

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Mississippi River Levee bill, introduced in the House by Mr. Young of Tennessee, provides for the issue of bonds, guaranteed by the United States, to the amount of \$45,000,000, and creates a Levee District, embracing the States adjacent to the Mississippi River, from Missouri to the mouth. A Levee Board is created of five members, composed of three army officers and two civilians, the salaries of the latter to be \$3,000 a year each. The Board is required to make a survey of the river and report to Congress a plan for the reclamation of all overflowed lands and those now protected by levees, and the means of such reclamation by levees, cut-offs and outlets. The whole cost is not to exceed the amount of the authorized bonds—\$45,000,000. The States in which the lands lie are to impose a direct tax on the lands to be benefited, the tax to be collected by the United States Government and devoted to the payment of the interest on the bonds, and the creation of a sinking fund for their final payment. The bill also provides for a tonnage tax on the commerce of the river to assist the payment of the expense of the work.

A TREATY has been arranged with Mexico permitting troops to cross the border in pursuit of marauders, provided they do not enter towns, interfere with the civil authority, or proceed more than 50 miles from the frontier.

Gov. PORTER of Tennessee has called an extraordinary session of the State Legislature, for the purpose of adjusting the State debt, levying a tax to meet interest on the new bonds, etc.

CANADA has decided that Sitting-Bull shall remain where he is, during the coming winter, and in spring shall go to the Red Deer River, on a reservation there. This latter is the region that Sitting-Bull himself applied for, as it is in a good hunting-ground.

HON. D. W. VOORHEES has been appointed by Gov. Williams of Indiana United States Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Senator Morton.

MR. THOMAS A. EDISON, a well known electrician of Newark, N. J., claims to have invented (but not yet perfected) an instrument which he calls the Phonograph, by means of which human speech can be permanently registered and reproduced with every tone exactly as uttered, at any time. The instrument is not unlike the telephone in construction, and the vibrations of a metallic diaphragm cause to be permanently impressed upon an unwinding strip of paper, various indentations, somewhat after the manner of printing telegraphic messages. These indented slips, bearing the phonographic record of the words uttered, are then run through what is termed a reproducer, very similar in principle to the first apparatus, and this causes the vibration of another diaphragm to correspond to the indentations on the paper, reproducing exactly the original tones of the speaker. Mr. Edison has so far experimented upon his invention as to feel confident of its practical utility, and expects soon to be able to put it to public test. The wonderful possibilities of this invention, by which the actual tones of a great orator or singer, or of a dear parent or friend, can be transmitted to posterity, render it the crowning discovery of this age of scientific progress.

THE Commissioner of the General Land Office, in his annual report, says the sales of public lands for cash are about 100,000 acres more than the previous year, while the number entered under the homestead and timber-culture laws is 785,123 less. There were certified for railroad purposes 700,791 acres. Total disposals of public lands, 478,922,452 acres. Public surveys have been extended over 713,572,737; total of unsurveyed lands, 1,101,197,183 acres.

THE meeting of the French Parliament, on the 7th, was attended with considerable excitement, but every thing passed off quietly. The Chamber elected M. Grevy, Republican, Provisional President. The DeBroglie Ministry, at the request of President MacMahon, have withdrawn their resignations. The *Moniteur* says that President MacMahon has no intention of resigning, as had been previously rumored.

A HORRIBLE double murder occurred in Monroe County, Ill., on the 3d

Henry Goetz, a young German farmer, and his wife, who owned and worked a small farm on what is known as the "Columbia bottom," were the victims; the assassin was a man named Carl Strahl, who had worked around in the neighborhood for some years, and was generally considered a shiftless and vicious character. The murder was first discovered by a neighbor on the 7th, who found the house deserted and the dead body of Mrs. Goetz lying in the cellar. The body of her husband had evidently been removed and secreted. The neighbors at once started in pursuit of the murderer, who had driven off a pair of mules and a wagon, and had also taken a cow, which he tied behind. He was easily traced to the Mississippi River at East Carondelet, where he had sold the cow and then proceeded to St. Louis, where he had endeavored to dispose of the team, but was arrested on suspicion of the property being stolen and locked up just about the time his pursuers arrived in the city. He was induced voluntarily to go across the river upon some pretext, where he was at once arrested and taken back to Monroe County.

