VERMONT LEGISLATURE.

IMPORTANT MEASURES PROPOSED IN BOTH HOUSES.

Another Railroad Commission Bill—A Bill Against Free Passes and Regulating Freight and Passenger Rates—Bills of Interest to Farmers.

[From Our own Correspondent.]

MONTPELIER, Oct. 14.—Another avalanche of bills poured in upon both branches of the Legislature to-day. In the House in the morning a long railroad commission bill was introduced by Gen. Ripley of Mendon. Gen. Ripley's bill is the second of its kind and was prepared independently of Mr. Higbee, of whose bill had the general no knowledge, when his own was prepared. In this bill its author has endeavored to take from the systems of railroad control in Massachusetts and New York all that is applicable and desirable for this State and it is the result of long and careful study, of experienced men. It attempts to provide an effective railroad commission, guarding against oppression of the rights of railroads and at the same time looking for the interests of the public. It provides for a commission of three members to be nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, to hold their office six years, and to be appointed one every two years; vacancies to be filled by the governor; no person who is connected with a railroad corporation to be eligible, and no member to be allowed to render any professional service for any railroad. Meetings of the board, or of a quorum of two, shall be held monthly; and it may examine books, accounts, etc., of railroads, subpœna witnesses, employ experts, and enter offices and be transported in cars of railroad companies free. Railroads shall furnish all information concerning their business, rates, contracts, etc., to the board, (which may be made public), on penalty of a fine of $1000 or six months imprisonment for each refusal. The board is to have the general supervision of all railroads, whether steam or horse, and see that the charters and laws are carried out and investigate the causes of accidents. When the commission think that a corporation have violated its constitutional powers, or any law, they shall give notice to the corporation and report to the Legislature, and if necessary notify the State's attorney to proceed against such corporation. The commission shall take notice of needed repairs in road-beds, want of rolling stock and its condition, rates, etc., with a view to prevent all unjust discriminations; notice all failures of proper connections or accommodations, and make recommendations to the railroad company. No recommendation of the commission can impair the legal rights of the railroads; but if the commission think that repairs are needed or that charges and rates should be regulated for the public good they shall so recommend to the railroad company and fix a time when changes shall be made; and if the railroad refuses to comply with such reasonable recommendation of the commission then the Supreme Court may compel compliance by writ of *mandamus* and the findings of the board shall be *prima facie* the facts in the case, and their recommendations shall be considered *prima facie* reasonable. The commission shall report annually to the Legislature and shall recommend needed legislation. When any railroad is reorganized or any increase of stock is proposed to be made the board shall examine the case; and no such action shall be valid till approved by the board. The railroads shall establish a uniform system of accounts. The members of the commission shall be paid $8 per day and expenses and a clerk may have $900 per year and expenses; provided that the entire expense of the commission, including printing, cost of experts, witnesses, etc., shall be less than $5000 a year. This is to be paid by the State treasurer and by him apportioned among the different railroads according to the time occupied for each respectively—the pay for the general work of the commission to be apportioned among all the railroads and to give annual incomes. The office of railroad commissioner is abolished.

The principal bill introduced into the Senate during the day was the one by Senator Stoddard of Windham county entitled "an act to prevent unjust discrimination by railroad companies." This bill provides that a table of prices for the conveyance of persons and freight between the different stations of each road shall be posted in the offices of the company; that the rates shall be the same for the same kind and quantity of freight between the same points and shall not be raised without public notice of at least 10 days, and that all persons shall be allowed reasonable time for the transportation of freight; that no passes shall be given to any person nor any person be transported without paying his fare, except stockholders on the way to and from meetings of the railroad, employes and directors, and no rebate shall be allowed in fares or rates for freight, provided that trip passes may be given to poor and indigent persons or families unable to pay their fare; railroads may make a general reduction in rates and fares without notice as above; excursion and mileage rates are allowed, and special rates to parties going to special meetings, etc., but these mileage and special rates must be impartial and uniform. Section 6. No railroad corporation shall charge or receive for the transportation of freight to any station on its road a greater sum than is at the same time charged or received for the transportation of the like kind and quantity of freight from the same point of departure to a station at a greater distance on its road in the same direction, and the same rule is to apply to two or more connecting roads, ("roads" including all leased lines, etc.), and the sum so charged and referred to to include all terminal charges of whatever kind. Any corporation violating these provisions shall be liable not only for damages caused to shippers by such discrimination, but also to a penalty of $300, to be recovered in action of debt by the party aggrieved, suit to be begun within one year.

