

FACTS SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT—JOHNSON'S EJECTMENT FROM HIS OFFICE—NARRATIVE OF THE CONTROVERSY—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED—THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH BROOKS.

The Hon. J. M. Johnson, Secretary of State of the State of Arkansas, has submitted to the President the following statement of facts in the case:

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., April 28, 1874.

To His Excellency U. S. Grant, President of the United States:

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you the following statement of facts in regard to the summary ejectment of myself from my office as Secretary of State, Arkansas, by Hon. Joseph Brooks and the armed force under his command. And in order that I may do this in a proper and comprehensive manner, permit me to premise by referring to the general election of November, 1872, in Arkansas, at which time I was elected to my present position.

At that election, the Greeley ticket in the State was headed by Joseph Brooks, at that time a bitter partisan of the Greeley side in the contest, and had as the nominee for Secretary of State, Mr. E. A. Fulton. The Grant State ticket was headed by Elisha Baxter, with myself as the nominee for Secretary of State. The majority of Baxter over Brooks was, as shown by the returns, something over 3,000, but my own majority over Mr. Fulton was over 10,000

With this large majority, my election has never been disputed by any one, but on the contrary, in all the contests brought by parties on the Brooks ticket, has uniformaly been conceded. This much I deem it proper to say in order that your Excellency may be fully advised as to the fact of my being Secretary of State of Arkansas, *de jure* and *de facto*.

About the last of March I left the city of Little Rock and went to the northwestern part of the State, intending to be absent but a short time, leaving my office in charge of my deputy, General Frank Strong, who has served in that capacity for the past four years. On the morning of the 15th of April, Mr. Brooks and his followers took possession of the executive office, ejected the Governor, broke open the State armory and armed themselves, and took forcible possession of the State-house. My deputy remained at his post until the usual hour for closing the office, locked it and went to his home. On the same night my office was broken open and possessed and occupied by Mr. Brooks and his armed force. On the next day, April 16, my deputy was assured by Mr. Brooks that he would not be required to act officially until I returned or was heard from. On the same evening, however, Mr. Brooks sent for him and required his official action as Secretary of State, at 7 o'clock. At that hour however, all entrances to the State-house were denied, and sentinels posted as every entrance with fixed bayonets. General Strong thereupon reported to Governor Baxter at his headquarters, and there remained, his refusal to act for Mr. Brooks having closed the office to him entirely.

On my return, Wednesday, April 22, I at once went to my office and had an interview with Mr. Brooks. I found him and his officers and men occupying the rooms and desks of the Secretary of State, surrounded by armed men, the doors and passages closely guarded. I was assured by him, in reply to direct questions, that he recognized me as Secretary of State, and had never heard that fact disputed, and that my office could be occupied by me at any time. On the next morning, April 23, I returned again and was refused admittance to the inner room—the office proper of the Secretary of State. In reply to my question why I was refused admission to my own office and by what authority, I was by Mr. Brooks given to understand that the authority was that of *force*. To the power of an *armed force* I could offer but little opposition, and therefore retired.

I will not conceal from your Excellency that it has been intimated to me that co-operation on my part with the plans of Mr. Brooks, and my recognition of himself as Governor, would preserve to me my position; but I could not, consistently, perform the functions of my office at his dictation, while his only warrant for his forcible assumption of the Executive office was a judgment of an inferior court, and when the Legislature and the Supreme Court had already decided in effect that Mr. Baxter was the Governor, and the leaders of the Republican party in their address had unequivocally so recognized and indorsed him.

It is also true that it has been insinuated that the whole plan of overthrowing the Baxter government was understood and would be sustained by the authorities at Washington; but this I have warmly and persistently denied; nor do I for a moment believe it.

From the night of the 15th of April, when the door of my office was forced, the seal of State, my own official seal, and the records, books, etc., belonging to the State Department have been in the possession of Mr. Brooks and the armed force. Under the existing state of circumstances, and feeling it to be my duty to make every exertion to protect the public interests and property intrusted to me under the law, I addressed to Mr. Brooks, on the 23d of April, the communication herein enclosed, marked "A."

Receiving no reply, I on the same day again addressed him, copy of which is inclosed, marked "B." On the 24th, having received no reply from Mr. Brooks to either of my demands, I addressed a communication to Governor Baxter, (copy enclosed marked "C,") with it also sending copies of my correspondence with Mr. Brooks. To this Governor Baxter returned me a reply, copy of which, marked "D," accompanies this communication.

From the foregoing statement of facts, with the correspondence as submitted, I trust I have shown to your Excellency that I am beyond a doubt the legally elected and only Secretary of State of Arkansas; that I have been forcibly and without shadow of law thrust out of my office, and prohibited from the proper discharge of my official duties; and that I have used all proper exertions to recover possession of the office to which I am legally entitled.

