The National Republican.

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THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

DOINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

Information Gathered at the Capitol, in the Departments and About Town by the Reporters of the National Republican.

Message of the President.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: The adjournment of the last Congress, without making appropriations for the support of the army for the present fiscal year, has rendered necessary a suspension of payments to the officers and men of the sums due them for services rendered after the 30th day of June last. The army exists by virtue of statutes which prescribe its numbers, regulate its organization and employment, and which fix the pay of its officers and men, and declare their right to receive the same at stated periods. These statutes, however, do not authorize the payment of the troops in the absence of specific appropriations therefor. The Constitution has wisely provided that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law;" and it has also been declared by statute that "no department of the Government shall expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress for that fiscal year." We have, therefore, an army in service, authorized by law and entitled to be paid, but no funds available for that purpose. It may also be said, as an additional incentive to prompt action by Congress, that, since the commencement of the fiscal year,

THE ARMY,

though without pay, has been constantly and actively employed in arduous and dangerous service, in the performance of which both officers and men have discharged their duty with fidelity and courage, and without complaint. These circumstances, in my judgment, constitute an extraordinary occasion, requiring that Congress be convened in advance of the time prescribed by law for your meeting in regular session. The importance of speedy action upon this subject on the part of Congress is so manifest that I venture to suggest the propriety of making the necessary appropriations for the support of the army for the current year at its present maximum numerical strength of twenty-five thousand men; leaving for future consideration all questions relating to an increase or decrease of the number of enlisted men. In the event of the reduction of the army by subsequent legislation during the fiscal year, the excess of the appropriation could not be expended; and in the event of its enlargement the additional sum required for the payment of the extra force could be provided in due time. It would be unjust to the troops now in service, and where pay is already largely in arrears, if payment to them should be further postponed until after Congress shall have considered all the questions likely to arise in the effort to fix the proper limit to the strength of the army.

Estimates of appropriations for the support of the military establishment the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, were transmitted to Congress by the former Secretary of the Treasury at the opening of its session in December last. These estimates, modified by the present Secretary, so as to conform to present requirements, are now renewed—amounting to $32,435,703 98—and, having been transmitted to both Houses of Congress, are submitted for your consideration.

THE NAVY.

There is also required by the Navy Department $2,003,861.27. This sum is made up of $1,446,688.16 due to officers and enlisted men for the last quarter of the last fiscal year; $311,953.50 due for advances made by the fiscal agent of the Government in London for the support of the foreign service; $50,000 due to the naval hospital fund; $150,000 due for arrearages of pay to officers, and $45,219.58 for the support of the Marine corps.

THE COURTS.

There will also be needed an appropriation of $282,685.22 to defray the unsettled expenses of the United States courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, last, now due to attorneys, clerks, commissioners and marshals, and for rent of court-rooms, the support of prisoners and other deficiencies.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

A part of the building of the Interior Department was destroyed by fire on the 24th of last month. Some immediate repairs and temporary structures have in consequence become necessary, estimates for which will be transmitted to Congress immediately, and an appropriation of the requisite funds is respectfully recommended.

OTHER DEFICIENCIES.

The Secretary of the Treasury will communicate to Congress, in connection with the estimates for the appropriations for the support of the army for the current fiscal year, estimates for such other deficiences in the different branches of the public service as require immediate action, and cannot, without inconvenience, be postponed until the regular session.

THE FRENCH EXPOSITION.

I take this opportunity also to invite your attention to the propriety of adopting at your present session the necessary legislation to enable the people of the United States to participate in the advantages of the international exhibition of agriculture, industry and the fine arts, which is to be held at Paris in 1878, and in which this Government has been invited by the Government of France to take part. This invitation was communicated to this Government in May, 1876, by the Minister of France at this Capital, and a copy thereof was submitted to the proper committees of Congress at its last session, but no action was taken upon the subject. The Department of State has received many letters from various parts of the country expressing a desire to participate in the exhibition, and numerous applications of a similar nature have also been made at the United States Legation at Paris.

The Department of State has also received official advice of the strong desire on the part of the French Government that the United States should participate in this enterprise, and space has hitherto been, and still is, reserved in the exhibition buildings for the use of exhibitors from the United States to the exclusion of other parties who have been applicants therefor. In order that our industries may be properly represented at the exhibition, an appropriation will be needed for the payment of salaries and expenses of commissioners, for the transportation of goods, and for other purposes in connection with the object in view, and as May next is the time fixed for the opening of the exhibition, if our citizens are to share the advantages of this international competition for the trade of other nations, the necessity of immediate action is apparent. To enable the United States to co-operate in the international exhibition which was held at Vienna in 1873, Congress then passed a joint resolution making an appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars, and authorizing the President to appoint a certain number of practical artisans and scientific men who should attend the exhibition and report their proceedings and observations to him. Provision was also made for the appointment of a number of honorary commissioners. I have felt that prompt action by Congress in accepting the invitation of the Government of France is of so much interest to the people of this country, and so suitable to the cordial relations between the Governments of the two countries, that the subject might properly be presented for attention at your present session.