The bill of Mr. Feck of Brookfield introduced in the House this morning, entitled an act for the protection of stock, will be of interest to farmers. It provides that barbed wire fences shall consist of at least four strands and that a pole or board railing shall be placed at the top of all such fences.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Fitch of Highgate, by request, and read by its title only, which is an amendment of sections 3836 and 3837 of the revised laws and is to strengthen the enforcement of the law to abate nuisances. It provides that the finding of intoxicans kept for sale, or the proof of five acts of selling, or the having of a United States license for selling liquor, shall prove the place, where such acts proved to have been done, a nuisance, which shall be closed and subject the keeper to a fine of from $50 to $100, and imprisonment for three months. Procedure may be had by indictment of the grand jury, information by the State's attorney on complaint by the town grand juror; and if either of these officers neglect to proceed against such keeper any person in the county, upon filing a statement that he has good reason to believe that the place is occupied for the sale of intoxicating liquor, may act as prosecuting officer. The prosecuting attorney is to get his fees in any procedure under this law only in case of conviction, and one half the fine collected goes to the prosecutor. This bill was referred to the special.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE,

which were appointed this morning by the speaker as follows: Messrs. Williams of Bloomfield, Kingsley of Salisbury, Pitkin of Fair Haven, Daily of Richford, Higbee of Charlotte, Reynolds of Alburgh and Hildreth of Newport.

A joint resolution was passed by both Houses to-day fixing as the day for the election of judges of the Supreme Court, Wednesday October 20, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The time fixed for the election of United States senators is Tuesday, October 19, at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. To-morrow at 11 o'clock in the morning, the two Houses meet in joint assembly to hear the report of the canvassing committee to canvass the votes for county officers.

Among the thirty bills introduced to-day were the following: By Mr. Bill of Albany, making the penalty for the first offence of liquor selling a fine of $20 and imprisonment for one month, instead of a fine of $10, as the law now provides. Sec. 2 provides that bail shall never be less than $100; if defetted, the amount of bail shall in no case be reduced; by Mr. Poland of Waterville, repealing that part of the election act of '84 which deprived persons guilty of desertions or convicted of felony of the right to vote; also a bill prescribing process in sale of property by officers under under chattel mortgage; by Mr. Harvey of Topsham, providing that all sums in savings banks and trust companies above $200 shall be put into the list and taxes paid thereon. The present law makes the limit $1500 of amount of deposit exempt; also a bill by same to incorporate the Green Mountain Homœopathic Medical college of Vermont, to be located at some place east of the Green Mountains; by Mr. Ransom of Castleton, limiting the amount of church property exempt from taxation to two acres to one church or chapel and fifteen acres to one parsonage; by Mr. Haselton of Burlington, repealing section 696, revised laws, which limits jurisdiction of courts of chancery to causes relating to property valued at more than $50; by Mr. Viall of Dorset, changing the method of electing town officers, by providing that they shall be elected one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; by Mr. Bixby of Chelsea, prohibiting the presence of minors in court-rooms during the trial of any case of immoral character unless as a witness; by Mr. Knapp of Middlebury, providing that when a person is before a justice of the peace on trial for being intoxicated, if he takes an appeal, pays the fine or otherwise fails to enter his appeal in County Court, the justice shall cause the respondent to come and make disclosure, as now provided; by Mr. Rowland of Poultney, amending the section which creates in favor of an employe a precedence over a prior attachment on mesne process to the amount of $50, and making it $100; by Senator Pierce of Windsor, that any person who by himself, clerk or agent sells, or has on hand with intent to sell, any liquor or cider, in violation of the law, shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of $20.