I presume that a communication such as I have taken the liberty to make to your excellency, is almost unheard of as coming from a State officer below the rank of a chief executive. But my apology lies in the fact that the history of these parties in thus violently and unlawfully seizing upon a State government, is so unusual and heretofore unheard of in the history of our country, that the occasion seems one when ordinary rules cease to be binding, and an outraged citizen and officer feels it to be his privilege and duty to approach the chief Executive of the nation with at least a plain statement of the facts as they really and actually exist.

And if it is proper, therefore, that the General Government should interfere in this matter which concerns the vital interests of a State, and therefore indirectly of all the States, I have the honor to request such assistance and such aid as your Excellency may be pleased to extend.

I have the honor to remain, your most obedient servant,

J. M. JOHNSON,
Secretary of State, Arkansas.

Correspondence referred to in foregoing communication to the President.

"A."

"LITTLE ROCK, April 23, 1874.

"*Hon. Joseph Brooks:*

"SIR:—On my return, after a short absence from Little Rock, I found the office of Secretary of State, to which I was elected in 1872, and which I have held regularly since the 6th day of January, 1873, until this time, occupied by armed men under your command; and this morning, in demanding possession of the same, I was refused by you and men under your command, and now I am out of my office by the action of yourself and your forces, and unable to perform with facility the duties of such office.

"When I left here a short time since, the government of the State was being conducted under the management and direction of Elisha Baxter, as Governor of Arkansas. I then recognized him as the lawful Governor of the State, and I have not been apprised of any lawful change in that office, and I know no other person as executive of the State.

"When I left, at the time named, General Frank Strong, my efficient deputy, was in charge of the office and carrying on the business of the office satisfactorily, but on my return I find he has been ejected from the office by you and your men, and has no control of the office, the papers, seal or anything connected therewith.

"The duties of my office cannot be discharged without great difficulty, unless I am admitted to the place where the papers and archives of State are kept, and I now make demand upon you to deliver, or have delivered to me, the possession of the rooms in which the office of Secretary of State is kept, and has been kept since the time I was installed in office on the 6th day of January, 1873, as well as the papers, documents, the seal of the State, and my official seal, of all which, under the law, I am the proper custodian.

"Very respectfully yours,
"J. M. JOHNSON,
"Secretary of State."

"B."

"C."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., April 24, 1874.

His Excellency, Elisha Baxter, Governor of Arkansas:

SIR: The papers herewith sent, copies of two letters addressed by me on yesterday to Joseph Brooks, now holding the executive office of this State by force, will explain to you how I am situated at this time in reference to the office of Secretary of State. These letters are as yet unanswered, and I have no assurance that they will be responded to.

I appeal to you as the Chief Executive of the State to place me in possession of the office, papers and other property named in these two letters at once.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. M. JOHNSON,
Secretary of State.

"D."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF ARKANSAS,
LITTLE ROCK, April 24, 1874.

Hon. J. M. Johnson, Secretary of State of Arkansas:

DEAR SIR: Your note of this day is received, and in response I have to say that your request is not only reasonable, but is just and proper; and I recognize the fact that you are illegally and forcibly kept out of the possession of the office and property named in your letter, but on account of the interference of the Federal troops at this point, I cannot place you where, in law, you should be. But for this interference I could and would, without delay, restore the possession of such office and property to you.

I remain, my dear sir,
Very respectfully, &c.,
ELISHA BAXTER,
Governor of Arkansas.

PACIFIC MAIL.

SUBSIDIES AND FORFEITURES.

[From the San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin.]

When the China branch of the Pacific Mail Company was established, Congress granted a subsidy of $500,000 per annum for a monthly service between San Francisco and Hong Kong, with a branch from Yokohama to Shanghai. As a further encouragement to the China line to perform a semi-monthly service, Congress, about two years ago, granted an additional subsidy of $500,000, providing that the ships employed should be of iron and built in this country, and of large tonnage, not less, according to our recollection, than 4,000 tons. When the Mail Company undertook to build these ships there were no ship-yards, machinery or other appliances in the country adequate to such undertakings.

There never had been a large iron ship constructed at any place. A few small iron ships, rating from 800 to 1,500 tons had been turned out. Most of these were designed for coast service. They had a single deck and the old pattern of screw engine. Iron steamship building had been in abeyance for years. There was the high tariff through which iron masters became millionaires. But there was no demand for steamships launched from American shipyards. England was running away with the commerce of the country. Her iron ships were in all waters. Her large, fast steamers went around the globe in search of business.