THE PRISON CONGRESS.

The Government of Sweden and Norway has addressed an official invitation to this Government to take part in the International Prison Congress, to be held at Stockholm next year. The problem which the congress proposes to study—how to diminish crime—is one in which all civilized nations have an interest in common, and the congress of Stockholm seems likely to prove the most important convention ever held for the study of this grave question. Under authority of a joint resolution of Congress, approved February 16, 1875, a commissioner was appointed by my predecessor to represent the United States upon that occasion, and the prison congress having been, at the earnest desire of the Swedish Government, postponed to 1878, his commission was renewed by me. An appropriation of $8,000 was made in the sundry civil service act of 1875 to meet the expenses of the commissioner. I recommend the reappropriation of that sum for the same purpose, the former appropriation having been covered into the Treasury, and being no longer available for the purpose without further action by Congress. The subject is brought to your attention at this time in view of circumstances which render it highly desirable that the commissioner should proceed to the discharge of his important duties immediately.

As the several acts of Congress providing for detailed reports from the different Departments of the Government require their submission at the beginning of the regular annual session, I defer until that time any further reference to subjects of public interest.

R. B. HAYES.

WASHINGTON, October 15, 1877.

Congress Yesterday.

Prior to the hour of meeting yesterday the Republican Senators held a caucus relative to the filling up of the committees and the business of the present session. There was considerable diversity of opinion as to the length to which the session should be extended. It is safe to say that the balance of opinion was in favor of a short term. In relation to filling committees nothing definite was agreed upon. In fact there is not much to be done beyond carrying out the understanding at the first session, except in the case of Mr. Armstrong, who succeeds Senator Bogy. The caucus extended up to 12 o'clock, detaining the members till after the Senate was called to order.

REAVIS VS. HEMPEL.

The Capitol-moving scheme of Reavis, as resolved by the Legislature of Missouri, was presented and laid on the table. Another memorial from the same body in relation to the levees of the Mississippi was also received.

The practical senior Senator from Massachusetts proposes to profit by the lesson of the Patent Office fire, and remove the papers under the roof of the Capitol before they share the fate of the rejected models, and introduced a bill to have them removed.

Resolutions calling for the

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

of the Navy and War Departments, prepared for the Centennial last year, were adopted.

Petitions indicating a movement to secure better compensation for letter-carriers were presented in considerable number.

Mr. Beck advanced the flag of reconciliation, and proposed the removal of disabilities and the abolition of the test oath.

The President's message was read in each House, and an adjournment was had soon after.

The House spent the day in discussing the rights of the South Carolina and Louisiana members who had been objected to on Monday to their seats. In the cases of Messrs. Rainey and Cain, of the former State, and Mr. Darral, of the latter, the House sustained the broad principle that the certificate of the *de facto* authorities of a State, bearing the seal of the State, was *prima facie* evidence of the right of the member to be sworn in. Mr. Cox, of New York, attempted to lead the House in another direction, but was opposed by some sixty or seventy of his party associates, under the lead of Mr. Mills, of Texas.

In the remaining cases from Louisiana another question is involved. In these cases the clerk has placed on the roll the names of two men certified by Gov. Nichols, and rejected the certificate of the *de facto* Governor at the time the elections were held and decided, thus in fact

IGNORING THE SEAL OF THE STATE.

The certificate of Nichols is based on a pretended canvass of a returning board that had no legal existence, and consequently no right to make a canvass. When Governor Kellogg gave the certificate to Smith and Nash he exhausted the power of the office, and his successor had no right to issue a certificate to any one.

The vote in the House yesterday on Mr. Gibson's motion indicates that the Democrats will go back on the vote given earlier, when nearly two to one voted to sustain the certificate of the *de facto* authorities.

THE CASE OF BELFORD,

the Representative from Colorado, may be reached to-day. If so, a lively debate will be had. Here again the "broad seal" question comes in.

The contest from the Third Missouri district closes the list on which the House has to act now. The discussion bids fair to occupy the whole week, and as the committees are not formed it may, by occupying the time, prevent the House from doing anything worse in the meantime.

Death of an Army Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel John D. Kurtz, one of the oldest officers in the engineer corps, United States army, died suddenly at an early hour yesterday morning, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Professor Nemesi, corner of Stoddard and Green streets, Georgetown, of heart disease. Col. Kurtz was about sixty years of age, and one of the most distinguished engineer officers of the army. He was a member of the commission to examine the base of the Washington monument, and arrived here Monday evening, in company with General Gillmore, another member of the commission, for the purpose of attending a meeting of that body. He was the only son of the late John Kurtz, who was for many years president of the Farmers' and Merchants' bank, of Georgetown, and one of the most prominent citizens of the town. Colonel Kurtz was a gentleman of exemplary habits, and his death will be a source of sincere regret to his numerous friends.

