The National Republican.

VOL. XX---NO. 116. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1880. FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

TERSE TELEGRAPH TALES.

Tidings Transmitted Through the Telegraph.

A Serious Engagement in Northern Mexico—Two Cases of Wife Murder and Suicide—Large Arrival of Immigrants at Baltimore—The Outrage at West Point—Kearney's Case Postponed.

Accidentally Drowned.

HALIFAX, N. S., April 8.—George Mason, John Wilson and David Langille, of Tancook Island, were drowned by the capsizing of a boat yesterday. All leave large families.

Suicide of an Aged Bridegroom.

BALTIMORE, April 8.—John Petrie, a farm hand, aged fifty years, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head this morning in Baltimore county. He was married on Tuesday last.

Fight in Northern Mexico.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, April 8.—Intelligence from Chihuahua, Mexico, reports a seven-hours' fight between herders and Indians. Two on each side were killed, including an Indian chief.

Death of Mrs. Daniel S. Dickinson.

NEW YORK, April 8.—Mrs. Daniel S. Dickinson, widow of the late United States Senator, died this morning at 6 o'clock at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel G. Courtney, at High Bridge.

Murder and Suicide.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.—A *Times* Dallas (Texas) special says: "David Barton, a prominent colored politician, shot and fatally wounded his wife and then shot and killed himself. Jealousy was the cause of the deed."

Rappahannock Regatta.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 8.—The council of the Virginia Amateur Oarsman's Association have fixed July 6 for the second annual regatta, to be held here on the Rappahannock. Crews from other States will be invited to contest in the races.

Emigrants at Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, April 8.—The steamship Braunschweig, which arrived to-day from Bremen, brought 1,532 emigrant passengers, the largest number ever landed at this port from one voyage. During the passage four deaths occurred and one birth. Nearly all the emigrants "go West."

Attempted Wife Murder and Suicide.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8.—This morning Edward P. Hoin shot his wife in the breast at her residence, on Market street, and then shot himself behind the right ear. Hoin may recover, and, though conscious, refuses to tell why he shot his wife, from whom he had been separated for some time.

Colliery Explosion.

POTTSVILLE, PA., April 8.—This afternoon an explosion occurred at Preston, No. 2 colliery, near Girardville, by which William Crinage and Chris Conrad were fatally injured and William Finn, Patrick Jefferson and Thomas Myers seriously injured. They were all miners except Conrad, who was a leader.

A Murderer Respited.

DEADWOOD, D. T., April 8.—Markland L. Cout, under sentence of death for the murder of Mrs. Collison, has been granted a respite until July 2, in order that he may take advantage of the bill now before Congress allowing an appeal of criminal cases from the Territorial to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ku Klux Investigating Board.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., April 8.—General Schofield has appointed the following-named officers as a board of inquiry in the Whittaker case, which opens at West Point to-morrow: Major Mordecai, Captain Raymond and Lieutenant Tillman as members and Lieutenant Sears as recorder. Lieutenant Knight has been appointed counsel to advise Whittaker.

Congratulations to Gladstone.

NEW YORK, April 8.—At an anniversary festival at the Lafayette-Avenue Presbyterian church, Brooklyn, this evening, it was voted to send the following message to the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone:

My congregation send hearty congratulations to the champion of truth, the lover of peace and the friend of America. THEODORE L. CUYLER,
Pastor of Lafayette-Avenue Church.

A Seventy-five Hour Tramp.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., April 8.—The seventy-five-hour-tournament "go-as-you-please" for the championship medal and $300 in gold, commenced at 8 p. m. yesterday. At 2 p. m. to-day the score stood as follows: Campana, 82; Dufrane, 90; Layton, 75; O'Donnel, 73; Coon, 82; Winn, 82; Donovan, 82; Mahonri, 62; Kelly, 82.

Kearney's Case Again Postponed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8.—When Kearney's case was called to-day before Judge Freelon, Clitus Barbour, Kearney's attorney, read an affidavit that the transcript from the docket of the Police court was not a copy of the proceedings. After argument, the Judge decided that the affidavit was sufficient and postponed the cause until Saturday to enable a correct transcript.

The Walking-Match.

This afternoon O'Leary said that Dobler's leg was giving out rapidly, and he knew he could have no hope of winning. The score at 11 o'clock stood: Hart, 404; Dobler, 391; Pegram, 387; Howard, 375; Allen, 363; Krohne, 352; Williams, 345; Hanwaker, 313.

Score at 1 a. m.—Hart, 405; Allen, 365; Hanwaker, 313; Howard, 375; Dobler, 391; Pegram, 392; Williams, 350, and Krohne, 352. Dobler is now on the track.