Congress demanded of the Pacific Mail Company the first successful demonstration of iron ship-building on a large scale. No private individual had even ventured on such an enterprise in this country. In consideration of $500,000, the Pacific Mail Company, as we have seen, was not only required to double its service on the China route, but it was required to become the pioneer iron ship-builder of America, and to demonstrate to the whole country that which never had been demonstrated, viz: that large iron steamers could be built here equal to the best ever put afloat in England. The company went about this work at once. It encountered all the obstacles which usually beset pioneer enterprises. There was not a shipyard in the country which could turn out ships of the class demanded. There never had been a compound engine for a screw steamer constructed in the country. The machinery to create machinery must first be prepared.

The company went down to the Delaware, as now the great source of iron production in Pennsylvania as they could get, and began their work. While they were waiting for the completion of machinery to construct the largest class, they began in such a way that the capacity of the machinery on hand would warrant. They put afloat four or more iron steamers, ranging in size from 1,500 tons to, say, 2,600 tons. The Colima and the Alameda were fair samples of this class. In the meantime they stimulated the contractors to provide machinery by which the steamers of 6,000 tons could be constructed. As soon as these appliances could be secured the company contracted for four of the largest iron steamers ever built for the merchant service. Adopting builders' measurement, these steamers are rated at not less than 6,000 tons.

One of them is nearly ready to go into commission. Another has been launched, or will be in a few days, and two more will be pushed toward completion as soon as possible. The entire annual subsidy granted by Congress in consideration of building these iron steamers is not enough to pay more than half the cost of a single steamer. The company undertook it upon the condition to place the steamers in service at the date named in the subsidy stipulation. They made no demand last year, and the subsidy of $500,000 was turned back into the Treasury.

During the past year the Pacific Mail Company has broken off its relations to the Central Pacific Railroad Company. It is no longer in the company's hands to keep up the highest notch passenger and tariff rates. It maintains now a vigorous and healthy competition. The public are gaining immensely by this competition. The company conspired with the Central Pacific against the public. But, ever since this rupture of the combination, the Central Pacific Company has been going after the Pacific Mail Company. First, a resolution was introduced into the last Legislature recommending Congress to refuse subsidies to the Pacific Mail Company. Very few persons saw the bearings of that resolution or knew its origin. It was inspired by the Central Pacific Company, which got in its first blow by taking advantage of the well-known hostility of the Legislature to all subsidies like those which had been granted to the Central Pacific Railroad monopoly.

In the second place, the railroad company enters Congress and becomes all at once a subsidy reformer. Every man in the interest of that company is required to make common cause against the Pacific Mail Company, for no other reason than that the latter refuses to maintain a hurtful combination. Hence the report of the committee in favor of repealing the subsidy of $500,000, granted in consideration of the construction of iron steamers and a semi-monthly service. It is more than probable that the proposed incorporation of the Asiatic Commercial monopoly finds encouragement from the same quarter, and is now sought for the same hostile purposes. This much is certain: that the Central Pacific is at the bottom of this new opposition to the Pacific Mail.

Years ago the managers of the Central Pacific Company threatened that if the Pacific Mail Company did not comply with their terms and send all Asiatic freight over their road on terms which they dictated, that monopoly would put on a line to China, and control the whole business. Just now the Pacific Mail Company is maintaining a sturdy independence. It has just rendered a great service to the country by demonstrating the fact that the best class of iron steamships can be turned out at American ship-yards. It has rendered another important service by assuming a position of perfect independence of the Pacific railway monopoly.

This is the secret of the present formidable opposition to the Pacific Mail Company. The monopoly will punish it, if possible, by turning back a subsidy into the public Treasury after it has stimulated the construction of a class of ships superior to any ever put afloat in American waters. It is well enough for those who are opposed to all subsidies on general principles to know that this present hostility is inspired by a monopoly which diverted into the pockets of its managers two dollars of subsidy for every one applied to the construction of the railroad.

VIRGINIA GENERAL TAX BILL.

RICHMOND, VA., April 30.—Despite the protest of merchants of this and other cities of Virginia, the Governor to-day returned, with his approval, the general tax bill. Its provisions are so onerous on the merchants that they threaten to appeal to the courts to test its constitutionality.

The General Assembly will adjourn to-night *sine die*.

REGATTA IN ALABAMA.

SELMA, April 30.—Thousands of people lined the banks of the river this morning to watch the boat race. Four boats were entered: Katie Putnam, Lady Bigin, Great Eastern, and Little Selma. The distance was two miles—from Beech creek to the Union building, and the time was five and a half minutes.

FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

THE LOUISVILLE AND PORTLAND CANAL BILL PASSED.

THE SENATE AMENDMENT CONCURRED IN—THE UTAH CONTESTED SEAT—PROF. HAYDEN'S REPORT—THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL—BILL TO INCREASE ARMY PAYMASTERS PASSED.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30.

SENATE.

Mr. HITCHCOCK presented memorial from Nebraska State Grange protesting against extension of patent to Haines' harvester. Referred to Committee on Patents.