He was a member of the class of '42, West Point, and was among the first five of his class. During the war he was with Gen. Banks, at Harper's Ferry and other places, and at the time of his death was in charge of the fortifications on the Delaware.

Mr. Ingalls' Pension Bill.

Mr. Ingalls, of Kansas, introduced a bill in the Senate yesterday which grants arrears of pensions to certain persons. The first section of the bill provides "that all pensions which may have been or may be granted in consequence of death occurring from a cause which originated in the service of the United States since March 4, 1861, or in consequence of wounds or injuries received or disease contracted since said date, shall commence from the date of death or discharge from the service of the United States of the person on whose account the claim has been or shall be granted, or from the termination of the right of the party having prior title to such pension; provided, that the limitation herein prescribed shall not apply to claims by or in behalf of insane persons or minor children of deceased soldiers." The second section of the bill makes it the duty of the Commissioner of Pensions to place upon his roll, immediately after the passage of this act, all names of persons entitled to arrears of pensions under this act, and to notify such persons or, in case of their death, their surviving heirs of the fact that they are so entitled.

Timely Precaution.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Dawes yesterday, providing for the better protection of the archives of Congress from fire, enjoins the officers having charge of the books and files now stored in the loft of the old portion of the Capitol to remove them to the basement or some place safe from fire. It further provides that, in addition to the fire-extinguishers now in use, a liberal supply of fire-buckets be placed in all portions of the Capitol where there is danger from fire. The Capitol police are charged with the duty of seeing to it that these buckets are kept filled with water, and of making daily inspections of all portions of the building, with a view of guarding against an outbreak of fire. The expense necessarily involved in these changes and improvements is to be defrayed from the contingent fund of each House.

The San Francisco Mint.

Dr. Linderman, the director of the mint, who left here about three months ago for San Francisco with instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury to investigate the condition of affairs in the mint and custom-house at that city, returned on Saturday last and has submitted his report to the Secretary. The report has been printed, and will be given to the press to-morrow. The investigations of the director, as embodied in his report, show a very demoralized state of affairs in the Government establishments at San Francisco, and particularly that in the mint. It has been found that an exceedively large force of employes has been kept upon the rolls, and that the general administration of business has been defective. There is no reason to doubt that this report will result in a complete change in the Federal officials at San Francisco.

Army Orders.

With the approval of the Secretary of War, leave of absence for six months, with permission to go beyond the sea and to apply for an extension of 6 months, is granted First Lieutenant Henry L. Harris, 1st artillery. To correct his record on the rolls so much of paragraph 9, special orders No. 30, February, 18, 1862, from this office, as discharged First Lieutenant C. W. Wormell, Maine Volunteers, for having refused to appear before an examining board is, by direction of the Secretary of War, amended to read Second Lieutenant C. M. Wormell, 5th Maine volunteers. With the approval of the Secretary of War, leave of absence for one year, with permission to go beyond the sea, is granted Capt. Wm. R. Beck, 5th artillery, to take effect when, in the opinion of his department commander, his services can be spared.

Naval Orders.

Captains Somerville Nicholson and Thomas S. Pattison, Lieutenant Commander John R. Bartlett, Masters Lyman G. Spalding and Fred E. Upton and Ensign Wm. H. Slack to examination for promotion. Master Harry M. Jacoby to duty on the coast survey. Naval Constructor S. H. Pook detached from the New York navy yard and ordered to the Boston navy yard, 23d inst. Naval Constructor T. C. Webb from special duty at New York and ordered to duty at the New York navy yard. Naval Constructor R. W. Steele from the Washington navy yard and ordered to the navy yard at Boston, 23d inst., as assistant to Naval Constructor S. H. Pook. Naval Constructor Wm. L. Saunders from the Boston navy yard and ordered to the Washington navy yard.

The Mission to England.

The Secretary of State on Monday received Minister Pierrepont's formal letter of resignation, to take effect December 14. The Minister expresses the usual courtesies of an event of this character. He will pass the coming winter in the south of Europe and Egypt. It was stated last night that the successor of Minister Pierrepont to the Court of St. James had been determined on at the Cabinet session yesterday. Those who profess to know asserted that Hon. Wayne MacVeagh, of Pennsylvania, was the gentleman chosen, and that the President had already informed Mr. MacVeagh of the choice of the Administration, and that that latter had accepted.

THE EPISCOPALIANS.

AN INTERESTING SESSION OF THE CONVENTION YESTERDAY.