Labor Discriminations.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.—An act to restrict the employment of sailors and crews of foreign vessels from rolling cotton, handling cargoes or laboring on the wharves or levee of New Orleans beyond the end of the ships' tackle has been promulgated. The act does not apply to the officers or crew of foreign vessels hailing from countries having any treaty with the United States, contrary to the provisions of the act or to any contract of which the United States courts have any jurisdiction.

Railroad Accidents in Colorado.

DENVER, COL., April 8.—Last night two engines attached to an east-bound freight train on the Denver & South Park railroad, while on a very steep grade, became detached from the cars, which becoming unmanageable ran into the engines, throwing them down a steep embankment with five cars piled on top. J. Hogan, engineer, was killed, and Monohan, the other engineer, had one leg broken and the other dislocated. Another accident occurred on the same road at Grant. An engine jumped the track and went into the ditch, but no one was hurt.

The Fight Over the Fishery Award.

OTTAWA, ONT., April 8.—The House of Commons remained in session until 4 o'clock this morning, debating the question of the distribution among the various provinces of the fishery award. Sir John A. McDonald's amendment declares that the portion of the fishery award paid over to Canada constitutionally and of right belongs to the Dominion of Canada. This amendment was carried by a vote of 126 to 30.

A RESCUED CREW.

Valuable Ship Abandoned at Sea.

NEW YORK, April 8.—The steamer Gellert, Captain Kuleween, from Hamburg, which arrived yesterday, reports: April 4, at 5 morning, latitude 41.35, longitude 59.38, met the British steamer Syria, Johnson, New Orleans for Liverpool, with rudder lost, sternpost and main discharge pipe broken, together with other injuries, which rendered the vessel entirely unmanageable. The captain came on board and asked to be taken in tow. Gave them our steel hawser and took one of her eleven-inch hawsers; secured them well and started slowly ahead. The Syria, not being under control, went from one side to the other, which finally parted both hawsers. Finding it impossible to tow the vessel, signalled Captain Johnson to that effect. Boat, with portion of the Syria's crew with their luggage, then came aboard, and soon after Captain Johnson, who made every effort to induce his men or a portion of them to return to the ship, but all refused, and also refused to do duty on the Gellert in case any of her men would volunteer to go with him and try to save his ship. Johnson then applied to Captain Kuhleween to give him some men. Kuhleween sent an officer and an engineer on board of the Syria to examine her. They reported, in their opinion, it was not safe to send men on board, as the vessel could not possibly float much longer. Consequently Kuhleween refused the men asked for. The Syria was then abandoned by her entire crew except Captain Johnson, who remained on board and again asked for men to help save the vessel, which was refused. Johnson at last, seeing the utter uselessness of his remaining aboard alone, consented to come aboard the Gellert, and all were brought to this port. The Syria's cargo consisted of 5,000 bales of cotton and 200 tons oil cake.

Progress of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

(Special dispatch to THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.)

END OF TRACK, S. P. R. R.,
ARIZONA, April 7, 1880.

Laid 7,500 feet of track yesterday.

April 8, 1880.

Laid 5,300 feet of track yesterday.

J. H. STRONBRIDGE,
Chief of Construction.

Canadian Grave Robberies.

NEW YORK, April 8.—An Ottawa, Ont., special says: "The citizens of this place and the surrounding towns are greatly excited over the discovery that during the past week there have been stolen no less than eight bodies from the cemetery at Papineaudille. The greatest indignation prevails over the dastardly outrage. As yet no clue has been obtained which is likely to lead to the apprehension of the parties.

Investigation of Ecclesiastical Shortcomings.

NORWICH, CONN., April 8.—At to-day's session of the Providence Methodist-Episcopal conference committees were appointed to investigate the charges of immorality and unChristian conduct preferred against Ministers A. W. Paige, of Glastonburg, Conn.; C. E. Walker, of Somerset, Mass., and A. L. Decring, of Monument, Mass. Each committee consists of thirteen delegates, and their sessions will be secret. When the committees arrive at a decision they will report to the conference their findings, and that will end the cases. There is no likelihood that any of the unpleasant details will be ventilated in public here.

New Orleans Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.—The Senate to-day indefinitely postponed the Sunday liquor law, and killed the general lottery bill. A new board of health was organized to-night. Dr. Joseph Jones was elected president, and Dr. S. S. Herrick re-elected secretary. Dr. Jones said he was fully aware of the responsibilities the board had to meet—three hundred miles of dirty gutters and streets, filthy drainage, canals, and care for the health and sanitary condition of a quarter of million of inhabitants. He hoped, however, that confidence would be placed in the new board, and that, with the aid of the National Board of Health and the National quarantine station at Ship Island, there would be no fear of the importation of yellow fever.

Western Canal Schemes.