Mr. ANTHONY presented a paper in regard to the tenure of office of the President *pro tempore* of the Senate, which he said had been prepared by an officer of the Senate, who had been in the same a long time, and all documents relating to the organization of the Senate were of interest. The paper was ordered to be printed.

PROFESSOR HAYDEN'S REPORT.

Mr. ANTHONY called up the resolution to print 2,000 copies of the final report of Professor Hayden.

Mr. SHERMAN opposed the passage of the resolution. He said that either the printing of documents should be stopped entirely or some mode of distributing them should be devised. If this report was worth printing, Professor Hayden could hand it over to the Harpers or Appletons, who would publish it and distribute it to those who were willing to pay for it. He said, further, that the express companies carried documents cheaper than they were transported through the mails, and they would soon monopolize the business, if Congress continued to reproduce.

Mr. ANTHONY said the engraving had already been done, and the printing would cost but $500.

After further discussion, the resolution was laid over.

Mr. OGLESBY introduced a bill to promote commerce among the States, and to cheapen transportation of the national property between the Atlantic seaboard and the Western States and Territories. Referred to the Committee on Railroads.

Mr. GORDON introduced a bill to remove the political disabilities of Jas. Jackson, of Georgia. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

At the expiration of the morning hour, the unfinished business was taken up.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

Mr. NORWOOD, who was entitled to the floor said that when the morning stars first sang together it would have been worth some dollars to the Republican party to have been present, for had it been present it never would have consented to the creation of man unless all were made equal and upon the same footing. He then commented at some length on the legislation of the Republican party in Congress in reference to the negro.

He said that less than ten years ago 4,000,000 of slaves were made free, a year later they were invested with civil rights, and that they were made the ballot box and made rulers of men, and after that made citizens. History furnished no such parallel. In forty years of the 600,000 Israelites who went from Egypt into the wilderness but two were found competent to be rulers, although they were instructed by the Creator himself. But the Republican party had made 400,000 rulers in a few minutes. He charged that the Republican party was entirely insincere in its professions for the welfare of the negro, and all that it had done was to catch the negro vote. The negro was now beginning to see the hollowness of the professions. But this bill was a last sop to be thrown to him. He denied that the Democratic party opposed this bill on account of prejudice. The Democratic party had shown less prejudice than the Republicans, and in their social relations the Democrats treated the colored people as well as the Republicans.

He said that if he had the bill did and would inevitably force social equality, and that the attempt to enforce it would result in bloodshed. He predicted that disaster would come upon the country where, and even if the bill passed the people of this country were to be compelled to send their children, their daughters to the common schools to associate with negroes, and to mix with them at all places. He arraigned the Republican party at length for its acts. Without concluding, Mr. Norwood stated that he did not feel able to proceed any further to-day.

The bill was then laid aside until to-morrow.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate resolutions in favor of expansion of the currency, adopted at a mass meeting of citizens of Indianapolis. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. ALCORN introduced bill to revise, amend, and extend so much of act of August 11, 1856, as relates to a railroad from Brandon, Miss., to the Gulf of Mexico. Referred to Committee on Public Lands.

On motion of Mr. MITCHELL, the Attorney General was directed to transmit to the Senate the correspondence in reference to the actions against Lieutenant G. A. Goodall, late in command of Fort Klamath, Oregon, for false imprisonment of James Hardy and R. M. Bogus.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was received from the House, and, on motion of Mr. MORRILL, of Me., referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The calendar of

GENERAL ORDERS

was taken up and the following bills passed:

Senate bill to declare the true intent and meaning of a certain portion of the treaty with the Sioux Indians, concluded April 29, 1868.

House bill for the relief of J. M. W. Glover, postmaster at Oxford, N. Y.

Senate bills for relief of Benjamin Cooley and Jos. W. Boswell.

For the relief of H. W. Reed.

For the relief of Wm. A. Griffin.

House bills granting pensions to Wm. Haffords of South Yarmouth, Mass.; Jas. Lee, Isaac W. Grant, Oliver S. Brown, and Thos. J. McIntire. House bill amending act to regulate the carriage of passengers in steamships and other vessels, approved March 3, 1855.

Senate bill for the relief of Susan R. Moore, the relative and legatee of Phoebe Schofield, a pensioner.

ARMY PAYMASTERS.

Mr. LOGAN called up the bill to increase the pay department of the army.

Mr. ALCORN offered an amendment providing for the detail of officers of the line to act as paymasters. Rejected.

He moved, then, that any appointment made under this act shall be from officers now in the army by promotion.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN moved to add: "And paymasters' clerks."

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., moved, as a substitute, that the additional paymasters shall be appointed from the officers of the late volunteer army not below the rank of captain.

