

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1868.

IMPEACHMENT THE CHIEF GUARANTEE OF PEACE AND PROTECTION.

Nothing is more certain than that so long as Andrew Johnson remains at the White House, acting as President of the United States, just so long the protection due to American citizens, at home and abroad, will be denied, juggled away and neglected so utterly, that if long continued, alienation must follow. The finances of the country are disordered by his presence and by the conflict his policy produces. So long as he possesses power, so long shall we hear rumored renewals of civil war; so long will rapine and riot mutter and murmur in hideous mockery of law. Andrew Johnson has done far more than all the acts of the war towards loosening respect for law in this land, and to make men's minds turn towards violent remedies as the only cure for evils he and his have produced. Impeachment, the peaceful mode of completing a revolution embodied in the Federal Constitution, is the only road to permanent peace and progressive prosperity.

TREACHERY TO THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

In nothing is the treachery of this administration more evident than in the way the rights of American citizenship have been disregarded, and even treacherously made use of, for its own undoing. The Republican party in Congress have always been willing to deal with this question liberally and comprehensively. Placing itself within the Republic on the principle of equality before the law, its statesmen and leaders have shown themselves equally as willing to make that citizenship respected abroad.

Right here has come the powerful influence of the administration, with its violent Southern States Right Democrat in the Presidency, and its avowed believer in imperialism occupying the State Department, combining to hinder and destroy all useful measures presented to Congress. General Banks, Chairman of House Committee on Foreign Affairs, undoubtedly desired to settle these questions of the neutrality law and of protection to our citizens while sojourning abroad; but he went to the State Department too often and acted too much on the suggestions of its crafty chief. The consequence is that a purpose which looked so strong and vigorous, has wasted away almost like snow at noonday. The bill first offered to the House was a cheat. That which has been presented as a substitute, and which is now pending, is but little better. Mr. Seward does not wish to have a real and vigorous piece of legislation on this subject; so he used his puppet Banks, to waste by indirection the good intentions of the majority.

The bill, amended in committee and reported back to the House some ten days ago, is now awaiting opportunity for further discussion, and will come up during some morning hour at no distant day. I have little faith in General Banks or the Committee pressing it to a definite conclusion; but there are those in Congress who will see that this question shall be determined at this session, and with honor, too.

Another specimen of the juggling the State Department and its agents indulge in, is seen in the much lauded Bancroft treaty with North Germany. It is generally regarded by Republicans as another of Seward's shams, or if he is not directly responsible for the instrument, the cheat contained in it must delight that shallow imitator of Talleyrand. The one question at issue with the Prussian Government is that of military service. The Prussian system is now in operation in North Germany. The second section of the Bancroft treaty provides that expatriated persons shall only be liable to military duty, when such duty was distinctly due at the time of expatriation. That is, the German-American is liable as an American citizen, if as such he shall return to his native land, for what he did not do as a German. Under the Prussian military law, all men of a certain age are actually liable to duty. If they emigrate, this treaty recognizes their right to become naturalized citizens in the country with which it is made, but holds them for the failure to fulfill their home duties of citizenship at the time of their leaving, should they have the temerity to again appear in the land of their nativity.

Mr. Seward urges the ratification of this treaty. It is to be hoped the Senate will do no such thing. Nor is it expected.

The only hope of manfully reaching a settlement of these questions is to be found under an administration, whose members shall not be either Bourbons who have neither learned or unlearned anything, or concealed monarchists who desire nothing more early than the destruction of the Republic. With Senator Wade as Acting-President, we shall have a Cabinet whose members will endeavor honestly to maintain the country's glory and protect the humblest of its citizens, whether assailed at home or in the furthest corners of the British dominions. Then again we, as adopted citizens, will know who is responsible, because Congress and the Executive will be in accord, and failure cannot then be laid on the shoulders of Andrew Johnson.

HOW IMPEACHMENT PROGRESSES.

The trial begins on Monday. The President's efforts seem

to be turned exclusively towards procuring delays. The whole line of defense rests on this. Not justice, but hindrance. So far as one can judge, the effort to procure undue delay will fail. Those whose opportunities of judging are good, think that the Senate will proceed regularly, day by day, with the trial, after the House managers fill the required replication. Great efforts are, of course, being made to affect Senators; but it is not believed that there are more than three men really doubtful on the Republican side of the Senate. Delay, if effected, will probably affect the verdict.