Means Proposed for the Elevation of the Masses—A Breeze Raised—Church and State—The Constitutional Commission Defeated.

BOSTON, Oct. 16.—To-day's session of the Episcopal convention was attended by a crowd of spectators, who came to listen to a debate on the question of organizing a constitutional commission.

The committee on elections reported that leave of absence for the rest of the session had been granted to R. M. Nelson, of Alabama; G. P. Keese, of Albany; C. C. Trowbridge, of Michigan; Theodore Richmond, of Tennessee; A. H. Belo, of Texas; W. L. Foster, of New Hampshire, and Rev. G. J. Maxill of Rhode Island.

The committee appointed to consider the resolutions of Mr. Welsh, of Philadelphia, presented an extended report on the duty of the Church in its

WORK AMONG THE MASSES.

The committee recognized the gravity of the subject, more especially as the work related to church and society and the necessity of providing for the spiritual wants of the people. The work was the most important of the Church. It was a mistake to think that the clergy was the only agency that should be employed in the work.

With a view of making a more extended and better directed effort in the work, the committee recommended freer use of brotherhoods and sisterhoods in the work of the Church, said organizations to be subject to the bishop.

The report considered that Sunday schools did not accomplish all the work that came within their province, and recommended an agency of libraries and lectures and other literary influences for the elevation of the moral and social welfare of the masses, on whose intelligence and spiritual enlightenment the protection of society and the Church depended.

The report alluded to the recent disorders in this country, which were sufficient to remind the people that without inculcating the principles above referred to in educating the masses property and religion would be at the mercy of communistic bodies, whom it would be difficult to oppose by physical force and law. The committee criticised the general

DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH

by capitalists and those employing labor. The report embodied resolutions to the effect that the clergy be instructed to inculcate and act on the suggestion offered in the report, and that the work be carried on more successfully; that the parochial clergy should be asked to aid in the work; that the bishops should take steps for the appointment of catechists and teachers to engage in the work, and that the churches be thrown open to the people generally and services and sermons be held not for usual and regular services of the congregation. The resolutions were adopted.

Gov. Stevenson, of Kentucky, offered a resolution that the committee on expenses consider the question of having the general convention hold its

SESSIONS HENCEFORTH IN NEW YORK CITY,

and to consider the propriety of each diocese defraying the expenses of its deputation. The resolution was passed.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Hill, of California, and adopted, that the committee on amendments to the constitution inquire into what effect the defeat of the bill for the organization of missionary jurisdictions would have on the missionary districts of Northern California and Northern Texas.

A message was received from the house of bishops informing the house of deputies that the upper body had adopted a canon for the organization of a sisterhood of deaconesses of the Church substantially on the principles recommended by the lower house.

On motion of Mr. Andrews, of Southern Ohio, a resolution was offered for the appointment of a committee of five bishops, five presbyters and five laymen to consider what changes are necessary in the hymnal, and report at the next general convention.

AN EXCEEDINGLY ANIMATED SCENE

was created by Mr. Livermore, of Minnesota, who introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the union of the Church and State is prejudicial to the best interests of religion, and the house of deputies expresses its sympathy with the efforts now being made for the severing of the Church from the State in England.

This being read by the secretary a hundred at least in unison called upon the chair to have it laid on the table, which was done in short order, without affording any opportunity for discussion.

In regard to consideration of the right of delegates from missionary jurisdictions to vote in the convention and that the time of the meeting of the general convention be changed to the second Wednesday in September, the committee considered the action inexpedient.

The question of the day, the proposed amendment to the constitution for the organization of a

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION,

came up shortly after noon.

Dr. Dekoven, of Wisconsin, who presented the memorial from the diocesan convention of that State in relation to the matter, opened discussion, and made an eloquent speech in support of the amendment, as also did Dr. Byers, of California.

Hon. Hamilton Fish strenuously opposed the proposed amendment. A vote on the question will be taken this afternoon. Dr. Norton, of Virginia, had the floor when the convention took a recess.

At the afternoon session the discussion on the proposed amendment for a constitutional commission was continued. Finally the report of the committee to whom the matter was originally referred, that any action toward the establishment of a commission was inexpedient, was adopted. The question of a constitutional commission, by the adoption of the report, is practically killed, and there is but little hope entertained by the supporters of the measure of accomplishing anything in the present convention. Adjourned.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Credit Mobilier Case.

Among the cases remaining over from last term to be decided at this is that of the United States against the Union Pacific Railroad Company—the Credit Mobilier of America—and other corporations and persons, to recover amounts alleged to have been squandered of the corporate property, stock, bonds, &c. It will be remembered that the bill averred that most of the individual defendants were stockholders, directors and officers of the company, who, having obtained control of its franchises and property, entered into a combination to prevent the charter and abuse the trust confided to the corporation by dividing among themselves, under cover of corporate action, its stocks, bonds, &c., by means of pretended contracts made by them as stockholders, directors and officers with themselves as individuals, under the cover and disguise of various designations. The particulars will be remembered by the public. The bill was dismissed below on demurrer for want of equity, multifariousness, &c., and the Government brought the case here for review, and it is probable that it will be early decided.