The first bill passed by either House this session was Senate bill No. 7, passed by the Senate this forenoon. This bill strikes out the last clause of section 1 of No. 12 of the acts of 1884, providing that if a town votes to pay highway tax (otherwise 15 cents on the dollar) in labor it shall be 20 cents. The House also passed Mr. Haselton's bill to incorporate the Burlington Cancer Relief association.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

The third joint assembly of the session convened this afternoon to hear the report of the joint canvassing committee to canvass the votes for members of Congress. The result was as follows:

In the first congressional district,

Whole number of votes cast	21,751
Necessary for a choice	10,776
John W. Stewart had	15,611
Waldo Bingham had	5,655
T. H. Brown had	58
Scattering	100
Majority for John W. Stewart	9,733

In the second congressional district,

Whole number of votes cast	2,322
Necessary for a choice	15,161
William W. Grout had	18,685
Harley E. Folsom had	8,476
C. L. Louis had	56
Scattering	4
Majority for William W. Grout	10,418

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Several Bills Ordered to a Third Reading—Probable Action on the Various Railroad Bills—A Joint Assembly Held—Adjournment Till Monday.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 15.—Both Houses of the Legislature held short sessions to-day, though a large amount of business was transacted in each. The Senate adjourned at noon and the House this afternoon to meet again at 10 o'clock Monday. Two important bills were reported from the House judiciary committee and ordered to a third reading. One was Judge Poland's bill introduced yesterday which repeals the first section of No. 60 of the act of 1881 providing that persons guilty of desertion, and persons convicted of felony should be deprived of the right to vote. The other was Judge Haselton's bill providing that state's attorneys in a county where a divorce case is being tried may, in cases where in their judgment the public good may require, appear in behalf of the State and introduce evidence. House bill, 14, giving to "fire districts" the same privilege as "school districts" have by § 510 of the revised laws to elect collector, etc., was also ordered to a third reading. Judge Marsh's dog bill, the Bethel graded school bill and Mr. Rowland's grand list bill were reported against by the committee and a third reading refused without debate. The readiness with which the House voted down a bill after the adverse report of a committee was made, led Judge Poland to state that it was only right when a committee so reported on a bill, that its mover should be heard by the House before refusing it a third reading. The House then reconsidered its vote on the two last bills and ordered them to a third reading. The Bethel graded school bill of Mr. Fisher was made a special order for next Tuesday at 11 o'clock in the morning.

TWO IMPORTANT BILLS.

In the Senate two very important bills were introduced by Senator Spear of Orange, the first, Senate bill No. 32, is entitled "an act to exempt certain property from taxation," and provides that all debts due in the form of promissory notes secured by mortgage or conditional deed on real estate within this State, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent annually shall be exempt from taxation; and all persons now holding such debts so secured where no rate of interest, or a higher rate than 4 per cent, is specified may have the benefit of this act by executing to the person legally bound to pay such debt an agreement in writing to take as interest a sum not exceeding 4 per cent. The amount of loans made by savings institutions and trust companies secured by mortgage at a rate of interest not exceeding 4 per cent, shall be deducted from the amount upon which such institutions pay a State tax. Persons from whom an inventory is required shall furnish a list of all their debts due and exempt and a list containing the name and residence of the persons bound to pay such debts, the location of the property and the amounts due upon it. Any person receiving a consideration for the use of money of four per cent and exempting the same under this act shall thereby forfeit all right to receive either principal or interest. No offset on personal estate is allowed by the act which takes effect April 1, 1887.

The second bill introduced by Senator Spear is a provision for a "valued policy" law similar to the one introduced into the House by Mr. Harvey of Topsham.

OTHER SENATE BUSINESS.

Other bills introduced in the Senate in the morning were:

By Senator Baker of Rutland, an act to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases, and to establish a State board of health of six persons, the terms of office of two of these to expire every two years.

By Senator Bailey of Orange, providing that school district No. 1 in the town of Newbury be incorporated as the Wells River graded school district.

By Senator Foster of Orleans, providing that any person who by any false pretense shall obtain from any club, association, society or company for improving the breed of cattle, etc., a certificate of registration of any animal in the herd register or other register of any such club, association, society or company, or a transfer of any such registration, upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or by a fine not exceeding $200, or by both.

The Senate, following the example of the House, adopted a resolution providing that a special committee of three senators be appointed to whom should be referred that part of the governor's message which relates to intemperance, and also all bills on the subject. A joint resolution was adopted to-day by both Houses instructing the committee on the reform school to visit that institution, inquire into its reformatory methods, sanitary condition and practical workings and report to the Legislature by bill or otherwise.