The line of defense to be adopted is thus given out:

1st. A demurer to the effect that the charges made are not sufficiently "high crimes and misdemeanors" to warrant impeachment.

2d. A challenge of several Senators as being either interested in the result, or as having made up an adverse judgment.

3d. A demurer to jurisdiction, on the ground that it is not a constitutional Senate, sufficiently so at least, to try the President. Of course this is founded on the fact that the Southern States are not represented.

4th. It is then said, these others being overruled, that the general plea of not guilty will be entered, after which the fourteen facts on which the charges are founded will be admitted, though the guilty intent will be denied.

A further report declares that the President will at this stage offer his resignation. This part I do not believe, but think it much more likely that some small attempt at resistance, will follow Johnson's realization of having been brought to bay.

RUMORS ABOUT JUDGE CHASE.

There are very many painful rumors in circulation about the Chief Justice. One cannot believe them true; yet there is something always worth notice in the suspicions that pervade a sensitive people. So much foundation as this exists for suspecting coquetry with Democratic intriguers. There is much talk among them of the Chief Justice as an available candidate for them. The New York *Atlas*, organ of Hoffman and Seymour, argues in its favor. The New York *Sun* has canvassed it. The *World* has spoken approvingly of this gossip. An evening sheet published, edited by an intimate friend of Andy, declares for the movement. The *Intelligencer* defends the Chief Justice. The Baltimore *Gazette's* Washington correspondent, who is inside the administration ring, declares it to be favorably thought and talked about. In no way have we heard a word from Mr. Chase's near friends. Governor Sprague's influence in Rhode Island is nearer to the Democrats than Republicans, all these things give us pause. The members of Mr. Chase's household are not at all scrupulous in expressing disapproval of impeachment. Fortunately, the presiding officer of the court has not a great deal of power. It is right to say that there has come nothing of weight from him which indicates any such base treachery. He has, however, recently affected conservatism. Any such fall as this will be followed by a public condemnation so swift and terrible as to appall the most indifferent.

RADICAL.

In connection with the proceedings of the High Court of Impeachment, at Washington, before which Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, is now on trial for "high crimes and misdemeanors," we are informed that, on Tuesday, the 24th March, Chief Justice Chase entered at one o'clock, and having taken his seat, ordered the proclamation, which was accordingly made by the Sergeant-at-Arms. In the meantime the counsel for the President, Messrs. Stanbery, Curtis, Everts, Nelson and Groesbeck entered and took their seats. At 1:05 o'clock, the Managers, having been announced, took their seats, with the exception of Mr. Stevens, who was absent. The House was announced, and the members disposed themselves outside the Bar. The Secretary read the announcement of the adoption of the replication by the House. Mr. Boutwell, of the Managers, then rose and said: Mr. President, I am charged by the Managers with the duty of presenting the replication offered by the House of Representatives. He read as follows:

THE REPLICATION.

Replication by the House of Representatives of the United States to the Answer of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against him by the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives of the United States has considered the several answers of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, to the several articles of impeachment against him by them, exhibited in the name of themselves, and of all the people of the United States, and reserving to themselves an advantage of exception to the insufficiency of this answer to each and all of the several articles of impeachment exhibited against said Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do deny each and every averment in said several answers, or either of them, which denies or traverses the acts, intents, crimes or misdemeanors charged against said Andrew Johnson in said articles of impeachment, or either of them, and for replication to the said answer, do say that the said Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, is guilty of the high crimes and misdemeanors mentioned in the said articles, and that the said House of Representatives are ready to prove the same.

At the conclusion of the reading, Senator Johnson said: "Mr. Chief Justice, I move that an authenticated copy be presented to the counsel for the President."

The motion was agreed to.

The CHIEF JUSTICE—Last evening a motion was pending on the part of the counsel for the President that such a time should be allowed for their preparation as the Senate should please to determine. Thereupon the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. Johnson) presented an order, which will be read by the secretary.

The secretary read the order providing that ten days' time be allowed.

After considerable discussion the Senate retired to hold a secret session, at the conclusion of which it was announced by the Chief Justice that the original motion had been agreed to in the following form:

Ordered, That the Senate will commence the trial of the President upon the articles of impeachment exhibited against him, on Monday, the 30th day of March, and proceed therein with all dispatch, under the rules of the Senate, sitting upon the trial of an impeachment.