THE WILLIAMS-FLORENCE CASE.

No. 8, Williams et al. vs. Florence et al. Appeal from the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. This was a suit in equity, brought by the heir-at-law of the late James Williams against the late Hon. Thomas B. Florence to enforce an alleged constructive trust in relation to certain property in the city of Washington, rented to him in the fall of 1856. It is claimed that Florence suffered, by his default, the property to be sold for taxes, and bought it in at the tax sale, and that he thereupon disclaimed his tenancy, and set off an adverse title to the property, renting it to the United States, and receiving large rents and profits therefrom. The bill prayed that he be decreed to convey to the complainants the tax title, and account for a moiety of the rents and profits.

The answer was that the property had been rented with the privilege of purchasing, and that under such a lease Florence had expended upon it about $2,500 in repairs, that subsequently the lessees learned that the heirs who now sue were entitled to one half of the property, it having been purchased by John and James Williams jointly, while the legal title stood in the name of John, his lessor; that subsequently he purchased James' half, and became the sole owner.

The decision sustained Florence's statement, and it is here insisted that there was no contract of purchase from James Williams, and that the court erred in finding one. W. A. Meloy for appellants, and W. D. Davidge for appellees.

IMPORTANT TO INSURERS.

No. 27. Reed vs. The Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company of Baltimore. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Maryland. This was a libel upon an insurance policy issued by the company upon Reed's ship, the Minnehaha, "lost or not lost, at and from Honolulu, via Baker's Island, to a port of discharge in the United states not east of Boston, with liberty to use Hampton Roads for orders, the risk to be suspended while the vessel was at Baker's Island loading." The vessel was lost while at Baker's Island by heavy seas, which eased her cable to port and let her drift to sea, and the court found that the clause in the policy quoted "risk suspended while at Baker's Island" discharged the company from responsibility for the loss. It is here said that this is a wrong construction of the words; that the risk was to be suspended only while the ship was loading, and she had not commenced to load when she was lost, because the sea was so rough she could not. The case turns upon the final construction to those words; whether the risk was to be suspended while loading, or all the while she was at the island, whither she went for cargo. Goodrich, McClure and Bryant for libellant, and John H. Thomas for the company

THE TOURNAMENT AT BENNING'S.

Lively Sport Among the Sir Knights—Exciting Contests for the Honors.

Charity always popularizes any entertainment or *fete*, and the announcement that the proceeds of the tournament held yesterday were to be devoted to the interests of the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum drew together a large and refined audience. The bill announced that a special train would leave the Baltimore and Potomac depot at 1 o'clock, but it was some time after that when the heavily-laden excursion train pulled out of the depot and started with its load toward Benning's. As soon as that station was reached the eager crowd made a grand rush for the capacious grand stand, which was already moderately well filled with those who had driven out from the city in private conveyances. On the porch of the noble club-house were the little orphan boys, who looked wistfully at the large open fields, and evidently wished they were knights, that they might ride anywhere at will, instead of being cooped up on the porch. Up and down the level turf were galloping the gaudily-arrayed knights, taking mass and then a trial bout at the rings. At length, after much parading and more talking, the marshals, of whom Mr. Wilfred Marshall was chief, announced the knights before the grand stand, where Major James McB. Carrington was introduced to them and delivered the customary charge.

He said the bright sky overhead and natural scenery, the array of beauty present, the music and many other things would arouse their enthusiasm and cause their imagination to quicken; and, while he thought all these were the best of impulses, still there was another, which should eclipse all these, and that was the little handlings over at the club house, who were to be benefited by their gallantry. The speaker then narrated some old customs and anecdotes of the knights of former years, and closed by charging them to be worthy of the fair ladies whom they were to crown if successful.

At the close of his remarks, and frequently during them, the Major was loudly applauded.

The sir knights then rode up to the starting point. Each in order had a trial at the three rings. After this the "Knight of Glen" opened the sport by taking all three of the rings. One after another the riders came dashing down the course—some to be cheered, others to be sympathized with, and others to be laughed at.