PEORIA, ILL., April 8.—A meeting of the ship canal agitation committee appointed by the Ottawa convention was held in this city this afternoon. There was a full attendance of members and the project was freely discussed. The principal thing done was the appointment of a committee to draft a statistical and descriptive memorial to Congress urging them to enlarge the Illinois & Michigan canal so as to admit the passage of lake and river steamers, which memorial is to be circulated extensively for signatures through Illinois and the Northwest. This evening a mass meeting in the interest of the ship canal was held, Mayor Warner presiding. The hall was crowded and great interest manifested in the scheme.

Oregon Democratic Convention.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8.—A dispatch from Portland says: The Oregon State Democratic convention to-day nominated five district judges and district attorneys only. The platform advocates economy in public affairs, uniform taxation, equal protection to capital and labor, regulation by Legislative acts of rates of common carriers, maintenance of public schools and free elections, without interference by the military; condemning the keeping alive of the bitterness of the late war; censuring President Hayes for vetoing the Chinese bill; declaring the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court in relation to the election laws as favoring the Republican party; pledging support to all laws favoring untrammeled suffrage; opposition to a protective tariff, and denouncing the third-term movement.

A Mysterious Suicide.

NEW YORK, April 8.—George M. Jones, who called himself a Boston merchant, shot himself through the heart this morning in St. Vincent's hospital. He was a private patient and apparently a man of culture and means. Early yesterday morning he was found on the street suffering with a broken leg, stating that he had been robbed of all his money and a gold watch worth $175. He said he came to this city to go to Europe on the steamer Canada that left yesterday. The hospital people, at his request, had his baggage and ticket, which was on the steamer, returned. Upon his arriving at the hospital no weapon was found upon him. When he had recovered his senses fully he was permitted to handle his valise and its contents freely. Among them was a loaded pistol. During the temporary absence of the nurse a muffled report of a pistol was heard in the patient's room, and Mr. Jones was found shot through the heart. No note of explanation and nothing whatever to indicate his business in Boston, if he had any, was found in his baggage, but upon searching his clothing it was found to be marked Smith instead of Jones; the letters "D. S." were found on his linen; a number of blank checks in his valise were dated Philadelphia. From word dropped by him it was surmised that at one time he had been a lieutenant or engineer in the navy, and in his valise was found a picture of himself in a lieutenant's uniform. Beyond these facts nothing is known about the man nor the motive for his suicide.

The Samoan Islands.

Mr. Dawson, United States Consul at Apia, Samoa, in his dispatch to the Department of State dated January 19, 1880, transmits a report of the commerce of the group of islands known as Tonga, Ellice, Gilbert, Marshall and Caroline. The amount of exports during the last year was $415,700 and of imports $235,000. Five vessels from the United States, seventy-two from Germany and forty-seven from Great Britain entered the port of Apia during the year.

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

Some Democratic Schemes Fai to Run Smoothly.

A Day of Wrangling in the House—The Sparks Rider Admitted to the Army Bill—Attempt to Repudiate an Agreement—Democrats in Caucus—"Hold on Till After the Election."

The National Legislature.

After the usual business of the morning hour, Mr. Saulsbury, who had given notice that he would call up the Spofford-Kellogg case yesterday, stated to the Senate that he would not do so until next Tuesday, assigning as a reason that he had been requested to do so by the Senator in charge of the Ute bill.

Other Senators gave notice of their intention to press the consideration of measures under their special charge.

The Ute bill was then taken up and its consideration resumed, but before any action was reached the Senate adjourned, to enable the Democratic Senators to continue the caucus which had been suspended at 12 o'clock, that members might be in their seats in the Senate.

In the House during the morning hour some 217 bills were reported, a large number of them from the Committee on War Claims, adversely. The others were placed on the several calendars. Among those reported were the following by Mr. Neal, from the District of Columbia Committee: Providing for an industrial home for girls in the District of Columbia; for the repeal of the charter of the Washington Market Company, adversely, and for the sale of certain property belonging to the United States in the District of Columbia. Placed on the calendar.

The House at the expiration of the morning hour went into Committee of the Whole on the Army appropriation bill, the pending question being on the point of order raised against the political rider prohibiting any part of the appropriation to be used for the subsistence, equipment, transportation or compensation of any portion of the army to be used as a police force to keep the peace at the polls at any election held within any State. This point was discussed at great length on both sides. The Chair finally ruled that as any additional duties imposed upon the army would necessarily involve additional expense, the restriction from the performance of any duties would correspondingly diminish expense, and that, therefore, the amendment being in the nature of a reduction of expenditures was in order.

A controversy then sprung up as to whether there was to be general debate on the amendment, and the committee rose to decide the question in the House. It was contended by the Republicans, and admitted by many of the Democrats, that when general debate was closed on the Army bill proper, there was a distinct understanding that if the rider, which was then only known by rumor, should be offered and admitted general debate should be had. This was denied by Mr. Sparks and others, and the *Record* was read to show that such was the understanding. A warm discussion ensued over this question, Mr. Sparks contending that his individual consent had not been given, and that, therefore, it was his right to insist that the debate should be continued under the five-minute limit.

