The National Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE DAILY REPUBLICAN is delivered by carriers in Washington at 50 cents per month, and to mail subscribers (postage free) at the following rates:

Per year,	$7 00
Six months,	3 50
Three months,	1 75
One month,	60

THE WEEKLY REPUBLICAN is published every Thursday morning and furnished to subscribers at $1 25 per year, in advance.

Brief communications on interesting topics will always receive attention when accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

Remittances, drafts, checks, and postoffice orders should be made payable to

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CO.,
Washington, D. C.

Amusements.

NATIONAL—The McCaull Opera Comique Company.
FORD'S—"The Rajah."
COMIQUE—The New York Merry Makers.
DIME MUSEUM.—Matinee and evening performance.

Auction Sales.

TO-DAY.

BY WALTER B. WILLIAMS & CO.—A valuable collection of oil paintings.

FUTURE DAYS.

BY DUNCANSON BROS.—On May 5, stock contained in store corner of Boundary and Eighth sts. N.W.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1884.

WITH the spring time comes a flood of pictorial tourist literature. It is ornamental, decorative, and useful.

IT is not probable that congress will elevate the commissioner of agriculture to the rank of a cabinet minister.

IF Tilden should receive the nomination for president at Chicago, the campaign will resolve itself into a ghost walk.

A WELL defined belief prevails in political circles that Tilden's chum cabinet is endeavoring to pursuade him to abdicate in favor of Gov. Cleveland.

INDIANA is put down in the Blaine column as "thirty for Blaine, of Maine." There is good reason for believing that this delegation will cast not less than fourteen votes for President Arthur.

AN Irish colony is about to be established in San Luis valley, southern Colorado, 46,000 acres of land having been purchased for the purpose. This is a practical way of treating the Irish question.

WE have assurance once more that Mr. Tilden's name will not be before the democratic national convention. Don't bet on that proposition until the evening of the day the convention adjourns.

HENRY IRVING, Miss Ellen Terry, Mme. Scalchi, and Signor Campanini have sailed for Europe. They will return soon and harvest some additional dollars. They would come if they had to wade.

A PHILADELPHIA court yesterday ruled, in the case of M. A. Dauphin, on behalf of the Louisiana Lottery company against Col. McClure's *Times*, that a lottery company cannot be libeled. What is going to become of Mr. Dauphin's suit against the postmaster general?

THE Richmond *Whig* says that the Dezendorf "straightout" convention consisted of 117 persons—30 white and 87 colored—mostly from Richmond, Hanover county, and the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, although credited to various parts of the state.

IT was ordered by the house of representatives yesterday that debate on the tariff bill should close at 4 p. m. on Tuesday next. It was further ordered that the whole of to-day's session should be devoted to the discussion of the bill. Forty-three speeches have been delivered since the debate began, exclusive of those of yesterday.

IN the list of delegates to the alleged "straightout" convention at Richmond, Va., on Wednesday, the name of L. W. Laws appears as representing Middlesex county. The Richmond *Whig* says Mr. Laws is a doorkeeper of the house of representatives, and that Hon. John S. Barbour secured the place for him. It is somewhat remarkable that one of Mr. Barbour's appointees should be a delegate to a convention that claimed to represent the republican party.

THE downfall of Mr. Keene only adds one more to the innumerable wrecks that strew the shore of the Wall street sea of speculation. Only four or five years ago his wealth was estimated at $12,000,000. He is now a bankrupt. Years ago the bonanza kings let him in for a slice of their big jack pot, and being a daring operator he quickly amassed a giant fortune. He became one of the biggest fish in the San Francisco puddle, and when he came to New York he made a great agitation in the waters of the Wall street pool for a considerable length of time, but he was landed at length. He was purely a speculator, paying out enormous sums annually in commissions. He lost his money as he made it—gambling. When he analyzes his trial balance he will probably discover that his shekels were swallowed up by the brokers.

A JOINT resolution passed the house of representatives on Wednesday which will relieve the calendars of the two houses of a hundred or more bills persistently introduced at each session. Almost every town in some of the western states has a local memorial association, formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of some hero who fell in the war. One of the first steps taken is to procure the introduction of a bill in congress authorizing the secretary of war to donate a sufficient number of condemned cannon to furnish material for the casting of the memorial statue. As a matter of fact all the guns available for this purpose have long since been appropriated, but the applications for more go on all the same. There are still a good many big guns lying about the forts and the military posts which are not fit for service and are too heavy to be moved, except at a cost that would take away all their value. The resolution from the committee on military affairs which passed the house on Wednesday authorizes the secretary of war, in his discretion, to donate these big guns to such memorial associations as may apply for them. To transport them to the places at which they are wanted, and to break them into fragments small enough to be fused in the casting foundry, would cost a good deal more than the old iron is worth. It is not probable that the secretary of war will be able to dispose of many of Uncle Sam's old guns in this way, but the resolution will save congress from the trouble of considering useless applications for such donations.