—Carl Strahl, the murderer of Henry Goetz and wife in Monroe County, Ill., an account of whose capture in St. Louis and return to the locality where the crime was committed has been heretofore given, made a full confession to the Coroner of the county, and himself led the way to the place in the woods where lay the dead body of Henry Goetz. At the conclusion of the inquest, and after the murderer had affixed his signature to his written confession as taken down by the Coroner, in the presence of some 50 or more of the residents of the vicinity, the prisoner was suddenly seized by the infuriated by-standers, a rope placed around his neck, and in a few moments he was dangling from the limb of a tree. His body was subsequently cut down and buried beneath the tree upon which he was hanged.

NEWS is received from San Antonio to the effect that a party of Mexicans, numbering nearly 100, pursued a party of thieving Indians across the border into Texas, overtook them near the Guadalupe Mountains, killed six, captured others and recovered the stolen stock. The Indians had left their reservation in New Mexico and gone to preying in the vicinity of San Diego, Mexico.

AN Associated Press dispatch of the 10th says that at a caucus of Republican Senators, held on the 10th, it was developed that a majority of the Senators were not in accord with the President as to his Southern and Civil-service policies, but at the same time less than a majority were disposed to make any formal issue with the President regarding the same.

SAMOAN affairs are said to be in a frightfully muddled condition, and the Samoan Secretary of State is now on his way to Washington to ask our Government to assume a protectorate over the island. It is reported that the British and German Consuls have been running affairs with a high hand, levying fines on the natives and otherwise making themselves obnoxious, and Mr. Griffith, the American Consul, has for some reason been ousted from his consulate and forced to take refuge on a French vessel. The other side of the story, which has just come to hand, is that Consul Griffith's troubles grew out of his taking forcible possession of the property of a British resident, to satisfy an American claim, and that the bold Briton repossessed himself of his goods by force and had them placed under the British seal pending the settlement of the matter. Griffith then tried to get the natives to attack the warehouse, but they declined because he could not raise the \$2,000 they demanded for the enterprise. A committee of safety has been organized to preserve peace.

It has been proposed by Representative Hewitt, in an amendment to the Appropriation bill, that the Commissioner-General to the Paris Exposition be directed to put up an American kitchen at which the various methods of cooking Indian corn shall be exhibited and the products thereof distributed, with recipes in the different languages. Mr. Hewitt made a long and somewhat fervid speech on the advantage to our commerce and to the digestion of Europe of such an arrangement, and his suggestion met with great favor at the hands of the committee and was unanimously adopted.

THE October reports of the various Cotton Exchanges show that unfavorable rains have prevailed during the month throughout a large portion of the cotton-growing region. The average yield as compared with last year shows an estimated deficiency of from 5 to 20

per cent., although some favored localities estimate an increase.

It is rumored that the House Committee of Ways and Means will report, early in January, a bill comprehending very marked revisions of the tariff laws, reaching, in fact, the basis of a tariff for revenue only.

THE political complexion of the New York Legislature just chosen is not conclusive as to the Senatorship. Mr. Conkling's term expires in 1879, but a new House and half of the Senate will be elected next November and the choice of a Senator will not take place until after the meeting of the Legislature thus reconstructed. Of the hold-over Senators the Republicans have largely the majority.

DELEGATE CANNON, of Utah, has introduced a bill to enable that Territory to become a State, to be called Deseret.

In anticipation of the proposed re-monetization of silver, the Director of the Mint has had prepared a new die for the silver dollar, which if adopted will add to our currency a remarkably beautiful coin and give some relief to the Liberty seated on vacancy and looking into nothing, which has disfigured our silver currency for twenty years. The new die has on the obverse a medalion head of Liberty, with sprigs of cotton and corn in place of the traditional fillet. The execution of the head is remarkably free, and the arrangement of the hair on the forehead and the disposition of the lines around the chin and neck are treated with remarkable grace and freedom. The reverse has an eagle displayed. The mottoes on the coin will be "United States of America" and "E pluribus Unum," with the date. Where the second motto is to go, "In God we trust," is not yet determined, but it will not be left off. A study was made of an eagle from life, but it proved unsatisfactory, and the new type was followed.

THE Pope has been stricken with paralysis. His condition was such on the 12th that his physicians stated that he might die at any moment, and even if he rallied he could not long survive.