The interest after the first round began to lag. The colored boy, whose business it was to drop the red flag as the knight rode past him, began to yawn and forget the flag, while the majority of those upon the stand began to chat and look disinterested, only to brighten up occasionally as some one made an extra fine charge. As the contest drew near its close everything became enlivened, and every run was watched with the greatest amount of interest. At last the result was announced, and a tie proclaimed between "Bachelor's Retire" and the "Knight of the Orphan," neither of whom had missed a ring so unerring was their aim. In riding off the tie "Bachelor's Retire," Mr. S. S. Maguire, won the prize, a single ring, leaving the "Knight of the Orphan," Mr. F. J. Scott, second. The third prize was taken by the "Knight of Colesville," Mr. Willie Wylie, and the fourth by the "Knight of Vanville," Mr. J. W. Whalen.

The prizes were respectively a fine single harness, a fine carriage robe, an ordinary robe and a valise. After the riding was over a large part of the spectators repaired to St. Joseph's Hall, corner Fifth and H streets, and enjoyed the dance until toward morning. At the ball the coronations were made, and the address was delivered by Campbell Carrington, esq.

Miss Helen Whalen was crowned Queen of Beauty, Miss Maggie Stewart First Maid of Honor, Miss Kate Talty Second Maid, and Miss Maggie Magruder Third Maid.

Altogether the affair was one of the pleasantest of the season, and the manager, O. E. Duffy, esq., deserves great credit for his enterprise in behalf of the orphans, who will long remember the pleasant day spent at Benning's, and the sir knights who rode for their benefit.

THE BALTIMORE SYNOD.

Opening Session at the First Presbyterian Church.

The Synod of Baltimore convened in annual session at the First Presbyterian church, Fourand a half street, last evening. There was a large congregation present to witness the opening exercises. Rev. Dr. David Wills, of the Western Presbyterian church, of this city, the retiring moderator, presided, with Rev. J. H. Carter, of Baltimore, as stated clerk. The session was opened with devotional exercises. Rev. John Squier, of the presbytery of Newcastle, pronounced the invocation. Hymn 175, "Come, O my soul, in sacred lays," was sung, and Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Smith, of Baltimore, read the third chapter of 2 Timothy. Rev. John Fulton offered prayer. The opening exercises were concluded by singing hymn 1167, "Oh, where are kings and empires now." Rev. Dr. David Wills, the retiring moderator, then delivered the opening sermon, choosing for his text Matthew xvii. 7: "Even so every good tree thus bringeth forth good fruit but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit." The purpose of the sermon was to show that doctrine is the foundation of character, and that theoretical beliefs and speculative opinions always give tone to our life and labors in every department of duty. The sermon was divided under four heads

1. The influence Calvinism has exhibited upon the intellectual character and achievements of men.

2. The catholicity of Presbytery.

3. The pure and simple service of our Presbyterian Church is not a matter of taste, but an outgrowth of our doctrines.

4. The Calvinistic doctrine of salvation by grace and by grace alone.

The sermon was an eloquent exposition of the Calvanistic faith. At the conclusion of the sermon, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Criswell, of Newcastle Presbytery. The 607th hymn, beginning "Just as I am, without one plea," was sung, and the Synod was then organized.

Rev. Dr. Wills, moderator, called the Synod to order and offered prayer.

The roll was called, and about 150 members responded to their names.

Rev. Robert H. Fulton, of the Baltimore Presbytery, was elected moderator and installed.

Dr. Cromwell, of Newcastle Presbytery, and F. I. Moore, of Washington Presbytery, were elected temporary clerks.

Dr. Sunderland, from the committee of arrangements, reported a programme for the sessions of to-day and to-morrow, as follows:

To-day the session will begin at 9 a. m., followed by devotional exercises, one half hour; order of business; recess for one half hour at 12 m.; consideration of subjects assigned by the Synod at its last meeting: "The Pew System," "Missionary Consecration of Pastors," "Discipline and the Results of its Neglect," "Relation of Baptised Children to the Church," "Development of Systematic Benevolence;" recess till 7:30 p. m.; preliminary exercises by organist and choir; ordinance of the Lord's Supper; order of business; adjournment.

To-morrow the session will begin at 9 a. m. with devotional exercises, one half hour, followed by the order of business; recess for one hour at 12 m.; addresses of secretaries and other representatives; recess until 7:30 p. m.; preliminary exercises by organist and choir; missionary addresses by distinguished speakers; order of business; adjournment.

The Synod then adjourned until this morning, during the recess to-day adjourning the Synod will be entertained at a reception by the ladies of the First Presbyterian church.

The Evangelical Lutherans.

[By Associated Press.]

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 16.—In the morning session of the general council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church the report of the committee on foreign missions was taken up and adopted.

At the afternoon session it was resolved that the pastors of the churches of the general council arrange for special meetings in the interest of home missions to awaken a greater interest in the cause among the people.

After the evening session the council adjourned, to meet on the second Tuesday of October, 1879. The fixing of the place of meeting was left with the president, secretary and treasurer.