Butler's Platform.

Simultaneously with the declaration of the Massachusetts democrats that Gen. Benjamin F. Butler is their choice for president appears a letter from that eminent statesman which makes his nomination by a democratic convention impossible. On March 12, 1884, Gen. Butler wrote to William D. Fuller, of Newaygo, Mich., as follows:

When, owing to the fact that Mr. Garfield and Mr. Oakes Ames, whom I had known long and well, upon their oaths testified in exact opposition, and one or the other of them had committed perjury—because with the unlimited charity described by St. Paul, which believeth all things, and hopeth all things, it was impossible to reconcile the two stories told by the two men—I found it necessary and convenient to support Hancock for president, and to act with the democratic party, yet I did not reverse myself as to any of the opinions I held as a republican, and especially upon the question of guaranteeing equality of right and power under the government, to be exercised without being disturbed, intimidated or interfered with by any one, which was given to the freedmen of the south. I held then and I hold now that this is democracy. If it is not, I am no democrat, because my political platform upon all political subjects is in a few words, equality of right, equality of burdens, equality of privileges, and equality of powers in all men under the law. That platform, energetically and courageously administered, covers all sorts and conditions of men, and is the solution of all political questions as to the rights of every citizen, and the duty of the government to protect him in those rights.

The national republican convention can not expect to formulate the party doctrine as to the equality of civil and political rights with more force and felicity than it has been by Gen. Butler. What would Copiah county, Mississippi, say to a democratic candidate for president who announces his platform in advance to be "equality of right, equality of burdens, equality of privileges, and equality of powers in all men under the law!"

The Blaine Boom in Iowa.

Iowa has generally been conceded to be a Blaine state. In the various tables that have been published showing the probable strength of each candidate the Iowa delegates have always been put in the Blaine column. A careful reading of the report of the proceedings of the republican convention which met at Des Moines on Wednesday shows that there has been a good deal of misrepresentation concerning the feeling in Iowa toward the candidates for the presidency whose names have been most frequently mentioned in connection with the nomination.

The Blaine men seemed to be in the majority in the convention, but when it came to deciding whether there should merely be a simple declaration that Mr. Blaine was the choice of the Iowa republicans for president, or whether the delegates should be instructed to use all honorable means to secure his nomination, the thick and thin partisans of the Maine statesman were beaten. The first proposition was submitted by the majority of the committee on resolutions, and the second by the minority. A motion to substitute the minority for the majority report was lost by a vote of 437 yeas to 447 nays. Taken in connection with the fact that a resolution warmly indorsing President Arthur's administration was adopted, this vote is most suggestive. Mr. Donnan, one of the delegates-at-large, is an Arthur man.

Mr. Blaine may or may not get the unanimous vote of Iowa in the national convention, but the fact that the state convention refused to give its delegates specific instructions shows that there has been a good deal of exaggeration in the Blaine boom in Iowa as in other parts of the country.

JUDGE WYLIE made short work with the indictment against ex-Senator Kellogg. The case rested entirely on the testimony of John B. Price, a mail contractor, who said that he had agreed to give Mr. Kellogg (who was then in the United States senate) $20,000 if he would use his influence to have certain mail routes expedited. According to Mr. Price's testimony this offer was made July, 1879. The indictment was found April 18, 1883, and, as a matter of course, was barred by the statute of limitations. Another fatal defect in the indictment was the fact that it charged Mr. Kellogg with receiving money, whereas, according to Price's own testimony, he agreed to assign certain postal pay warrants not yet due, amounting to $15,000, and gave his note for the balance ($5,000). There being a fatal variance between the allegation contained in the indictment and the proof adduced in support of it, Judge Wylie directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, and Mr. Kellogg was discharged before he had an opportunity of presenting his own side of the case.

THE Maryland republicans yesterday expressed a preference for Mr. Blaine, but gave their delegates to Chicago no instructions as to how they shall vote. At least two of the delegates-at-large favor the nomination of President Arthur.

THE West Virginia lynchers have introduced a new feature into their public hangings. A clergyman is sent for and the prisoner is allowed the benefit of his pious ministrations before he is launched into eternity.