Messrs. Clymer (who had charge of the bill) and Mr. Atkins, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, conceded that there was an understanding, and such an agreement was indirectly recognized by the Speaker.

Mr. Frye also gave notice that the Republicans intended to have general debate, and a colloquy was begun looking to fixing the time for its continuance.

Mr. Sparks said he did not think there would be any one who desired to debate on that side. His friend from Georgia (Mr. Cook) said if any Democrat rose to debate they would "shoot him on the spot."

Mr. Conger retorted that was the way they usually did on that side with those who were opposed to their notions. [Laughter.]

Without reaching an agreement the House adjourned.

Democratic Senatorial Caucus.

The Democratic Senators held a caucus yesterday morning, for the purpose, as it is phrased, of discussion upon the order of business, but in reality for the purpose of shelving the Spofford-Kellogg matter until after the fall elections. So delicately is the subject regarded, and so tenderly handled, that in the discussion reference was only made to the necessity of expediting business for the purpose of securing an early adjournment and expressions of that character. Senators Saulsbury and Hill were anxious to reach the Louisiana case, but the more sagacious partisans, unwilling to hazard party interests by such a bold outrage on the eve of an election, urged that the appropriation bills, the Geneva Award bill and measures of that character which must be acted on should first be disposed of, and then, "if the Senate had time," the Louisiana case, the Porter case and Senator Bayard's financial bill could be taken up. It became very evident that any effort to bring up these dangerous topics would not be seconded by any large number of Senators on that side, and it is not probable any further reference will be made in the Senate to these subjects. The conference was protracted, and was continued for an hour after the adjournment of the Senate. The Democracy breathes freer.

The Census Bill Conference.

The committee of conference on the Census bill reached an agreement yesterday, which will be reported to the two Houses to-day. It is arranged that the House shall agree to the Senate amendments striking out the requirement for the collection of statistics concerning naturalization and the ownership of the public debt, and also to the Senate amendment which provides certain methods (such as posting of returns, etc.) by which the accuracy of the work of enumeration may be tested. The Senate is to recede from its amendment requiring copies of the returns for each State to be filed in the offices of the respective Secretaries of State.

Civil-Service Veterans.

Some time since the Senate adopted a resolution asking the Secretary of the Treasury whether any reduction in the clerical force of that Department could be made with advantage to the Government. To this the Secretary yesterday sent a reply stating that no reduction of clerical force can advantageously be made in that Department, except, perhaps, that some old and infirm employes might be replaced by younger men. The Secretary thinks, however, that their dismissal would be unjust, unless some provision be made for their old age, in recognition of their long service to the Government.

The Kentucky Lotteries.

The Postmaster-General yesterday suspended the order prohibiting the delivery of registered letters and the payment of money-orders to the Commonwealth Distribution Company and the Kentucky State Lottery of Louisiana. The agents of these companies filed their record yesterday, and an effort will be made to have the United States Supreme Court, to whom an appeal has been made, advance their cases on the calendar and try it at this term of the court.

Exhibition in Japan.

General Stahl, United States Consul at Osaka, Japan, informs the Department of State, under date of March 1, 1880, that an Industrial Exhibition was opened at Osaka on the 15th of February, 1880. The total number of exhibitors are stated at 7,000. There were 6,000 exhibitions of cotton and 1,000 of sugar. About forty provinces were represented.

THE PATENT COMMISSIONERSHIP.

Some Forcible Suggestions to Secretary Schurz.

There is a very strong desire on the part of inventors and patent attorneys that the present Commissioner, General Paine, should reconsider his determination to resign, and remain at the head of the Patent Office. This grows partly out of an appreciation of the high character of the official, his courteous and honorable mode of conducting business, and his personal popularity, and partly out of a feeling that the office should not be made the place for the education and training of patent attorneys. A prominent attorney of this city, himself a graduate of the Patent Office, and thoroughly conversant with all the minutes of its internal arrangements, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior suggesting that if it be true that he contemplates indorsing a novice for the place, he is about to make a serious mistake. He pays a high compliment to the personal character and legal ability of Mr. Marble, whose name has been mentioned, but while cheerfully conceding, he says:

Probably no single judge in the United States trying patent causes in our large cities has anywhere near the amount of difficult matters to decide that constantly burden the Commissioner of Patents, and that annually determine the course of investment of millions of capital, the direction of vast labor forces, and effect the progress of American effort for the advancement of useful arts.