Another Dishonest Bank Officer.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—Moses A. Snyder, a teller of the Merchant's Exchange National Bank, No. 257 Broadway, was arrested last night on a charge of embezzlement. He had been for many years in the employ of the bank, and was held in high esteem. Of late the bank officers had noticed that he was living extravagantly, and their suspicions being aroused his accounts were examined. During his absence from the bank yesterday a deficiency of $5,000 was discovered in his moneys.

Another Savings Bank Gone.

[By Associated Press.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 16.—The suspension of the Market-street Savings bank is announced, owing to a withdrawal of accounts during the past week. The officers state that the assets of the bank are sufficient to settle all claims of depositors, which they propose to pay in two, five and eight months. The amount due is about $70,000.

Roger Williams' Monument Dedicated.

[By Associated Press.]

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Oct. 16.—Notwithstanding the lowering weather a great throng of people gathered at Roger Williams' park to-day to participate in the ceremonies of the dedication of a monument to Roger Williams. The Masonic Order and public school children took part in the ceremonies, which were very successful.

GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORY.

AN IMPORTANT BATTLE FOUGHT IN ARMENIA ON MONDAY.

An Attack on Mukhtar Pasha's Right Flank—The Position Carried by Storm—Flight Toward Kars—Thousands of Turks Captured.

THE ROAD TO KARS OPEN.

[By Associated Press.]

LONDON, Oct. 16.—A Russian official dispatch, dated "Headquarters Army of the Caucasus, October 16," says: "Yesterday the Russians gained a great victory over Mukhtar Pasha, capturing many guns and prisoners. The Turks have been

DRIVEN FROM THE ROAD TO KARS."

A dispatch from Moscow dated to-day says private telegrams received there state that on Monday the Russians attacked Mukhtar Pasha's new positions. The Caucasian grenadiers stormed Aladjas hill, forming the key to the Turkish position. A two hours' engagement ensued, resulting in

THE FLIGHT OF MUKHTAR PASHA

in the direction of Kars or Erzeroum. The Russians pursued. The Turks lost many prisoners, cannon, rifles and a quantity of provisions.

THE DEFEAT NOT KNOWN AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

An official dispatch received at Constantinople, dated to-day, locates the battle at Aladja Dagh, which is probably the same as Aluras. The dispatch says the Russians attacked from four sides, were falling back at the time the telegram was sent off, and the final result of the battle was momentarily expected.

THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS CAPTURED.

The *Standard's* correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows: "The fate of Monday's battle was decided by a flank attack on Mukhtar Pasha's position from the north. The Russians captured some thousands of prisoners. The siege of Kars will recommence immediately."

Details of the Battle.

LONDON, Oct. 17.—The *Daily News'* correspondent at the Russian headquarters in Asia telegraphs from Karajal, on Monday evening, as follows: Gen. Lazaroff, who, with twenty-seven battalions of infantry and forty guns, was recently dispatched on a turning movement from here, behind the Aladja Dagh, to Aroliss hill and Vezinkov, telegraphed last night from Bazardjik, begging for assistance, as Mukhtar Pasha was before him with a force far superior to his own. Thereupon this morning our troops began an attack on the Turkish position, and after heavy cannonading on our left wing with the Aladja batteries, we made a serious assault on Aroliss hill and redoubt. At noon the Caucasian grenadiers, under Gen. Fleimand, stormed the hill and redoubt.

CAPTURING THREE KRUPP GUNS.

The Esinkoy regiment occupied Aladja Dagh, capturing the Turkish camp. The enemy retired in disorder in three directions, being

CUT OFF IN THE REAR FROM KARS.

The pursuit was sharp everywhere and will be continued to-morrow. No news has been received yet from Gen. Lazaroff.

THE PORTE IN A BAD HUMOR.

LONDON, Oct. 17.—The *Post's* Berlin correspondent states that the Porte is dissatisfied with the evasive answer of Greece to a previous communication, and has sent a second sharp note protesting against the non-punishment of those who attempted to raise an insurrection in Thessaly, and proposing a reduction of the Greek army.

ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT PROBABLE.

Several telegrams from the Turkish side report an improvement in the weather on the Lom, and a prospect of an engagement near Kadikoi. Heavy cannonading has commenced in the Shipka Pass.

THE POSITION OF SERVIA.

It is true that Servia has assured the Porte of its intention to strictly observe neutrality, but this is due solely to the fact that it has not yet finished preparations, and is waiting for a fitting opportunity to openly assume the offensive against Turkey, which will probably come with a Russian victory at Plevna.

A Reuter telegram from Constantinople states that no new command has yet been offered to Mehemet Pasha.

Reuter's dispatch from Bucharest reports that the Turks have withdrawn their artillery from the second Grivitza redoubt. The Russians fear the redoubt is mined.

THE FRENCH ELECTION.

Full Returns, Except the Colonies.

[By Associated Press.]