ARMY AND NAVY.

Lieut. F. W. Greenleaf has been placed on the retired list of the navy.

The United States steamer Galena arrived at Key West yesterday. All well.

The navy department is informed by cable of the arrival of the United States steamer Trenton at Hong Kong May 1.

A telegram was received at the signal office yesterday from Colorado Springs, stating that another expedition had started to rescue the observer who is snowed in on Pike's peak, and that redoubled efforts will be made to reach him.

Capt. E. O. Matthews and Lieut. Wm. H. Jaques ordered to report to Rear Admiral Simpson for duty in connection with the gun foundry board. Passed Assistant Engineer E. A. Magee to the training ship Minnesota. Lieut. Charles O. Alibone detatched from the navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H., and ordered to the New Hampshire. Passed Assistant Engineer David Jones from duty in the bureau of steam engineering, and granted leave of absence for one year from April 30.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE NATIONAL—"DESIREE."

The initial production of Sousa and Taber's "Desiree" at the National last evening partook of the nature of a grand ovation to the composer and the American librettist. There were inaccuracies and inequalities, of course, and several of the best numbers in the second act were completely spoiled. These mishaps are unavoidable in first performances, however.

We have no hesitation in saying that we believe "Desiree" to be a pronounced success, and that the new production will have a long and a very profitable run. The second act can be and will be very materially amended to advantage. The development of the plot, as it is now arranged, is too automatic, and the two last scenes might be transposed without injury. This much in a scolding vein.

"Desiree" is full and bubbling over with exquisitely delicious music, and the libretto is a jewel in its way. The only drag is in the dialogue, which is the work of Mr. Morton, the lyrics being the work of Mr. Taber exclusively. There can be nothing prettier than the first act. It is a perfect operatic gem, and the audience last night went wild with enthusiasm, there being no less than a dozen encores before the curtain went down for intermission.

Miss Lily Post, who assumed the title role, gave a delicious and refreshing impersonation. All of her numbers were sung with a gracefulness and the intuition of an artiste. In the second act she was rather uncertain of portions of the dialogue, but musically speaking her performance was decidedly creditable. Her rendition of the waltz song in the second act was a revelation, and every opportunity which was presented to her she improved to the utmost. Mr. N. A. Cripps as Pomaret was in a measure a disappointment. Mr. Cripps labors under the pleasing delusion that he is a comedian. He is conscientious in everything that he does, but he utterly failed to grasp the possibilities of the role. The topical songs, which contain the cleverest verses of the entire libretto, were well-nigh lost through his inability to improve his opportunities. Miss Rose Leighton, on the contrary, gave a delightful and decidedly original conception of the eccentric schoolmistress, Laurie. She had only a little to do, but that little was done by a true artist.

Miss Virginia Evans sang Marie splendidly, but she was awkward and amateurish in her acting. Mr. Mark Smith played the part of Count de Courville fairly well, and that is all that can be said of this portion of his performance. The singing of the descriptive song in the second act was one of the striking features of the performance. Mr. Jay Taylor has a pleasing voice and sung the role of Marquis de Lavarre with superb effect. The minor impersonations were nicely rendered, and the choruses and concerted pieces were grandly given. The encores were the rule rather than the exception. It would tax the memory to recall a single important number of the opera which did not receive a hearty recognition by the audience. Between the acts, Messrs. Sousa and Taber were called before the curtain in response to enthusiastic plaudits, and bowed their acknowledgments while several handsome floral tributes were handed over the footlights.

"Desiree" will hold the boards for the remainder of the week, with Saturday matinee.

THE WAGNER CONCERT.

The admirers in this city of the genius of the great German composer, whose music has been styled "the music of the future," have never had a greater musical feast spread before them than in the entertainment at Lincoln hall last night. That the lovers of Wagnerian music in Washington are numerous is attested by the fact that the concert attracted a larger audience than was ever before assembled within the walls of Lincoln hall. The character of the assemblage was noticeable, too. Not only were all our local musicians present, but the representatives of our most cultured and fashionable society were out in full force, and the gay toilets of the ladies and the evening suits of the gentlemen made as brilliant a spectacle of the kind as has ever been witnessed in Washington. The programme embraced selections from "Tannhæuser," "Parsifal," "Tristan and Isolde," and "Die Walkure," and gave perhaps as complete an illustration of the gradual progress of Wagner's musical genius as could well be selected.