I know, and all others conversant with the administration of the Patent Office know, that a new Commissioner, unfamiliar with patent matters, however excellent a man and tolerable lawyer he may be, uniformly and inevitably presents himself at the head of the office for a considerable period as a mere apprentice. No culture, ability or experience outside of patent matters can relieve him from this attitude, and his frequent slips are unfortunately much more apparent and distressing to others than to himself. All his subordinates and all the practitioners before him plainly see him at his disadvantage and are yet constrained to suppress their sense of his manifest unfitness, and to acknowledge him, in form at least, as head of the office, while inventors and manufacturers must consciously or unconsciously submit to the discouraging chances of his most precarious judicial balance. I can conceive of nothing more demoralizing to civil service in the Patent Office, and I speak not from opinion merely, but from repeated observation of the experiment tried. I assume it would not, ordinarily, be proposed to put an inland lawyer, without any considerable knowledge and experience of admiralty law and practice, into the office of judge of an important admiralty court in a great maritime city, and patent law is even more essentially and peculiarly a difficult specialty than admiralty jurisprudence.

The letter is quite lengthy, and presents the case in a most forcible manner. One danger pointed out is that in the absence of a commissioner of experience and standing, from whom Congress can ask advice, there is danger of a great deal of wild patch work legislation that may make damaging inroads upon the enlightened character of our patent system.

The Legacy and Succession Tax.

The House Committee on the Revision of the Laws gave a hearing yesterday upon Representative McCold's bill "to repeal the legacy and succession tax." Under the income tax law of 1862 a tax was assessed upon all personal and real estate received by heirs and legatees exceeding $1,000. This tax was made a lien upon real estate until paid, and all administrators or trustees having charge of the settlement of the succession of such estates were held liable to the amount of the tax. The act remained in force till 1870, when it was repealed, but by a provision of the act of repeal all taxes accruing between 1862 and 1870, while the act was in force, were left subject to assessment and collection, and in 1875 a circular was issued from the Internal Revenue Department, offering rewards to parties who should discover such unpaid taxes and give information leading to their collection. The object of the present bill is to relieve innocent purchasers of property against which such tax-liens are found to exist.

Representative McCold appeared before the committee and urged the passage of the bill. He claimed that as ten years had now passed since the repeal of the income-tax law sufficient time had been afforded the Government to collect these taxes; that in a large number of cases scattered over the country—of small estates—the parties interested were ignorant of the law, and all heirs, legatees, administrators or trustees who ten years since were in receipt of such estates are now made liable for the tax, while innocent purchasers of the property are liable to have such liens enforced against it; that the inducements held out to informers had induced them to search through the probate records of the State courts to unearth such cases, causing far greater disquietude and annoyance among the people than the benefit to the country would warrant; that in most cases, while the amount realized by the Government would be very small, the arbitrary enforcement of its collection would prove a serious hardship to the persons affected by it.

Increasing Immigration.

The chief of the Bureau of Statistics furnishes the following information, derived from official returns, in regard to immigration into the port of New York. There arrived at the port of New York during the month of March, 1880, 23,616 passengers, 21,658 of whom were immigrants. During the corresponding period of 1879 the total number of passengers arrived at the port was 7,736, of whom 5,965 were immigrants. Of the total arrivals of immigrants at the port during the month of March, 1880, there were from England, 2,730; Scotland, 775; Wales, 36; Ireland, 4,067; Germany, 6,503; Austria, 681; Sweden, 2,183; Norway, 494; Denmark, 391; France, 396; Switzerland, 814; Italy, 880; Holland, 509; Belgium, 85; Russia, 195; Poland, 250; Hungary, 678; Cuba, 42; all other countries, 43.

The arrivals at the port of New York during the three months ended March 31, 1880, as compared with the corresponding period of 1879 were as follows:

	Three months ended Mar. 31.	
	1880.	1879.
Immigrants	35,825	11,114
Citizens United States returned	4,498	3,878
Sojourners	668	842
Total	41,191	15,834

During the twelve months ended March 31, 1880, as compared with the twelve months ended March 31, 1879, were as follows:

	Twelve mons. ended Mar. 31.	
	1880.	1879.
Immigrants	166,656	83,833
Citizens United States returned	32,022	34,897
Sojourners	6,004	6,075
Total	204,682	124,805

Superintendents of the Soldiers' Home.

The House Committee on Military Affairs held a special session yesterday to select the superintendents of the National Soldiers' Homes, and agreed to recommend for appointment the following: General William B. Franklin, of Connecticut, to succeed General B. F. Butler; General Charles Roberts, of Maine, to succeed Frederick Smythe; General M. T. McMahon, of New York, to succeed General J. H. Martindale; Major D. C. Fulton, of Wisconsin, to succeed E. B. Walcott; General J. M. Palmer, of Illinois, to succeed Thomas O. Osborne, and General Joel Parker, of New Jersey, to succeed H. G. Stebbins.

A Private Land Claim Decided.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office has transmitted to the surveyor-General of California for delivery to the proper parties a patent, dated March 31, 1880, for the private land claim in California known as the "Pueblo lands of Sonoma." It was further ordered that the claimant should deposit any money due the United States for surveys and other duties before the patent should be delivered.