PARIS, Oct. 16, noon.—Complete returns, except from the colonies, show that 344 Republicans and 207 Conservatives have been elected. Four hundred second ballots will be necessary. The Conservatives retain 14 seats of the 158 held by them in the late Chamber. The Republicans retain 207 seats of the 363 members who voted the order of the day censuring the dissolution of the Chamber.

SUBDIVISION OF THE MINORITY.

PARIS, Oct. 16.—The *Temps*, Republican, whose returns are reliable, says the minority is composed of 98 Bonapartists, 45 MacMahonites, 41 Legitimists and 14 Orleanists.

ELECTIONS FOR THE COUNCILS.

PARIS, Oct. 16.—Minister Fourtou has summoned all the prefects of Paris to instruct them relative to the elections for replacing retiring members of the councils-general.

NOTE. The elections are important, as the municipal councils elect the senators. It has been the great object of the Conservatives to get control of the elections of the councils general into their hands in view of the approaching renewal of a portion of the Senate.]

A FEELING OF DISQUIETUDE.

LONDON, Oct. 16.—The *Times'* Paris correspondent says the attitude already attributed to the Marshal's advisers is disquieting. They are said to be resolved to see the unfortunate expression of the Duke De Cazes in his last speech, not to disarm. It may be hoped that this is unfounded. It is doubtful, however, whether they can count on the continued support of the Senate. It is said that on the day the session of the Assembly opens, before the Chamber of Deputies can be organized, the Senate intends to show that it repudiates a dangerously passive role, and to point out to the Cabinet what is expected from it in obedience to the will of the latter House.

HEAVY POPULAR REPUBLICAN MAJORITY.

LONDON, Oct. 17.—The *Times's* Paris correspondent telegraphs as follows:

It is believed the total Republican vote is 500,000 in excess of that of 1876. As regards the personal influence of President MacMahon, it is notable that the arrondissement in which his country seat is situated returned a Republican by an overwhelming majority, while all the candidates, as for instance, M. Carayon Latour and Raoul Duval, whom he sought to recommend to the electors by visiting them during his various tours prior to the elections, have been rejected, except the Duc De Harcourt and M. Fourton, whose success was certain from the start.

GERMANY.

Von Eulenburg's Resignation Refused.

[By Associated Press.]

BERLIN, Oct. 16.—The *North German Gazette* states that the Emperor has refused to accept Count Von Eulenburg's resignation, and merely granted him a prolonged furlough. Dr. Friedenthal will replace him meanwhile.

THE EMPEROR'S DEPOSITS.

LONDON, Oct. 16.—The *Standard's* Berlin dispatch says the Emperor is a creditor of the Ritterschaftliche bank for 500,000 marks.

AUSTRIA.

Capitalists Becoming Distrustful.

[By Associated Press.]

LONDON, Oct. 16.—A special to the *Standard* from Vienna says that the financiers who in January agreed to supply twenty-five million florins at any time before the end of October, in view of the possible Austrian mobilization, have been already informed that the money will not be required.

Almost a Serious Accident.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW HAVEN, Oct. 16.—Last night, as the through train for Boston, which leaves New York at 10 o'clock, and this city at 12:42 o'clock, was passing over the drawbridge at the Connecticut river, an accident occurred, which, happily, was not serious. As the cars were on the draw moving very slowly, as usual there, something about the fastenings of the draw gave way, and the rails on the draw were severed two or three inches when they joined the east side. The track not being continuous, the cars ran off, the wheels running on the string pieces which support the rails. The train was at once stopped, only the engine, baggage and one passenger car having left the rails. No one was hurt, and the passengers were hardly disturbed. As the bridge is covered, it was very difficult to replace the cars, and at last accounts this had not been fully done. There is not little inconvenience as transfers are quickly made.

REVISED ARMY ESTIMATES.

The Basis of the Estimates—Urgent Necessity for a Fire-proof Building—Our National Cemeteries.

The Secretary of War has addressed the following letter to the Secretary of the Treasury:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 16, 1877.

To the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury:

SIR: The estimates of appropriations required by this Department for the support of the army, and for other purposes, for the current fiscal year were prepared by my predecessor, and by him submitted to Congress in December last. I have made such modification as I deem necessary to conform them to present needs.

The following is a summary of the

ESTIMATES AS NOW SUBMITTED:

Military establishment	$30,332,756 50
Public works, fortifications	2,076,000 00
Harbors and rivers	13,220,190 00
Buildings and grounds, Military Academy	16,000 00
Building for State, War and Navy Departments	520,000 00
Miscellaneous—	
Publication of official record of the rebellion	30,000 00
Collection and payment of bounties, &c	25,000 00
Surveys and reconnoissances in military divisions and departments	50,000 00
National cemeteries	125,000 00
Pay of superintendents of national cemeteries	50,000 00

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