Whether Wagner has realized in his compositions his ideas in regard to the possibilities of musical expression, whether the faint traces of melody which now and then burst upon the ear in grateful rythmical cadences, are sufficiently satisfying to compensate for the mass of "description" with which his works abound, and whether this absence of melody is a test of his greatnes or a proof of the fact that he was continually striving to force music to accomplish impossibilities in the painting of pictures or the portraying of emotions, will be a matter of serious debate for some time to come. There is one thing, however, that even his most violent opponents are forced to admit, and that is that no composer, not excepting the divine Beethoven, has been able to secure such wonderful orchestral effects. Wagner had the most perfect knowledge of the capabilities of every orchestral instrument, and has combined them in so many and intricate ways as to produce effects never before listened to. Mr. Theodore Thomas is the acknowledged exponent of Wagnerian music in this country, and last night's work showed that in the treatment of all the selections his large and complete orchestra had imbibed something of his own enthusiasm. With their execution there was not the slightest fault to find, from the beautiful andante movement with which the "Tannhæuser" overture commenced to the weird strains of the magic fire scene in "Die Walkure."

The soloists are known to be the best interpreters of Wagner, and their efforts were well received. Mme. Materna has a soprano of great range, of exceptional purity, and with a volume and power rarely met with. In all the numbers assigned her she gave the music with a dramatic force and intensity that showed herself a thorough and accomplished artist. In the finale from "Tristan and Isolde," her passionate renditions of the vocal score elicited the wildest enthusiasm from the audience, and she was compelled to again and again return and bow her acknowledgments. Herr Winkelmann has a robust tenor of great power, and the bass of Herr Scaria is of singular smoothness and extensive depth and volume. In the "Tannhæuser" and also as Wotan in the "Die Walkure" he was exceptionally good, and received well-merited applause.

The "Tannhæuser" selections drew forth the greatest enthusiasm, probably because the music of that opera was better known than that of any of the other works given, and the fragment of "Parsifal" presented—the Good Friday spell—with Winkelmann and Scaria as vocalists, failed to excite hardly ordinary interest. The Ride of the Walkyrios—the first number of "Die Walkure"—attracted considerable attention from the wild and weird character of the composition and its faithful interpretation, which was in perfect consonance with the idea the composer intended to convey.

Altogether the whole entertainment was one of the most brilliant ever given in this city. It is understood that next winter Mr. Thomas will give a series of six symphony concerts, at each one of which a distinguished soloist will appear.

LINCOLN HALL CONCERT.

There will be a grand concert this evening at Lincoln hall, by the Original Amateur Glee club, assisted by Mme. Agnes Smallwood, Miss Amelia L. Tighlman, and Mr. A. J. Hall. This will be Miss Tighlman's first appearance since her recovery from the severe accident which she met with last summer while traveling with an opera company.

THE BISCHOFF CONCERT.

The closing concert in the Bischoff course will be given this evening in the Congregational church. The programme will be full of rare gems. The St. Cecilia quartette, in Dudley Buck's "Annie Laurie," and other selections, Miss Ewan in the "Brazilian Bird Song," Miss Powell, Miss May Rogers, Miss Fengor, Miss Simons, and others will make an attractive programme.

Our Internal Commerce.

The report of the chief of the bureau of statistics on the internal commerce of the United States for the year 1882 was handed to the secretary of the treasury yesterday. It deals with questions relating to the commercial, industrial, and transportation interests of the principal inland cities with especial reference to the results of the commercial competition between those cities. Special chapters are devoted to the following subjects: The competition between the cities of Montreal and New York for the trade of the western and northwestern states, direct trade between interior points in the United States and foreign countries, the foreign commerce of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans, lake and rail shipments east from Chicago, and the movements of the cotton crop of the United States. The commercial results of the establishment of the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi river are also considered.

His table of the foreign commerce of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, shows that of the tonnage of American and foreign vessels entered in the foreign trade at these ports, amounting in the aggregate to 10,279,209 tons, 13.08 per cent. was entered at Boston, 62.74 per cent. at New York, 8.34 per cent at Philadelphia, 8.69 per cent. at Baltimore, and 7.15 per cent. at New Orleans.

He gives the total lake and rail shipments east from Chicago during the calendar year 1883, as follows: Wheat, by lake, 7,067,657 bushels; by rail, 2,590,806 bushels; a total of 9,658,463 bushels as against 17,333,993 bushels in 1882. Flour, by lake, 801,099, barrels; by rail, 3,062,326 barrels; a total of 3,863,425 barrels, as against 3,663,935 barrels in 1882. Corn, by lake, 47,738,117 bushels; by rail, 22,579,633 bushels, a total 70,317,750 bushels against 48,396,111 bushels in 1882.