POLITICS IN VIRGINIA.

A "Readjustment" of Political Sentiment Going On.

Former Prejudices Being Abandoned for the Public Good—An Occasional Ember of the Rebellion Found—Sherman's Agents at Work—A Protest from London County Republicans.

Virginia's Choice for President.

To the Editor of The National Republican:

SIR: The *Commonwealth* of this morning is again trying to rival the Okolona *Democrat*. In its editorial it says: "Whereas our people look with feelings amounting well-nigh to hatred upon General Grant," etc. This editorial is in reply to an editorial in the *Southern Intelligencer* of last Monday, in which it was stated that if General Grant was the nominee of the Chicago Convention thousands of ex-Confederates would vote for him.

The editor of the *Commonwealth* is as complete a *Bombastes Furioso* as ever was seen in this section of the Commonwealth; he is one of the few living admirers of Jeff Davis. Colonel Popham was right when he said that thousands of ex-Confederates would vote for Grant.

The editor of the *Commonwealth* is not of the people, with the people, nor for the people. I talk with ex-Confederate soldiers (men who fought), every day, and have yet to hear one express anything but the most kindly feelings for General Grant; those who surrendered to him at Appomattax remember his kindness. Very many of them will vote for him over any candidate that may be nominated against him.

Shermanites are again on the "rampage" down here. Samuel F. Maddox, a clerk in the Surgeon General's office, War Department, is down here, and has been tramping through Chesterfield county trying to work up a Sherman boom. Maddox is the same man to whom money was sent to bring him down to secure the nomination of the repudiating member of the Virginia Senate. (This Senator was not a Readjuster, but a Repudiator.)

If Sherman cannot do better than that, then God help him, for Virginia Republicans will not.

Last night a large meeting of the Jefferson ward Republicans was held. It was unanimous for Grant.

From information received from Hanover, New Kent and other counties Grant delegates will be sent to Staunton. "The work goes bravely on." In conversation this morning with a prominent German of this city, he said that the Germans of the whole country would support Grant or any other candidate that the Republicans would put up; that they were tired of a Democratic Congress, and that on last night he talked with a large number of Germans who have heretofore voted the Democratic ticket, and that every one of them said that Grant was his choice and that they would support him in preference to any man that the Democracy would put up.

CONFED.

RICHMOND, VA., April 7, 1880

LOUDON COUNTY.

A Protest of the Colored Republicans.

LEESBURG, VA., April 2, 1880.

To the Editor of The National Republican:

SIR: According to a special notice, the Republicans (colored) of Leesburg precinct met at Bailey Institute Thursday evening, April 1. On motion Jesse Moten was elected chairman and H. T. McCoy secretary of said meeting. After an exchange of opinions, the following resolution was introduced by D. S. Payne, and after speeches had been made by Messrs. Moten, Sydney and others in favor of the resolution and condemning the action of the committee at the Lincoln convention, it was adopted. On motion it was ordered that copies of the resolutions together with the minutes of said meeting, be sent to THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN and papers of this county for publication. There being no other business before the meeting, on motion the meeting adjourned.

JESSE MOTEN, Chairman.

H. T. McCOY, Secretary.

LEESBURG, VA., April 2, 1880.

WHEREAS, A meeting was called by the Republican executive committee of Loudoun county, Va., at Bailey Institute, March 15, to elect delegates for the county convention, held at Lincoln, Va., March 18, Joseph Watters acting as chairman and Alfred Harris as secretary of said meeting;

WHEREAS, After a long and exhausting debate pro and con, the meeting adjourned without electing or empowering any person or persons to act as delegates to said county convention;

WHEREAS, It further appears that at the meeting of the county convention, held at Lincoln, March 18, the committee on credentials included in their report the names of James Hoe and Joseph Watters as delegates and representatives of the Republican party of Leesburg district—their report in this particular being wholly false, the so-called delegates having no authority to produce evidence before the committee to warrant the committee making such a report; and

WHEREAS, The report of the committee was received and adopted, under the impression that it included only legally elected delegates from the different sections of the county; therefore we, the colored Republicans of Leesburg district, condemn and enter our solemn protest against the action and clause in the report of said committee pertaining to the so-called representatives of Leesburg district, and solemnly declare not to be bound by any of their actions as delegates.

Resolved, That while we are in accord with the principles of our party, as expressed in resolution second, by the report of the committee on resolutions, we, as Republicans with equal determination, condemn the effort to join a State issue with a Nation's, believing such action to be detrimental not only to the interest of Virginia, but to all Republicans as a party. To be more plain, we are in favor of leaving this issue remain as before, *i. e.*, an open fight between the Democratic Readjusters and Democratic Funders, leaving to each individual of our party the right to vote as may seem best to his own judgment. And so, therefore, any expression from us as a party concerning this State issue at this juncture is impolitic and entirely unnecessary and uncalled for.