Mr. LOGAN thought it would be very strange if the privates of the late Union army should be excluded.

Mr. LOGAN did not believe in confining the President to any particular class from which to make the appointments. He was not afraid to trust the President. Some here seemed to have lost confidence in the President since the events of the last few days, but he had not; he still had confidence in the President.

All the amendments were rejected.

The bill was then passed—yeas 21, nays 18. [It fixes the number of paymasters at fifty, an increase of six.]

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. HAWLEY, of Ill., asked leave to offer a resolution that on and after Tuesday next the House shall meet daily at 11 o'clock. Objected to, and Mr. HAWLEY gave notice that on Monday next he would move to suspend the rules for that purpose.

Mr. LUTTRELL, of Cal., offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to send to the House the names of all persons in California and Oregon who furnished supplies in the late Modoc war; the amount of the claims, &c. Referred to Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. AVERILL, of Minn., the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to furnish the House with a list of all claims presented for the last ten years for Indian depredations, and also to report what damage the whites have done the Indian tribes.

Mr. NIGLEY, of Pa., asked leave to report a bill authorizing the North Louisiana and Texas railroad to construct a bridge across the Ouachita river at Monroe and one across the Red river at Shreveport. Objected to.

RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.

The House then resumed consideration of the bill reported from the Committee on the Judiciary to carry into execution the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, concerning citizenship, and to define certain rights of citizens of the United States in foreign countries.

Mr. E. R. HOAR addressed the House in favor of the bill.

Pending consideration, the morning hour expired.

The House then took up the Senate amendments to the bill in relation to

THE LOUISVILLE AND PORTLAND CANAL.

Mr. ARTHUR, of Ky., advocated the bill, and made a careful and detailed review of the history of the enterprise, with the legislation on the subject, and showed the beneficent results derived from the work.

Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio, followed in advocacy of the legislation proposed. He maintained that the canal was the property of the Government; that Kentucky had already ceded jurisdiction, and that the only question of jurisdiction was between the United States and the holders of the four shares, to make them directors of the company.

Mr. GARFIELD, of Ohio, advocated the Senate amendment, believing that by it the rights and interests of all parties could be protected.

Mr. SAYLER, of Ohio, replied to the objections raised by Mr. WHEELER, of N. Y., and argued to show that full ownership and control of the canal was vested in the United States.

Mr. FOSTER, of Ohio, expressed the belief that Kentucky had intended to give full jurisdiction to the United States, and if any doubt exists he was willing to trust the State of Kentucky to correct it. He had opposed the bill when it was up before, but having given the subject a more careful investigation he should now support it.

Mr. KELLEY, of Pa., said he had, like Mr. FOSTER, opposed the bill when before the House, but had become convinced of its great importance as a means of transportation, and should vote against its recommitment for the passage.

Mr. STANDEFORD, of Ky., advocated the Senate amendment and defended the good faith of the State of Kentucky.

Mr. STANNARD, of Mo., said the only obstacle to the passage of the bill seemed to be the question whether the State of Kentucky retained any jurisdiction over this canal. It was enough for him that the Senate had twice, by a large majority, settled that it had not.

Mr. BANNIN, of Ohio, contended that the United States had the fullest title to the canal property, and that there was no merit in the claims of the Campbell heirs.

Mr. HOLMAN, of Ind., advocated the adoption of the Senate bill.

Mr. WHEELER, of N. Y., said he had never, in his experience of twenty-five years, seen such a systematic effort to cover up the real objects sought to be accomplished. He said for the part he had taken he had been grossly assailed by the press of the West, and his motives charged as dishonest. Such attacks would not divert him from his position.

He said the bill was a proposition to pay $1,172,000 of the bonds of the company with $600,000 of interest and an unlimited amount of floating debt. It was a proposition to take this property in violation of an express statute, for the State of Kentucky had never ceded its jurisdiction over it, let gentlemen say what they would. It said the act of the State provided that the transfer should be made when the United States complied with certain conditions named, "and made the necessary improvements of the canal." He challenged the evidence that the Government had ever expended a dime for these "necessary improvements." He controverted the assertion that the United States was the sole owner of the canal. It was a curious ownership that had no control of the property, and the only act that could be done was to cast its vote for a board of directors.

In 1857, two years after it was claimed the United States had become sole owner, the Legislature of Kentucky was found amending the charter of the company authorizing the enlargement of the canal by itself.

He read a resolution of Congress in 1860, authorizing the enlargement of the canal, but disclaiming any responsibility on the part of the Government. This, he said, was a curious sort of sole ownership.

Justice Miller, of the Supreme Court, in 1872, had said the passage of this resolution by Congress was conclusive to him of the existence of the corporation of the Portland and Louisville canal with revenue and credits to carry on its operations.