The Jeannette Investigation.

At the Jeannette investigation yesterday Mr. Henry Wilson resumed his testimony, and Mr. Munson, a seaman on the Jeannette, testified, and Lieut. Wm. H. Schuetze, who was one of the officers sent to assist in the search for the missing members of the Jeannette expedition, was called as an expert on Siberia. Lieut. Harber and Lieut. Wainwright also testified.

Dr. Emil Bessels, an Arctic navigator of considerable experience, was questioned in regard to Arctic matters generally. Could not judge, without being on the spot, of the wisdom of Capt. De Long's putting the Jeannette into the ice and making for Wrangell land. He gave a similar answer to a question as to whether or not Le Long took the proper course after the Jeannette sank.

Such things, he said, must be left to the commanding officer. Had never heard of an Arctic expedition in which there was not more or less trouble. It was caused by bad digestion and the monotonous life rather than by jealousy.

Duty on Wearing Apparel.

The treasury department has notified customs officers that their actions in regard to the duty on wearing apparel must conform to the recent decision of the United States supreme court as to wearing apparel exempt from duty. That decision exempts—1, wearing apparel owned by the passenger and in a condition to be worn at once without further manufacture; 2, brought with him as a passenger and intended for the use or wear of himself or his family who accompanied him as passengers and not for sale, or purchased or imported for other persons or to be given away; 3, suitable for the season of the year which was immediately approaching at the time of the arrival; 4, not exceeding in quantity or quality or value what the passenger was in the habit of ordinarily providing for himself and his family at that time, and keeping on hand for his and their reasonable wants in view of their means and habits of life, even though such articles had not been actually worn.

Bogus Butter and Cheese.

A subcommittee of the house committee on commerce will make a favorable report to the full committee on Representative George W. Ray's bill to regulate the exportation of articles made in imitation of butter and cheese. The bill provides that tubs, boxes, firkins, or cases when containing articles made from oleomargarine for export shall be marked "oleomargarine butter," or "butterine," or "oleomargarine cheese;" when made from a mixture of lard and dairy butter, or from a mixture of lard and milk or cream, "lard butter" or "lard cheese," and when made from a mixture of vegetable oils with dairy butter or oleomargarine, "vegetable oil butter." The bill further provides that a manifest accurately describing such commodities shall be filed in the custom house.

Wants to be Governor of Dakota.

Col. C. A. Lounsberry, postmaster of Bismarck, Dak., founder of the Bismarck *Tribune* and an old resident of the territory, is a candidate for the governorship. He is indorsed by the entire delegation in congress from Michigan and Wisconsin, by a majority of the delegates from Nebraska, Kansas, and Minnesota, by the delegates from Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming territories, and by a number of prominent military officers, journalists, and business men of the northwest. Col. Lounsberry entered the army as a private, and passing through every subordinate grade, was mustered out at the end of the war as colonel of his regiment. His recommendations were handed to the president on Tuesday.

PERSONAL.

O. Hunytage, C. Hunytage, London; M. Breed, Mr. and Mrs. G. Breed, New York, are at the Arlington.

Mr. Burchard, the director of the mint, has returned to Washington from a visit to the west and south.

F. Thompkins, Newport; Mrs. J. S. Cushing, Miss Cushing, and Miss Muller, Boston, are at Wormley's.

H. Sampson, Miss Sampson, New York; A. W. Jackson and wife, New Jersey; H. W. Jenson, Norway, are at the Harris house.

Secretary Lincoln, Secretary Chandler, Admiral Porter, and the chiefs of the naval bureaus went to New York to witness the departure of the Arctic steamer Thetis.

Postmaster General Gresham was tendered a reception and dinner upon his arrival at Savannah, Ga., Wednesday evening by the citizens of that place. He left for Washington later in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Galloway, Xenia, Ohio; H. W. Austin, Ohio; John Harrington, George Thomas, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. S. Bradbury, Cleveland; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilty, New York, are at the St. James.

William H. English, of Indianapolis, is in the city, in the interests of his son, William junior, who is contesting the congressional seat of Stanton J. Peelle. The democratic ex-candidate for vice president proposes to do what he can to get his son into congress.