PETITIONS FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The first of a large number of petitions which will be presented to the Legislature praying for the enactment of a law giving women the right to vote in municipal elections, was brought before the Senate this morning by Senator Bunker. It was signed by Jennie L. Ingalls and 33 others from the town of Sheffield, which, as Senator Bunker remarked, was a town so unfortunate as not to have been able to elect a representative by the votes even of men. The petition was read at the request of Senator Swain who said: "As the petition just presented makes way for an important change in the municipal affairs of the State and is pretty brief and concise, and perhaps a model for legal instruments when the ladies shall have assumed their share of the civil government, I would ask for the reading of the petition."

HOUSE BILLS.

The bills introduced in the House were as follows:

By Mr. Mann of Wilmington, providing that one watch not exceeding the value of $20 shall be exempt from taxation.

By Mr. Knapp of Middlebury, providing for compiling decisions of the Supreme Court relating to matters within the jurisdiction of Probate Court, 3000 to be distributed at the expense of the State as follows: Each Probate Court ten copies, one to each town, and the balance to be distributed or sold under direction of the State librarian.

By Mr. Wheelock of Berlin, providing that if any person receive damage on person or property by a barbed wire fence the person maintaining such fence shall be liable.

By Mr. Carpenter of Washington, providing that real or personal property held, owned or used by any church society, or the officers thereof (except buildings and lands used for public worship and parsonages) shall not be exempt from taxation.

By Mr. Millard of Stamford, providing that a person may kill any dog that suddenly assaults him, or that is found worrying sheep, or that is known to be addicted to such habits; also a reward of $5 for killing a dog under the above circumstances.

By Mr. Poland of Waterville, authorizing the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain Railroad company to build a branch to connect with the Southeastern railroad to run from some point in Johnson, Cambridge, Fletcher or Bakersfield to some point in Richford, through the towns of Waterville, Belvidere, Bakersfield, Enosburgh, Berkshire, Richford, Montgomery and Avery's Gore, to be void as to all of said branch as shall not be built in ten years.

By Mr. Hathaway of Hardwick, providing that the treasurers of savings banks and trust companies shall, on or before the 6th of April annually, transmit to the listers of each town where depositors reside a statement of the name of each depositor in said town and the amount of his deposit.

JOINT ASSEMBLY.

At 11 o'clock in the morning the fourth joint assembly of the session convened and heard the report of the joint committee of the two Houses to canvass the votes for county officers. In the afternoon Speaker Grout was absent from the chair for the first time this session and his place was filled by Mr. Stanton of Roxbury. A resolution by Mr. Abell of West Haven was adopted, referring that part of the governor's message relating to the State library to the committee on public buildings. Bills were introduced by Mr. Briggs of Brandon authorizing district No. 1 in Brandon to fund its indebtedness; by Mr. Lane of Cornwall, to pay Charles M. Wild's expenses incurred in prosecuting a man by the name of Flint in Addison county; by Mr. Bixby of Chelsea, providing that selectmen may remove gravel for road-building in parts of the town other than those adjoining gravel pits. The House passed Mr. Lombard's bill empowering West Randolph to bring water into the village, and to issue bonds for that purpose.

AMONG THE COMMITTEES.

Mr. Marsh, chairman of the House committee on railroads, has in his hands the two railroad commission bills of Mr. Higbee and Gen. Ripley. It is probable that the committee will not meet to discuss them until next week, as it is understood that two or three other bills on the same subject are soon to be introduced in the House, and beside these a bill to prevent unjust discriminations by railroad companies, similar to the one offered by Senator Stoddard in the Senate yesterday, is to be introduced in the House in a few days. The railroad committee will consider these bills together.

The judiciary committee of the House and Senate already have a large number of bills in their hands upon which they are hard at work. The House committee seems to be united in the opinion that the amount of exemptions from attachment in trustee process should be changed. Four bills on on the subject are now in their hands, two raising the limit to $10, one raising the limit to $40, and a fourth fixing the limit at one month's wages in the case of a man, and two months' wages in the case of women. It is probable that the committee will recommend to combine the money and wages limit in one bill and report in its favor.

Judge Poland's bill to abolish the idea of a person's having a "legal settlement" in a town seems in its general purport to meet the approval of the House judiciary committee, and a bill will undoubtedly be passed substituting merely a "residence," which will be defined as meaning a residence for a period of a year or more.

MONDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

A Monday's Batch of Business—Election of U. S. Senator at Hand—The Result a Foregone Conclusion—Anti-Edmunds Men Scarce and Undecided.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 18.—Both Houses met this afternoon, but hardly half of the members had returned and the proceedings were short and uninteresting. In the Senate, Senator Cushing of Windsor introduced an act requiring towns to furnish text books for the use of schools; and senate 2, to give town treasurers power to collect all taxes in money, highway taxes not excepted, was ordered to a third reading.

In the House, Mr. Mansur of Brighton introduced a bill requiring the towns which have not adopted the town system of schools, to vote again on the question in 1887 and 1888.

Mr. Stafford of Whitingham introduced a bill to relieve excessively burdened school districts, by permitting the selectmen to pay a portion of the expense of maintaining the school, from the town treasury.

A bill for punishing by fine persons who scatter various noxious weeds, such as the daisy, chicory, sweet clover and others, was introduced by Mr. Mansur of Brighton.

H. 13 repealing sec. 15, No. 78 of the laws of '80 was dismissed, and the House then dismissed itself for the day.

THE SENATORIAL ELECTION.

Little excitement is shown by anyone regarding the election of United States senator to-morrow. The result is a foregone conclusion and the general feeling among the members and people is one of satisfaction that it is so. Some are wondering what the so-called "anti-Edmunds men" will do. I must say that persons of this class are very difficult to find, and when found it is very difficult to find what they propose to do. Some of them tried to get a republican caucus called, perhaps in order that they might be able to vote for Senator Edmunds on the ground that he was the "caucus nominee." But a caucus could not be brought about, and, though now and then a man hints at ominous things to happen to-morrow, most of Mr. Edmunds's few opponents talk in a very undecided manner and say they can't tell what they will do until the time comes. Their conversation indicates that no concerted action has been taken nor will be taken on their part in the matter, and that the few who do not vote for Mr. Edmunds, will give scattering votes for Powers, Proctor or some other man. One thing is certain, that a number who have been claimed as pledged against Edmunds, do not consider themselves so at all, and will vote for him to-morrow. One representative who has been set down as surely against Edmunds, and who was said to be committed by the circumstances of his election to vote against his re-election denies both of these alleged facts. This member, Mr. Daily of Richford, said to me: "I have been put down in all the papers as an anti-Edmunds man; but I don't know on what authority. I never said I should vote against Mr. Edmunds nor that I was opposed to his re-election, but have said, on the contrary, that, if the majority of the people wanted him re-elected, I should vote for him. I was not pledged nor committed in any way, but was elected by the votes of both Edmunds men, and anti-Edmunds men. I voted against an Edmunds resolution because I didn't believe in the idea of such a proceeding, and so all the papers got it that I was against him, which is not true." The democrats will vote for Hon. W. H. H. Bingham.

MR. ATKINS DOUBTFULLY CONFIDENT.

Mr. Hiram Atkins returned from Washington Saturday night and when asked what luck he had in his last search for scalps at Washington said that he got all he asked for, which, if true, is generally thought to indicate that he must have asked for little or nothing—which, however is not in accordance with Mr. Atkins' usual methods. His final remark that "You know, Mr. Cleveland never promises anything" shows that his predictions of impending slaughter are based mostly on hope.

President Cleveland's Trips

[Washington Cor. Boston Journal.]

The president is unfortunate in the matter of his vacation trips. He gave serious offence to the committees of the Ohio Legislature last week, who came here to accompany the remains of the late Chief Justice Chase to his old State, by declining their invitation to accompany the funeral train to Ohio, and even to attend the ceremony of the transfer of the remains at the cemetery here. The reason the president gave for not attending at the cemetery was that he had not received sufficient notice, and was engaged at a reception; and he declined to go to Ohio because he could not spare the time from his public duties. Yet the second day after he started on a fishing excursion in all the democratic simplicity of a private car, to be gone a longer time than was required to have paid the respects of a chief magistrate of the nation to the memory of the late chief justice of the United States. He has also this week given grave offence to the people of Charleston, S.C., who were already very sensitive at the apparent neglect of the president to show his sympathy with them in their great misfortune. The president did accept an invitation to go to Richmond, but absolutely declined the suggestion of the Charleston committee that he should extend his trip to Charleston. The suggestion that he should do so was made by some leading democratic politicians, who understand the temper of the Southern people, and who are anxious, for political reasons, that the president should regain the ground he has lost in that section. But the president declines to act upon their suggestion, and one of the reasons which he is understood to have assigned is that if he should do so, "those newspapers would claim that they had forced him to do it."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Owing to continued ill health Rev. Evan Davis has been compelled to resign the pastorate of the Keeseville Baptist church and the Rev. Gibbs Brastin of Burlington, N. J., has been called as his successor.