WAR NEWS.

A Turkish report of the 6th states that Cheyket Pasha with a strong force is advancing to the relief of Plevna, and that notwithstanding Russian progress westward, the Turks are confident the garrison will hold out. Mehemet Ali is reported as having arrived at Sofia to organize a command for the defense of the Western Balkan passes.

The Russians on the 8th were erecting siege batteries in front of Kars. The Turks attacked them, supported by the fire from the forts, but were driven back into their intrenchments.

A dispatch from Mukhtar Pasha, dated Erzerum, 9th, noon, says that at 4 a. m. the Russians attacked the Turkish fortified position, but were repulsed with great slaughter. A press dispatch says the battle lasted 11 hours and was fiercely contested throughout. The Russians finally gave way and were pursued several miles, losing many guns, though but few prisoners. Previous to the battle the situation at Erzerum was very critical, the inhabitants demanding the authorities should capitulate, reinforcements not having arrived. The Turkish army at Plevna is believed to be in a very critical situation, and it was thought Osman Pasha could not hold out many days longer. The Russians have a field telegraph completely around Plevna so they can concentrate immediately on any point attacked.

A Constantinople dispatch of the 10th says that 40 of the retainers of ex-Sultan Murad have been arrested, and it is rumored strangled, because of an alleged conspiracy to reinstate Murad. The Turks have resolved to defend Kars to the last extremity.

Dispatches of the 12th report that heavy fighting had been going on at Plevna for two days, in which the Turks had secured some advantages.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on the 6th, the House bill to authorize the free coinage of the standard silver dollar and restore its legal tender character was read by title and referred to the Committee on Finance. The resolution calling for the copies and reports to the Government, made under the twentieth section of the act of July 1, 1862, to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, was taken up and agreed to. After a brief executive session the Senate adjourned until Thursday. In the House, after the expiration of the morning hour, consideration was resumed of the bill to repeal the third section of the Resumption Act. Several amendments were offered. Mr. Phillips opened the debate by a speech in favor of the bill reported by the Committee on Banking and Currency. At the close of the speech the subject went over till to-morrow, after which the House adjourned.

The Senate was not in session on the 7th. In the House, the Resumption Repeal bill was discussed at length, Messrs. Gardner, Riddle, Kelley, and others speaking in favor of the proposed bill, and Messrs. Price, Blair (N. H.) and others against it. The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Poissal as Chaplain.

In the Senate, on the 8th, a resolution was agreed to instructing the Committee on Judiciary to inquire and report whether any legislation is necessary in order to authorize the payment out of any moneys received or to be received from the Republic of Mexico, or otherwise, to American claimants of awards made by the Committee created under the treaty between the United States and that republic, ratifications whereof were ex-

changed on the 1st of February, 1869. The resolution submitted by Senator Maxey, calling for the President for information in regard to the rescue of persons from the Stark County (Texas) Jail by outlaws from Mexico, in August last, was taken up and agreed to; also the resolution calling for information as to the number of miles of Northern Pacific Railroad constructed, what changes had been made in the line, etc. The House went into Committee of the Whole upon the Army Appropriation bill. A lengthy debate ensued, and Messrs. Atkins, Singleton, Schleicher, Foster, Blackburn, Conger, Money, Phillips, Calkins, Luttrell, Townsend, Mills, Pridemore, Clymer, Wright, Culberson, Banning, Hewitt, Banks, Blount, Crittenden and Sparks. Without action the committee rose and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 9th, a number of bills were introduced and referred. The Vice-President appointed Senator Kirkwood a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senator Ingalls a member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and Senator Saunders a member of the Committee on Railroads, to fill the vacancies in these committees occasioned by the death of Senator Morton. Adjourned till Monday. In the House, Mr. Swann, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, presented a communication from the Secretary of State in reference to the expense of an American representation at \$25,000. Ordered printed and re-committed. Rev. D. W. D. Harrison was elected Chaplain. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Army Appropriation bill, but after a long discussion again adjourned without definite action.