Lieutenant Goodrich, U. S. N.; Hon. William A. Wheeler, jr., New York; Dr. Brinton, Dr. Packard, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. H. Phinzy, Augusta, Ga.; Hon. W. J. Green, Fayetteville, N. C.; Mrs. David Davis, Bloomington, Ill.; Dr. W. H. Geddings, Aiken, S. C.; C. H. McLellan, U. S. R. M.; Paul Oldenbourg, Munich, Germany, are at the Ebbitt.

FOREIGN LAND OWNERS.

Firms and Syndicates Abroad Who Have Acquired Public Lands, and by What Means.

Some correspondence has recently passed between the department of the interior and Senator Plumb, chairman of the committee on public lands, with reference to the information called for by Senator Van Wyck's resolution of March 17 last, directing the committee on public lands to inquire in what manner large quantities of public lands became transferred to or possessed by foreign corporations or syndicates, and what if any legislation is advisable to prevent such transfer or possession.

The commissioner of the general land office, to whom the senate inquiry was referred, pointing out the ways by which public lands may be legally acquired by foreign corporations, says that from the reports of special agents there was thirty-eight claims in Estes Park, Col., owned by the Estes Park company, organized under the laws of England, and doing business in Colorado. Windham Thomas, earl of Dunraven, appears to be one of the chief functionaries of this company. Thirty of the claims, the special agent found, were secured for people who were never in the park at all. The remaining eight were secured by people who made an occasional visit, and made a show of improvement. In no case was the law complied with.

An investigation in California into the transactions of Falkner, Bell & Co., an English house, secured complete evidence in sixteen cases, proving that the entrymen took up timber lands under agreement to transfer them to the agents of the syndicate, each entryman receiving $50 for his services. Further investigation was stopped by the agents of the syndicate, who surrounded the hotel with their henchmen, and no one who made entry with them was allowed to approach the special agent's room.

A letter from Tait, Denman & Co., of Edinburgh, Scotland, is given, this firm representing $25,000,000 in land and being now greatly exercised over this resolution of the senate, and anxious to know if any retroactive law will be passed. To this the commissioner of the land office replied that no retroactive law would be passed. He says, however, a misapprehension may exist as to what property rights have been or may be acquired under the present state of the law. He then states in detail the methods by which public lands may be legally acquired, and closes with this statement: "Possessory rights to public lands, other than as recognized by the settlement and improvement laws, are not recognized, and mere possession, occupation, or inclosure gives no color of right, title, or claim to any larger quantity of lands of the United States than the quantity authorized by said laws."

THE FREE BRIDGE AGAIN.

The Senate Committee Decides to Buy the Aqueduct Bridge.

Ex-Gov. Wells, Mr. Dungan, and others interested in the Alexandria Aqueduct bridge were present at the special meeting of the senate district committee yesterday, when the free bridge bill was discussed. Both of the gentlemen mentioned made arguments in favor of the district purchasing the Aqueduct bridge, suggesting that the bridge be condemned so that the government could get a perfect title.

Mr. Riddleberger said that the lessees did not want the bridge condemned, as they would get nothing; that the value of the property would go the United States, Virginia, and the Wheeler heirs.

Mr. Wells declared that the company owned the right under this lease, and owned the improvements, and it would be of great interest to them to have the bridge condemned. He spoke of the reports that the lessees had tried to bribe somebody, but was interrupted by Mr. Riddleberger, who told him not to go any further in that direction. Continuing, Mr. Wells said that the lessees would sell for $85,000, and that $15,000 additional should be provided to pay judgment liens, and that the lessees wanted omitted from the bill the provisions forfeiting all right or interest of the canal unless the aqueduct should be properly maintained.

The committee went into executive session, and, after discussing the subject, decided to report a bill to pay $125,000 for the entire and exclusive right and title to the Aqueduct bridge, provided a title satisfactory to the attorney general could be made in ninety days. This contemplates the purchase of the rights of all parties, including the lessees, the lessors, and the loiners, for all time. In other words, it is to acquire a perfect title for all time to come, with the right of the government to use the bridge as it pleases, to exclude the canal and the aqueduct, if the government sees fit. The agreement of the committee is that within ninety days every shadow of title and claim shall be transferred to the government; that the latter shall have a fee simple for $125,000. Failing in that, the bill directs the secretary of war to construct a bridge at the Three Sisters for $220,000.

The Veterans' Trip.

The invitation and transportation committees of the 1st corps met at the Ebbitt last night to perfect the programme to be submitted to-night to the general committee at Commissioner Dudley's office. It will then be published for the information of the public. It was a noted fact that a great many distinguished generals, veterans, and others were accepting the invitation to accompany the party. Gen. Rosecrans and other members of congress made flattering reports from the senate and house. J. H. Stine, Capt. W. W. Macy, and J. T. Callahan were appointed a committee to send out the other invitations.