Resolved, further, That we, as colored Republicans, believe that the calling of both the State and county conventions was premature, and consequently not in the interest of the Republican party, but the action of Federal office-holders and politicians to capture the State convention for their own interests and purposes, without consulting the wishes of the major part of the Republican party which they so feebly pretended to represent. Be it further

Resolved, That we consider the resolutions offered by Dr. J. S. Stone but a poor attempt to instruct the delegates elected to the Staunton State convention, and it therefore brings forth our earnest protest and condemnation against it.

Resolved, That the present organization of the so-called Republican party of Virginia is controlled by Federal office- and bondholders; therefore, any movement toward a purer and better organization of the Republicans of our State meets our most hearty co-operation and warmest approval.

Resolved, That we will with our best endeavors support the nomination of the Chicago Republican Convention.

Results of the Indian Councils.

The Jicarilla Apaches have finished their business with the Interior Department, and will return to New Mexico in the course of a day or two, via Carlisle, Pa., where an Indian school is located. During their last council with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs they seemed desirous that their reservation should be located in the Cimmaron Abiquin country, near Santa Fe, but it was ascertained that other people had settled there, and, besides, it was not large enough to sustain the tribe of Apaches. It was proposed to send an agent back with them to locate them for settlement in a more desirable spot, and this arrangement they cheerfully acquiesced in. Yesterday, in company with Commissioner Trowbridge, the Apaches called on the President and spent nearly an hour talking with their "Great Father."

The negotiations with the Chippewas have not been concluded, as some of the chiefs want an allotment in severalty, to which the others object. The question will be submitted to the tribe for decision, and the agent of the Department will make the result known.

PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME.

Certainty Rather than Severity the True Doctrine.

To the Editor of The National Republican:

SIR: The *Star* of the 3d instant closes an editorial paragraph on the horrible episode of the decapitation of Stone, the murderer, on last Friday, in these words: "It is almost universally acknowledged that this [the death penalty] is the only penalty of force enough to deter the wicked." This we believe to be a popular error. The certainty and not the severity of the punishment, we apprehend, is the only thing that is considered by the criminal when he is laying his plans for the commission of crime of any kind. The thief arranges for concealing his stolen goods, and the murderer, in like manner, calculates the chances of so covering his tracks as to avoid detection, and thus escaping all punishment. What cares he, then, for the severity of a punishment he expects to escape? Make the penalty for murder certain to be executed, and let it be imprisonment for life, at hard labor, and convictions will be more common, for the reason that juries hesitate to take the life of a brother man, and will not convict, in many cases, if it is possible to avoid a verdict of "guilty."

This hesitation grows out of two considerations:

1. Many thoughtful men seriously doubt the lawfulness, from a Christian standpoint, of capital punishment.

2. Innocent men have been and may be again executed for the crime of another.

The judgment of man is fallible, and all men fit for jurors feel and recognize that fact. This natural repugnance to the death penalty is not the outgrowth of a morbid sentimentalism; it is a credit to human nature that it exists in the heart of man. No one would object to imprisonment since the safety of society demands that the murderer be deprived of the opportunity of destroying human life. Should his innocence be established thereafter he could be released from a prison cell, but not from the silence of the tomb. Would not such a penalty, with an admixture of moral instruction, with a view to the reformation of the vicious, be more in harmony with the spirit of the age and the genius of the Christian religion? T. W. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1880.

The Black Hawk War Veterans.

To the Editor of The National Republican:

SIR: I understand that a bill has been or is about being introduced into the House of Representives for the benefit of the soldiers that were engaged in the Black Hawk war. This war took place in 1832. The brave men who came forth at the call of their country, by their zeal, energy and daring soon swept our beautiful prairies in the northern part of Illinois from the cruel and murderous savage, opening up to emigration more than an empire, now filled in its vast extent with villages, towns and cities, the pride of our great West, checkered with railroads throughout its borders. The tall forms and spires of our school-houses, churches and institutions of benevolence and learning show that the country is now the abode of civilization, science and Christianity.

The result of this war, which was sharp, short and decisive, was obtained at little cost of treasure but of much suffering and exposure to the hardy pioneer. It is about time, Mr. editor, that Congress was recognizing the heroism and patriotism of these men by endowing them with pensions so as to give to each one of them a pension that will enable them to enjoy the evening of their days in some comfort. This munificence on the part of the Government should be done quickly to be of much service to the brave pioneers, as they are fast passing away. ILLINOIS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8, 1880.

Some Nice Questions.