Rev. Dr. G. L. Walker of Brattleboro, has returned from his European trip.

Rev. T. A. Hopkins of Burlington has been busy lately in demolishing the debt of St. Andrew's church at St. Johnsbury. He has been quite successful and feels confident of raising the money.

There will be a preachers meeting and Sabbath school convention at Groton Thursday and Friday, Oct. 21 and 22. Rev. A. J. Hough will preach Thursday evening and Rev. G. W. Norris of Concord, Friday evening. Rev. J. C. W. Coxe of Iowa and Rev. T. P. Frost will speak on Sunday schools.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is curious to note the unanimity with which the Federal collectors throughout the country are coming up to the support of Mr. Cleveland for a second term. Collector Bradley B. Smalley of Vermont, says that everything points to a renomination of Cleveland, and furthermore he gives it as his expert official opinion that Mr. C. will accept.—*New York World.*

How many people ever think of the weakening effect of the word "very" in talking or writing? There are but few cases where it strengthens an idea. For instance, take this sentence: "Mrs Blank is a very fine writer." How much stronger the sentence is without the "very." To say that a man is very well known indicates that he is less known than one of whom we say, "He is well known." This weakening element is a characteristic of the word "very." The same might be said of all superfluous words, though few, if any, are so persistently of that character as the word in question.—*Hartford Times.*

THE UNSETTLED BALANCE.

U. S AUDITOR WILLIAMS'S CLAIM AGAINST VERMONT.

A Full Statement of the Facts and Figures—Gen. Pitkins's Opinion—It is not a Legal Claim—The U. S. Government Owes Vermont About $300,000.

[Special to the Free Press.]

MONTPELIER, Vt., Oct. 18.—Much comment is being made throughout this State by the statements made in the letter of third Auditor Williams of the United States written Thursday to the secretary of the treasury, a report of which was given in a Washington despatch which appeared in the FREE PRESS Friday. Auditor Williams says that instead of the balance of $93,800 which this State now claims as due from the United States under the act of Congress, approved July 27, 1861, to indemnify the States for expenses incurred by them in the defence of the United States, there is an indebtedness against the State on the books of the United States ordnance office for supplies furnished the State in 1864, amounting to $543,780. Auditor Williams says: "In this connection I deem it proper to add that I have information received from a credible source, that the greater portions of these arms and equipments were sold by the State, out of which she realized about $170,000 and that was deposited in her treasury. The Legislature of Vermont is now in session and I have therefore deemed it proper to give you this information at this time, in order that you may take such steps to bring the subject to the attention of the proper authorities of the State as you may be advised and as may be required. In the meantime the claims of the State under the act of July 27, 1861, will be suspended in this office."