After a momentary pause, the Chief Justice asked: Have the counsel for the respondent anything to propose?

The counsel bowed in acquiescence to the decision.

Mr. Butler, one of the Managers, said: If the Chair will allow me, I will give notice to the witnesses to appear here on Monday, the 30th March, at 12½ o'clock.

On Motion of Senator Wilson, the Court was then adjourned until the date named, at 12½ o'clock, and the Chief Justice vacated the chair, which was immediately resumed by Mr. Wade.

On Thursday, the 26th March, the Senate ratified the treaty which had recently been concluded at Berlin between the North German Confederation and the United States, concerning the naturalization laws, and which has already been sanctioned by the Federal Council of the North German Confederation. Thus the treaty has become valid for the term of ten years. Liberally interpreted, it may afford considerable relief to the naturalized Germans who desire to revisit their native land. But the letter of the treaty undoubtedly leaves room for a quite different construction, and it rests with the North German Confederation alone whether the new treaty shall lead to fewer complications than the old arrangement. By those most directly concerned in the affair, the Germans of the United States, the treaty is generally received with distrust and dissatisfaction. We have before us the opinions of five leading German newspapers of the United States, all of which concur more or less in the views which we expressed concerning it about five weeks ago.

Mr. Seward, it is understood, is considerably annoyed at the obstinacy, as he regards it, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, in not only omitting to recommend an appropriation for the purchase of Alaska, but in postponing its consideration indefinitely. At a special meeting of the Committee, which the Secretary induced General Banks to call lately, in the hope of making some progress, it was determined to defer all consideration of the subject until after the impeachment trial. It is asserted, however, that the Secretary of State and General Banks have made an arrangement with the Russian Minister, deferring the time of payment. The Russian Minister is empowered to take such steps as he may deem necessary, and has consented not to insist upon the stipulations, at least for the present.

The following passage, which we quote from an able letter signed "Galmoy," which was written from New York on February 23d, and which appears in the Dublin *Nation* of March 12th, may be regarded as a correct anticipatory description of the doings of certain "political patriots" in the city of New York on St. Patrick's day. It is time that these wretched displays of criminal vanity should cease:

In several instances, the societies accustomed to celebrate the festival of St. Patrick's day by a parade, have concluded to forego the "pomp and pageantry" on the present occasion, and to devote the money thus saved to the purpose of relieving the distress now so prevalent through afflicted Ireland. In New York, however, the work of preparation still goes on, and the determination of the office-holders, seekers and wire-pullers generally, who usually figure at the head of these displays, to make the customary exhibition of themselves, in defiance of the better opinion of their countrymen, is apparently unabated. When Know-Nothingism was rampant, there might have been some excuse for this; but I can see none now, and think a practice which blocks up the streets of a great city for an entire day, to the utter stoppage of all business, might be fairly discontinued. Such a change would also lessen the chance of disturbances which have made the cheeks of Irish-Americans throughout the country tingle with shame, and perhaps enable the rank and file of the participants to employ their energies more usefully—if in a less ostentatious manner—without diverging widely from a patriotic direction.

We are greatly gratified to observe that the more and the longer the character and principles of General Grant are investigated, the more is the confidence of all the liberty-loving men of the country increased.

During the session of the Massachusetts Republican State Convention, a statement was made, concerning General Grant's views on suffrage, that is worthy of record. It is this:

Early in April last, immediately after the adjournment of the first session of the present Congress, I called on General Grant, at his office in Washington. He had that morning been informed of the questions proposed to be raised by the President and Attorney-General in relation to the Reconstruction act, then just passed. After stating them, he remarked: "Congress ought not to have adjourned without some provision by which it could have assembled at any time," and also added: "They have passed laws by which ten States are to be reconstructed, and it is reasonable to suppose that some further legislation may be necessary." I then said to him: "Perhaps this is not the first time we have suffered because Congress was not in session when it ought to have been." He asked to what I referred. I replied that I always thought there should have been a session of Congress immediately after the overthrow of the rebel armies. He assented, and I further added: "If there had been, is it possible that the present conflict between the Executive and Congress might have been avoided?" After a moment's reflection, he replied: "On the whole, I think it is better as it is. If it had not been for that conflict it is possible that reconstruction might have been accomplished without securing negro suffrage." I felt then that he fully recognized the fact that the war had established not only the power of the Government to maintain its own existence, but also the equality of the rights and privileges of all men under it.