The River and Harbor Bill.

The house committee on rivers and harbors expects to complete consideration of the river and harbor appropriation bill to-day or Saturday. The total amount appropriated will be between $12,000,000 and $13,000,000. Not all the appropriations have yet been agreed upon. It is possible that an effort will be made by some of the members of the committee to make a "horizontal reduction" of the amounts already decided upon before they are reported to the house.

The Debt Statement.

The debt statement issued yesterday shows as follows:

Decrease of the public debt during the month of April	$5,232,075
Decrease of debt since June 30, 1883	87,069,474
Cash in the treasury	390,753,266
Gold certificates outstanding	101,116,299
Silver certificates outstanding	116,874,231
Certificates of deposit outstanding	15,625,000
Refunding certificates outstanding	298,450
Legal tenders outstanding	346,681,016
Fractional currency outstanding	6,983,107

A New Swindling Scheme.

The chief of the postoffice inspectors yesterday received a dispatch from Oberlin, Ohio, stating that Inspectors Bedell and King had arrested B. F. Sicoelise, alias Sivells, for swindling. His scheme was to advertise for coins, such as good specimens of trade and Bland dollars, offering a premium for them. When he received them, of course, he made no return.

Bonds Redeemed.

Up to the close of business at the treasury department yesterday United States called bonds had been redeemed as follows: Under the 121st call, $30,402,300; under the 122d call, $13,369,300; under the 123d call, $13,367,150; under the 124th call, $8,490,250; under the 125th call, $7,246,050; under the 126th call, $2,481,450.

Illustrated Papers.

Brentano has received the London *Pictorial World*, of April 19, and the London *Graphic*, and *Illustrated London News*. They are superbly illustrated numbers and of unusual literary excellence as well.

A Wealthy New Yorker Disappears.

NEW YORK, May 1.—The disappearance of Benj. Wallace, a wealthy soap manufacturer of this city, was reported to the police to-day. At 8 o'clock a. m. Tuesday, after breakfast, he left home telling his wife he was in a hurry and was going down town to see Geo. W. McAdams, his lawyer. He went to Mr. McAdams's office with a stranger, with whom he went away again. He has not been seen by any of his friends since that time. He wore a gold watch and diamond studs, and it is known that he had a large sum of money in his possession. As he never remained away from home over night without notifying his wife, it is suspected he has met with foul play. His business is in a flourishing condition, and he was said to be worth nearly $1,000,000.

JIM KEENE'S CAREER.

How He Made an Immense Fortune and Lost It—He May Pay Dollar for Dollar.

NEW YORK, May 1.—Mr. Keene was at his office this morning, but refused to see any person but two or three friends. It was the sentiment of the street that Mr. Keene would pay 100 cents on the dollar very shortly. It was said that he had several offers of assistance to-day, but refused them until he finds his exact position. It was also said that he had met two or three small demands this morning; one was for $4,500 and the other for $600. The excitement caused by the announcement of the failure yesterday has entirely subsided, although it is the principal topic of conversation on the street.

James R. Keene, the California millionaire, who came east in 1876 to try his fortunes in Wall street, has at last succumbed to the hard luck which has been running against him for some years. At the time of his arrival in New York his fortune was estimated at $5,000,000, all of which he had made by speculating in mining stocks in California. He made the trip from San Francisco in a private palace car, and Jay Gould is credited with a prophecy to the effect that he would go back in a freight car. From the fact that Mr. Keene was unable to take up the "privileges" presented to him on Wednesday afternoon in comparatively small blocks, it would seem that his cash account has run very low. There are still enthusiastic admireas, however, who assert that he will pay dollar for dollar.

Mr. Keene's early history is involved in obscurity. One account says that he was born in England and was brought to this country by his parents when yet an infant; another account says that he was born at Lynchburg, Va., after his parents, who were English emigrants, had settled there. When quite a young man he went to California and it is said, began business in San Francisco as a peddler of milk. By industry and frugality he saved some money and in 1862, being then 28 years of age, established himself as a broker. He soon attracted the attention of brokers and stock speculators, and by and by became one of the great men of the mining stock exchange himself. His operations in the Comstock lode and in the California and Virginia Consolidated brought him a fortune of something like $3,000,000. When president Ralston of the bank of California committed suicide Keene in connection with D. O. Mills and other capitalists, reorganized the bank and restored public confidence.