Among the questions now pending before the First Comptroller of the Treasury is the case of a man who resided in New York, but has been absent in parts unknown for the time specified by law previous to the issuance of letters of administration on his estate, he being presumptively dead. Letters of administration have been issued in this case, and Comptroller Porter has been called upon to decide whether a United States Treasurer's draft shall be paid to the administrator.

The administrator is now here asking payment, the draft being made payable to the missing man. If the Comptroller orders payment to the administrator the question arises, Will the action of the Probate court settle the matter; or will the missing man, should he afterward put in an appearance, have a legal right to demand payment again from the United States? The Comptroller expects to render a decision on the subject in a few days.

Another matter pending before Judge Porter is a case involving the question whether a note given to husband and wife survives to the wife after the death of the husband, or whether it goes to the heirs of his estate.

German Orthography.

The United States Consul-General at Frankfort-on-the-Main, in a dispatch to the Department of State dated March 8, 1880, announces that new rules of spelling have been prescribed by the Prussian Government for the public schools. Great difference of opinion prevails as to the propriety of the innovations proposed. Interesting discussions of the subject appear in the newspapers. The new rules have been published in a manuel, a copy of which is transmitted with Mr. Lee's report. The subject is one of interest to the boards of education in the United States in view of the fact that the German language is taught in many of our schools, and our scholars generally must become attentive to the discussion.

Exhibition at Buenos Ayres.

Mr. Osborn, United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, in his dispatch to the Department of State, dated February 13, 1880, calls attention to the South American Continental Exhibition, to take place at Buenos Ayres in September next. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic assures our Minister that the government will guarantee the success of the exhibition. It will be shown that the Republic has within its extensive and rich territory the finest productions of universal commerce. Pamphlets containing the plans, programme, etc., of the exhibition have been furnished to the Department of Agriculture.

Great Increase of Trade.

General Badeau, United States Consul-General at London, in his dispatch to the Department of State, dated March 12, 1880, calls attention to the enormous increase of the exports from London to the United States during the last quarter of 1879 as shown by the invoices passing through his office.

For the quarter ending December 31, 1879, the amount was over $10,000,000.

The increase over the previous quarter was about $8,000,000; and over the corresponding quarter in 1878 over $11,000,000.

The amount of the present quarter is likely to exceed the preceding one.

The Cleveland June Races.

CLEVELAND, April 8.—The stewards of the Grand Central Trotting Circuit announce the following programme at each of the circuit meetings, which begin at Cleveland, on June 27, and continue in successive weeks at Buffalo, Rochester, Utica and Hartford: First day—2:30 class; purse, $1,000; 2:21 class; purse, $2,000; 2:25 class; purse, $1,000. Second day—2:19 class; purse, $2,000; pacers which have never beaten 2:22; purse, $500; 2:36 class; purse, $1,000. Third day—2:27 class; purse, $1,000; free for all; purse, $3,000; horses under saddle which have never beaten 2:28; purse, $500. Fourth day—2:23 class; purse, $1,500; free for all pacers; purse, $1,500; 2:25 class; purse, $1,500. Each association offers $16,500, making the aggregate of the prizes for the circuit $82,500.

RAVAGES OF THE FLAMES.

A Record of Serious Fires for Yesterday.

Disastrous Conflagration at Dixon, Ill.—Three Extensive Mills Burned—Two Men Killed and Six Others Injured—A Valuable Library Consumed—Half of Alta Station Destroyed.

Serious Fire at Dixon, Ill.

DIXON, ILL., April 8.—A disastrous fire occurred here last night, breaking out in Thompson & Co.'s mill about 1 a. m., and before it was got under control burned Becker & Underwood's mill, S. C. Ells & Co.'s flax mill, and some minor buildings. Loss, $200,000; one-third insured. Ezra Becker, son of H. P. Becker, and William Schum, clerk in a drug store, were killed; William Rink had both arms broken, and C. P. Lint, Patrick Duffy, Orville Anderson, W. W. Vaun and Frank Gulzenburger were all badly injured during the conflagration.

The fire was discovered in the upper story of Thompson & Co.'s mill, and before it could be arrested all the extensive manufacturing interests on the north side of the main race, including Becker & Underwood's mill, Seeels & Co.'s flax mill and Thomas Baldwin's flouring mill, were entirely consumed. At one time all of the manufactories on the south side were in imminent peril, Colonel Dement's plow shop and foundry being on fire, but by the timely arrival of the fire department of Amboy to assist the local department the fire was got under control. Ezra Becker and William Schum were killed by the falling of a wall, and their bodies have been recovered. None of the others injured are likely to die.

CHICAGO, April 8.—The *Inter-Ocean's* special says the loss of life was occasioned by a terrific explosion which occurred at 2 o'clock and threw down a wall, scattering fire in every direction, and hurling several firemen who were upon the roof of Becker's mill into the mill race. Of these all but Ezra Becker and William Schum escaped. The others who were assisting the firemen were burned, bruised and terribly mutilated