In view of the time that must elapse before the Legislature of Kentucky meets, he advocated a loan of money to the company for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1874, or for any year thereafter, shall be paid unless the State of Kentucky shall have ceded all jurisdiction over the said canal and relinquished the right to tax or in any way assess said canal, its property, &c. He said Congress had by solemn act recognized the claim of Kentucky, and declared that the property should be preserved for her benefit. Commodore J. R. Madison Mullany to the grade of rear admiral. Rear Admiral William E. LeRoy will succeed Scott in command of the North Atlantic station.

THE UTAH DELEGATE.

The House Committee on Elections has arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Cannon was duly and legally elected Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Utah, and possesses the requisite qualifications for the position unless he is disabled by being, or is alleged, a bigamist or polygamist. The committee has not determined the truth of this allegation, not having the requisite authority, but will ask the House to appoint a special committee to inquire into the facts, report its validity, and also whether such social condition would amount to a political disability to act as Delegate in Congress.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The receipts from customs at the principal ports for the week ending April 25 are reported as follows: New York, $1,976,285.29; Boston, $338,889.98; Philadelphia, $202,694.43; Baltimore, $120,697.26.

INTERNAL REVENUE FOR APRIL.

The total revenue receipts for April are $8,437,033.33; being an increase over April, 1873, of $872,109.43. The receipts from customs also show a material increase, and a favorable debt statement for April is anticipated.

NAVAL ORDERS.

Commander A. E. K. Benham, detached from the command of the Saugus, 21st inst., and placed on waiting orders; Lieut. T. B. M. Mason, from the Pensacola, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

ARKANSAS.

A BATTLE AND BLOODSHED.

LITTLE ROCK, April 30.—General King White, who has charge of the Baxter forces at Pine Bluff, hearing that a party of Brooks men were assembled at New Gascony, in Jefferson county, commanding depot, moved a column of two hundred men down to that point to-day for the purpose of dispersing them.

A dispatch to-night to General Newton, from Pine Bluff, says White found a small force in charge of a house in order the men to disperse, but they fired upon the party and a severe battle ensued, in which nine of the Brooks party were killed and twenty wounded. The remainder were taken prisoners, disarmed and sent home. General White reports seven of his own command wounded and three horses killed.

THE SITUATION AT LITTLE ROCK.

Baxter was reinforced by one company from Hempstead county, and Brooks' Brooks men got out a squad last evening, and cut the telegraph wire between this city and Pine Bluff. This squad was captured last night by the Baxterites, and are now under guard.

Major General Churchill, of the Baxter side, with ten men, was surrounded last night while coming from the depot of the Cairo and Fulton railroad by a party of fifty Brookites, who were lying in ambush for him, and captured. He was released a short time afterwards, and is to-day in command of his forces.

Beyond arrests on both sides there are no active operations. The United States troops got out in time last night prepared to cause trouble, but the alarm which caused this proved to be unfounded.

A spirit of uneasiness pervades everything, and news from Washington definitely settling the matter in favor of one or the other party is anxiously looked for.

THE CRUSADERS.

OPPOSITION IN CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—The wholesale liquor dealers of this city have perfected an organization for the purpose of protecting their customers in the interior of the State against interference from the crusaders, and also to antagonize the local option authorized by act of the last Legislature. They will raise a very large fund to defray the expenses of fighting both questions in the courts.

The woman suffragists are holding a State convention. The representation is large.

A NEW JERSEY DEMONSTRATION.

PHILADELPHIA, April 30.—To-night a large body of crusaders attended the meeting of the Camden (N. J.) city council, with a numerously-signed petition against the sale of liquor. The council received the petition, but when the crusaders expressed a wish to address them refused to listen, on the ground that it was against the rules to stop the regular business to listen to speeches from outsiders.

THE UNION PACIFIC ROAD.

NEW YORK, April 30.—The suit of Michael M. Simpson, of Louisiana, representing the interests of the holders of ten millions of income bonds, against the Union Pacific railroad company, came up to-day, before Justice Donohue, in the supreme court chambers, on motion to forbid the transfer of the railroad company until it should be fully paid up, and to forbid the sale of bonds of the new mortgage. Decision was reserved.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

LONDON, April 30.—Arrived at Bristol, steamship Great Western, from New York.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Arrived, steamer Ethiopia, from Glasgow, and Gaelic, from Liverpool.

PANAMA, April 30.—The new Pacific mail steamship Colima arrived on the 28th instant, twelve days from San Francisco. The City of Guatemala, from New York, arrived at Aspinwall to-day.

LADIES' FASHIONS FOR MAY

OUR MAY BRIDES AND THEIR WEDDING GARMENTS.