After coming to New York Mr. Keene struck hands with Jay Gould, and the twain went into Atlantic and Pacific telegraph speculation. In the fall of 1877 he parted company with Mr. Gould, and since then they have generally been regarded as antagonists. Up to 1878 he succeeded so well in his operations that he had actual property of the value of $9,000,000, and $2,400,000 deposited with one of his brokers. He went into the great Chicago wheat corner of 1879, and fortune took a turn against him, his losses being estimated at $1,750,000. Soon afterward he lost some $3,000,000 by the sudden collapse of the stocks of the New Jersey Central railroad. Since then he has been in all the great speculative operations in grain and stocks, in which millions have been made and lost. Of late he has locked up a great deal of his capital in unproductive enterprises, and the shrinkage in Northern Pacific last fall dealt him a heavy blow. Luck has been running against him continuously for some months, and he at last reached a point where he was obliged to halt and ask the indulgence of his creditors.

Mr. Keene was formerly a great patron of the turf and has owned some of the best horses that ever ran in this country or in Europe. Foxhall and Spendthrift were perhaps the most celebrated of his racers. For the past year or two he has gradually been withdrawing from sporting circles. In person Mr. Keene is tall and slender, with heavy black eyebrows, piercing gray eyes, and high cheek bones, such as usually characterize persons of a consumptive nature. His health has not been good for many years, rendering him at times quite irritable, giving rise to the belief that he was ill-natured, which his friends say is not the case. His face is utterly without expression, and he has always had the rare faculty of meeting any turn in fortune with complete imperturbability and a philosophy which has amazed those nearest to him.

Meeting of Illinois Republicans.

The annual meeting of the Illinois Republican association was held last evening and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Theodore L. DeLaud, president; Theodore L. Lamb, vice president; Daniel L. Gold, secretary, and Jonn Rauces, treasurer. The following new members were admitted: J. D. Middleton, A. L. Swartworth, A. M. Kellogg and C. A. Morgan.

GAME at Capitol park to-day, 4:30.

CONDENSED LOCALS.

The commissioners have approved the application for a liquor license of Hugh McCann.

A slight fire occurred yesterday morning at the house of Mrs. Brown, No. 1416 I street northwest.

The circuit court jury was yesterday discharged by Justice Hagner for the remainder of the term of the court.

Property holders have complained of the nuisances existing on certain property in square 630 on New Jersey avenue northwest.

The debate for the Merrick medal by the Philodemic society of Georgetown college will occur on the 20th instant at Lincoln hall.

An old wheel, which in days gone by did good service in one of the principal mills on Water street in Georgetown, fell down from its support recently, after standing idle for over fifty years. It is a massive concern, of crudely wrought iron and weighs two tons.

A number of young ladies and gentlemen played a game of lawn tennis back of the observatory yesterday, which was witnessed by a large number of people. There will be a series of games played on these grounds during the season, and parties are organizing to participate.

Sparkling Water division, Sons of Temperance, of East Washington, paid a fraternal visit in a body to Potomac division, of West Washington, last night. The address of welcome was responded to by Worthy Patriarch William J. Webb, of the former division.

The twelfth annual election of officers of the Knights of St. Augustine resulted as follows: Commander, L. J. Herbert; first deputy, James Davis; second deputy, Augustus Fletcher; recording scribe, A. J. J. Fletcher; financial scribe, M. Queen; warden, Joseph Middleton; herald, J. H. Baxton; chaplain, Joseph Davis; captain general, John V. Thomas; standard bearer, Wm. A. Warren. Board of governors, G. Coakley, W. Brown, Joseph H. Herbert, Ambrose James, T. Warren, and James Lancaster.

At a meeting of the Knights of St. Columbkill held last evening in Clan-na-Gael hall John Malone was elected commander; John Maloney, first deputy; James L. Conner, second deputy; Hugh Bresnahan, third deputy; William Murphy, recording secretary; S. P. McGrath, financial secretary, and M. Stack, treasurer. A handsome gold medal was presented to Mr. T. A. Duffy, retiring commander, and another to Mr. John Maloney, retiring third deputy, in recognition of their faithful labors in behalf of the society.

The number of visitors to the national museum has been very large for several weeks past. The exhibition of zoological, anthropological, and other interesting subjects such as Arctic region relics and collections of various things from all parts of the world, is the most complete of any to be seen in the United States. A large number of new cases have recently been put up in the museum, which will be filled with curiosities calculated to make ex-showmen turn green with envy. It requires several hours, for perhaps days, to see and appreciate all the many objects of interest in the national museum.