This letter of Auditor Williams was shown to Gen. P. P. Pitkin, who was quartermaster-general of this State from the year 1864 to 1865, and who probably knows more about the military affairs of the State during that period than anyone else; and from his statements, together with a short examination of the quartermaster general's reports, the following facts in regard to Auditor Williams's statements were obtained: The $93,980 due this State is a suspended balance of claims filed by Vermont under the act of July 27, 1861, amounting in the aggregate to $924,735, of which $857,845 has been audited and paid. These claims were for fitting out the first six regiments that went into the war. The State uniformed these men and furnished horses for the mounted officers. She also uniformed the officers and furnished them with side arms. The rule was subsequently established that officers furnish their own uniform and side arms, and the United States government paid back what the State paid to furnish equipments, etc., to privates and suspended Vermont's claims as to the rest. This balance the State has been calling upon the government to pay for some time, and the report which came yesterday to the State officials of an indebtedness on the part of the State to the United States of over half a million dollars was a surprise to them all. This alleged indebtedness is for arms and equipments furnished to Vermont by the war department in the year 1864, when an invasion of the United States was threatened from the northern frontier. A large number of confederates and confederate sympathizers were in Canada and were concerned in the St. Albans raid. Rumors of a more formidable invasion were rife, and the State organized twelve militia regiments of infantry, three batteries and 12 companies of cavalry. The governor, which office was then held by J. Gregory Smith, had power by act of the Legislature to bring the militia "into camp." There was no authority nor means for arming this militia, and they were needed at once to protect the frontier. Governor Smith, in company with General Pitkin, went to Secretary of War Stanton to see if the United States would not equip the militia. Secretary Stanton was well aware of the danger threatened from Canada, and had been anxious to have the government send troops to the frontier. The necessary number, however, could not be spared from the army, and Mr. Stanton wished to arm and equip the Vermont militia for the purpose.

The only law which authorized such action was the old law of 1808 which appropriated an annual sum of $200,000 for arming the entire militia of the United States, the arms so bought to be distributed to the several States in proportion to the number of effective militia in each. By his construction of this law Secretary Stanton, on requisitions approved by Gov. Smith, furnished to the State 17,000 rifled muskets, 1200 horse equipments, 3 six gun batteries of Napoleon guns complete, 1700 pistols, 1,100,000 cartridges and numerous other equipments of the money value in all of $640,644. After the state militia were thus equipped events took place which precluded any necessity for their use. The Canadian government under took the protection of the frontier from invasion and the only military measures instituted on our side were the building of a guard house at every road crossing the Canadian line and the establishing of barracks at St. Albans. The equipments issued to this State by the government had been received, however, and there was no authority for the secretary of war to receive them back. They had been issued under a law giving to the State a certain annual amount of equipments, and under the necessities of the moment Secretary Stanton had issued to the State not only the quota then due to Vermont, but enough to anticipate her quota for many years to come. It will be noted that the arms and equipments furnished to this State at that time were not lent by the goverment nor purchased by the State, but were issued under an act which was so framed that whatever a State received under it, belonged to that State as its share of an entire amount allotted to all the States. There was no other act by the authority of which Vermont could have received any arms, and receiving them as she did, they became her property and were to stand charged against her, not as for value received and due the United States, but as against her right to have other arms and equipments under the act of 1808 until the years should elapse for which her annual quota had been taken up in advance.

The large quantity of arms and equipments not issued to the militia were stored by Quartermaster-General Pitkin in the State House at Montpelier until the State arsenal was built, after which they were kept in the latter place until the autumn of 1870. In the meantime the style of muskets and equipments had changed so that the old muzzle loaders of 1864 were almost worthless, but in 1870, upon the opening of the Franco-Russian war, offers were received by the State for the purchase of these arms. Upon the advice of Governor Stuart and other State officers and upon the recommendation of a board of survey, Gen. Pitkin thereupon sold in market part of them for which about $140,000 were received and paid into the State treasury. Quartermaster-General Lynde, Mr. Pitkin's successor, sold a further quantity for which the State got from $4000 to $9000 and the larger part of what remained are still in the possession of the State.

The original value of the arms and equipments furnished the State was $640,644, and, deducting different items of credit which have accrued since 1864, Auditor Williams makes the present sum which he says is due from the State to the United States to be $543,780. Even if the State had been holding these equipments as property not her own, but of the United States, nothing like this large sum could be claimed as due on their account. They were sold at the most advantageous time possible and brought much more than they had been worth before the sale or would have been worth at any time since; and the most that the government could claim, assuming that they were not the property of the State, would be the amount which the State received for them, which is less than $170,000. But these arms were not regarded then, nor have they since been regarded by the government as issued in any other way than as against Vermont's prospective quota under the laws of 1808. Other states received arms in the same way; and investigations made by State Librarian H. A. Huse and General Pitkin show that not all of the arms and equipments then issued to the State in 1864, can be charged even against her right to this annual quota. An act of Congress, approved March 3, 1875, provided that all arms and equipments issued to any State between January 1, 1861, and April 6, 1865, under the act of 1808, and used by that State in the suppression of the rebellion, shall be credited to her as against the charges made to her against her annual quota, and that if the State has sold or misapplied any of them, these latter shall not be credited but remain charged as before. This act, therefore, on the face of it, does away with the claim made by Auditor Williams, that the arms furnished, in whatever manner they may have been afterward used, were to stand charged against the State in some other way than against her annual quota of arms.