THE NUPTIALS OF MISSES GRANT, SHERMAN AND STEWART—THE SUPERSTITION ABOUT MAY WEDDINGS—CROSS-BARS AND CHECKS REVIVED—THE TRIMMINGS FOR BLACK AND OTHER SILKS—ROUFFANT DRAPERY ABOLISHED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, May 1.—Bridal fashions are now in order in May, for, contrary to the old superstition, May weddings are no longer considered unlucky, and the "first young lady in the land" has chosen this lovely month for her bridal. Mrs. Grant and Nellie spent several days here lately shopping. The trousseau is ordered, the traditional white satin wedding dress is in hand, and the last of May is set down for the ceremony. The White House sets the example, and the grand "Castle Stewart" follows suit in the same month, with wedding favors for the Senator's fair daughter; and a little later will be consummated an out-and-out love match, of which one party is General Sherman's charming daughter Minnie—about whom Duke Alexis was so enthusiastic.

Paris and New York are to furnish trousseaus for these Washington weddings, hence modistes are ransacking their brains for new designs and devices wherewith to garnish them.

The favorite caprice for the richest wedding dresses worn since Lent, is that of having long trains with their soft flowing folds unbroken by panier or flounce, and then lavish all garniture of lace and flowers on the front widths *en tablier*. A mass of trimming detracts from what modistes call the "character" of wedding dresses, and, moreover, interferes with the soft tulle drapery of the bridal veil. There will be only three or four flounces of point lace across the front breadth and half of those attached to it; to head these flounces with a cluster of upturned folds of silk tulle, above which is a sacque of tulle supporting vines of orange flowers.

This trimming covers the entire front, and the lace is then waved down each side in spiral jabots, with crape garlands upon them. If the ceremony is performed in church the corsage is high, with basque back and pointed front. For home weddings low pointed corsages are worn, with drapery on the bosom, or else a turned-up Medici fraise. The corsage bouquet is no longer set directly in front, but is high upon the left side, and a spray of blossoms crosses the brow, and has a pompon cluster on the left side instead of trailing sprays behind. The tulle veil is a long square of tulle with a hem, and is folded to fall squarely over the face. After the ceremony it is first bridegroom's duty to throw the veil back from the brow.

CROSS-BARS AND CHECKS.

Among the fashionable fancies that will appear in May costumes is the revival of checks, blocks and cross-bars, not as entire costumes, but as the principal part associated with a plain material of color used in the plaids. A kind of soft, twilled India silk is the fabric of which the barred part of the dress is made; the ground is white; the blocks or bars are black, dark navy blue, violet, or grey. The skirt, flounces and sleeves are generally of the plain gros grain, with basques and overskirt of the plaid. These costumes are accompanied by a hat of the same, with especially in nut-brown shades and the charming violet color, which is but another name for navy blue, damson and plum color of last year. Black and white associated are as fashionable as ever; black and steel color are also very stylish. Silver grey, chestnut and violet are the fashionable positive colors. The mongrel hues are fast disappearing.

STEEL PASSEMENTERIE.

Black silk dresses, although very trimmed with steel passementerie are newer than those trimmed with jet. There have been several efforts to popularize steel trimmings, but until now they have not been handsome enough to become popular.

Among May importations are dresses of heavy black faille, with perpendicular rows of wide galloon black, with steel beads down the front widths and down the basque buttons; of the same twined around the crown and almost covering it, a pheasant's wing stuck in the left side, and long-stemmed pink roses behind, and you have a tasteful and stylish bonnet from some of the last emanations from Vivot's Parisian house.

Valenciennes lace also meets with general approval for trimming dressy bonnets, but requires to be very carefully arranged, so as to conceal two hundred men down to that point to-day for the purpose of dispersing them.

The best way to arrange it is in spiral ruffles, with silk or velvet between, and a small for holding a rose or an aigrette, or else as a frill on the edge of China crepe scarfs for trimming chip and black net bonnets.

The white lace pleatings inside bonnets is found to be generally becoming, and is withal so inexpensive that it is universally adopted, and is therefore a fashion that will have but a transient reign.

SUN UMBRELLAS.

Parasols are almost defunct and are succeeded by the useful umbrellas, large enough for protection from the sun, and of substantial silks that are not injured by exposure to a summer shower. Violet, chestnut brown, and black silk umbrellas are the colors most used, as they will harmonize with most toilettes. Their size is about twenty-four inches; the handles are mounted with silver, gold, ivory or cornelian; there are also beautiful rubber colored shell sticks. The changeable Venetian silks, dark blue, green, or plum color, are stylish for umbrellas. It is not economy to buy a low-priced umbrella. The best, and in the long run the cheapest, are of twilled silk mounted on paragon frames. Some smaller canopy-shaped parasols are of black faille, elaborately wrought with jet and edged with jet fringe. They are expensive and are called dressy; but I consider them heavy and ungraceful, and the black absorbs the sun's rays. Lace covered parasols, with carved ivory and gold handles are always in fashion; like India shawls and diamonds, they do not change, and can afford to be several seasons old.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The newest drapery of lace for the waists of dresses forms a regular bib like those worn by infants. It consists of a semicircle of rich Valenciennes lace and a high ruff passing around the neck. It has the pretty effect of a Pompadour neck.