The general opinion of all those acquainted with the facts seems to be that Third Auditor Williams knows little of what he is talking about when he alleges an indebtedness on the part of this State to the United States. General Pitkin said to-day: "There is no right in any such claim. Secretary Stanton was more than ready to furnish those arms. They were not purchased by the State nor lent by the United States government, but issued under the law of 1808 toward our share of the $200,000 worth of arms and equipments annually allowed by that act."

AN ADDITIONAL CLAIM ON THE PART OF THE STATE.

In this connection it may be interesting to those who have been startled by the report of this alleged debt to the United States, to know that the State of Vermont has a claim, which will soon be died against the United States of about $200,000 to which she is entitled for expenses incurred in providing uniforms for the State militia in 1864. The 12 regiments and the batteries organized in 1864 for the defence of the frontier were uniformed by the State, under the advise of the secretary of war who advised as to the kind of uniforms to be furnished. In this way about $200,000 was expended by the State to which she is entitled by act of Congress, approved July 27, 1861. Thus instead of a debt to the United States of half a million dollars, the State of Vermont has just claims against the United States of nearly $300,000.

R. G. B.

Mind-Cures.

A correspondent of the Albany *Journal*, who signs himself "layman," writes as follows concerning the so-called mind-cures:

I believe in sympathy, but excessive sympathy, and especially with a nervous and emotional woman, is an unmixed evil. It has been said of women of the higher classes of society, in whom these joint mental and physical diseases are most commonly diagnosed, that at least four-fifths suffer from hysteria and nothing else. In my mind the best criterion for making a diagnosis, i. e., naming the disease, is the sudden disappearance, through the agency of a moral or "mental" influence, of a disease which had continued for years and bade defiance to all treatment. I remember while visiting an asylum not long ago, of seeing a woman who was under treatment for fits. The doctor told me her "treatment" was of a purely moral character. It was discovered that her attacks were quite voluntary, and were to all appearance put on in order to elicit sympathy. She was so informed. The fits soon disappeared. These persons crave sympathy, and are exceedingly anxious to have it always understood that they are ill, and not only so but that they have to suffer in an altogether unprecedented manner. They are always talking about their disease. They are annoyed and made ill by every trifle, and demand the most constant solicitude from their friends. In many cases the efficiency of certain remedies becomes an article of faith with them, and by this faith they are cured, equally whether with medical or other remedies. All possible quack ointments, sympathetic and religious influences may have the same effect, if it be only possible to create a sufficiently firm conviction in the patient's mind. Threats are likewise effectual in some cases. Often the more severe symptoms are manifested only when the patient is provoked by some disappointment or annoyance, or they may come only in the night, going to show the great influence the mind has on this disorder. That these symptoms are seen generally under such circumstances is a most suspicious fact. These cases are, then, hysterical, and the disorder is hysteria. Whatever increases the will power of these patients causes an amelioration of the disease, and that the disease disappears by will-power is proof enough, if there were no other, that its occurrence in the first place was in large measure due to lack of it. This is the true aim of moral and mental treatments. It has happened that an "arise and walk" has been successfully said to these patients, who have for years been bed-ridden, and who appeared no longer able to move a limb. I heard of a case of an hysterical patient who suffered from attacks of convulsions, whom her father cured by a sound thrashing. This many-sided malady (*maladie imaginaire*, of the French) is really a paralysis of the will, which is controlled by the emotions rather than by the reason and judgment. The faith-cure or mind-cure is practiced by all judicious physicians, but the difference between such physicians who uphold it from a scientific standpoint, and those who make a specialty of it, is that the former do not refer the results to any supernatural or spiritual agency. There is no mystery about this faith-cure, and those who pretend that there is have by this very pretense proclaimed that they are honestly ignorant or are consummate quacks. There are good physicians nowadays who heal these cases with less humbug and quite as much success as the trained specialist (who pay $800 for a lecture course extending over the long period of three weeks at Boston.) Mental disorders require mental medicine.