When furs are first left off the neck suffers in this climate if left exposed. Hence silk mufflers are worn in the morning and for "ordinary," while for dressing toilets are guipure scarfs, three yards long, made of net, with a lace edge. Still newer than these are squares of black net edged with jet fringe, and worn as the silk mufflers are.

Neckties for undress wear are of cross-barred or twilled silk. French taste has the scarf on the hat and that on the neck to correspond with the cross bars of the suit. Plain colored neckties of twilled silk are of very dark shades, with Valenciennes insertion in blocks set in the ends in a frill of lace on the edge.

The hanging pocket is made to complete dresses of all kinds. It is just large enough to hold the handkerchief and display the colored hem.

Dressy aprons of Swiss muslin are much worn again. They are very long, with rounded or square corners, edged with lace, striped with ribbon, and fastened by a bow of ribbon with short bow and long ends tied on the left side.

Sleeveless jackets of black silk are wrought in every visible spot into wheels and stars in the new English embroidery. They are worn with colored silks as well as black, and make a plain toilette distinguished. Later in the season Linda and guipure lace jackets will be worn also without sleeves. Swiss muslin jackets of the same shape brighten up light silk dresses for evening.

MISS KNICKERBOCKER.

SAD SHOOTING AND DEATH.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—Tonight two boys, named Messinger, attacked a boy named Abraham Solomon, who drew a pistol and threatened to shoot them. The mother of the Messinger boys interfered, and caught the pistol. During the struggle the weapon was discharged, shooting off one of Mrs. Messinger's fingers, and the ball entering Solomon's head killed him instantly.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BREAKS OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, April 30.—The House of Commons will take a recess during the Whitsuntide holidays by an adjournment from the 12th of May until the 1st of June.

ELECTION ANNULLED.

The result of the election in Stroud, Gloucestershire, has been annulled on account of bribery. A new election has been ordered.

A GRAND BANQUET

was given at Portsmouth to-day to the soldiers of the Ashantee expedition.

THE LOCKOUT OF FARM LABORERS.

LONDON, May 1, 5:20 a. m.—The *Daily News* says the lockout of farm laborers will soon be submitted to arbitration for settlement.

FARM HANDS FOR CANADA.

The steamship Prussian sailed from Liverpool yesterday for Quebec, with fifty Warwickshire farm hands and one hundred and eighty children, to find homes in Canada. The next steamer of the same line will carry one hundred and fifty laborers from the agricultural districts.

APPEAL FOR BELLEW.

Appeals are published to the charitable for assistance to Bellew, the elocutionist, whose illness continues.

FINANCIAL OPINION AND ADVICE.

The *Times*, commenting on the failure of the Senate to pass the finance bill over the President's veto, remarks that it is probable that the danger of increasing the paper currency has been permanently avoided, and advises the substitution of United States currency for the present national bank issues.

SPAIN.

FIGHTING RESUMED AT BILBOA.

MADRID, April 30.—Official dispatches announce that fighting was resumed before Bilboa Wednesday. Some advanced positions of the Carlists have been captured by the Republicans, with slight loss.

THE STORM AND ITS EFFECTS.

THE DELAWARE PEACH CROP.

WILMINGTON, April 30.—Great fears were entertained yesterday throughout the State that should the storm of snow and rain be followed by a freeze in the night, that the peach crop would be destroyed, and this morning considerable anxiety was felt. Advices from all parts of the State at a late hour this morning, however, agree that no damage was done. There was freezing weather as far down as Seaford, but the wind and rain in the afternoon had dried the buds, and thus averted the threatened calamity. The failure of the crop last year has left the tree in a most healthy condition, and they are thus able to stand more severe weather than under ordinary circumstances. The prospect of a good crop is excellent.

ONE FOOT OF SNOW.

LANCASTER, N. H., April 30.—During the past twenty-four hours it has snowed almost continuously, and although a large proportion of what fell yesterday melted, the snow now lies a foot deep on a level.

FROST IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA.

ATLANTA, GA., April 30.—There was a heavy frost this morning. The fruit and crops are injured.

AUGUSTA, GA., April 30.—A severe frost in this section last night did considerable damage to the cotton crop.

SAVANNAH, GA., April 30.—There was a heavy frost last night. The fruit and vegetables are damaged.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., April 30.—There was a light frost last night, but very little damage was done. The weather is fair.

A CONDEMNED MURDERER KILLS HIS KEEPER.

HUDSON, N. Y., April 30.—Joe