The Senate was not in session on the 10th. The House again took up the Army Appropriation bill in Committee of the Whole, and after considerable discussion, the bill passed through the committee. The committee rose and reported the bill, but as it was found that the amendments agreed to in the committee conflicted, and it required time to straighten them out, the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 12th, a number of bills were introduced and referred, among them the following: By Senator Windom, to establish a Department of Commerce; by Mr. Conover, to provide for the survey of an interior water route across the State from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic; Senator Maxey submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of constructing defensive works on the Rio Grande frontiers. Laid over for the present. Hon. D. W. Voorhees was elected President of the Senate. Senator Booth was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Patents, in place of Senator Wadleigh, recently appointed Chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Senator Davis of Illinois was excused from further service on the Committee on Pensions, and Senator Saunders was excused from further service on the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard. Senator Conkling rose to a personal explanation concerning a recent publication in the New York Herald which purported to give his (Conkling's) personal opinions on certain persons and matters. The Senator said the statement contains some remarks which he made in casual conversation at times, and contains other remarks which he never made at any time. A number of appointments were confirmed in session, among them the following: John L. Stevens, Minister to Sweden and Norway; Edgar M. Marble, of Michigan, Assistant Attorney-General; John D. Defrees, Public Printer; Kenneth Rayner, Solicitor of the Treasury; Elory M. Brayton, Collector Internal Revenue for South Carolina; Cass Carpenter, resigned, United States Marshal—Robert H. Crittenden, for Kentucky; Joseph L. Morphis, for Northern Missouri. In the House, the Army Appropriation bill, reported from the Committee of the Whole on Saturday, came up for consideration as regular order, and after a lengthy discussion, passed without division. The following amendments to the bill were previously concurred in: By Mr. Schleicher—striking out the clause prohibiting the recruiting of the army beyond the number of enlisted men on the rolls the first of November. By Mr. Culberson—providing that four cavalry regiments be recruited to one hundred men each company, to be employed in defense of the Mexican and Indian frontiers of Texas, provided nothing herein shall authorize recruiting beyond 20,000 men. The Republicans voted solidly against this amendment and were joined by Messrs. Giddings, Mills and Schleicher. The amendment providing that staff officers shall not be entitled to or receive any additional rank, pay or allowances was rejected—yeas 132; nays, 131. The negative vote was given by Republicans, backed by Messrs. Blackburn, Carlisle, Cook, Harrison, Eickhoff, Muller, Potter, Willis and Randolph. A large number of bills were introduced and referred, including the bill to amend the laws in relation to the matter of the third class; designating the time for the meeting of Congress the first Monday in January; to reduce the number of military cadets; for payment of all cotton seized after the 29th of May, 1865; also, to refund the tax on raw cotton; collector of duties; to prohibit by constitutional amendment the payment of claims arising out of the late rebellion, etc., etc.

THE NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE SILVER BILL. The following is a list of the members of the House voting against the adoption of the Bland bill for the coinage of silver: Bacon, New York; Ballou, Rhode Island; Blair, New Hampshire; Brewer, Michigan; Briggs, New Hampshire; Camp, New York; Chittenden, New York; Clafin, Massachusetts; Cole, Missouri; Davis, N. Carolina; Denison, Vermont; Eames, Massachusetts; Fiske, Massachusetts; Frye, Maine; Gibson, Louisiana; Hardenberg, New Jersey; Hart, New York; Hendee, Vermont; Hewitt, New York; Joyce, Vermont; Leonard, Louisiana; Lindsley, Maine; McGowan, Michigan; Morse, Massachusetts; Norcross, Massachusetts; Redick, New Jersey; Powers, Maine; Reed, Maine; Rice, Massachusetts; Schleicher, Texas; Stephens, Georgia; Swann, Maryland; Ward, Pennsylvania; Wood, New York.

The November Elections.

Elections were held on Tuesday, Nov. 6, in 13 States, viz.: Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Illinois elected only county officers; Kansas and Nebraska only certain State officers; while all the others chose members of the Legislature, and Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Mississippi, Wisconsin and Minnesota also full or partial lists of State officers. In five of the States named the Legislatures chosen will have to elect United States Senators, viz.: New York in place of Mr. Conkling; Pennsylvania in place of Mr. Cameron; Maryland in place of Mr. Dennis; Wisconsin in place of Mr. Howe; and Georgia in place of Mr. Gordon.

The chief interest in the election centered in the States of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, in each of which the canvass was fairly contested, and both parties claimed to have greater or less hope of success. Maryland, Virginia, and Mississippi were conceded to the Democrats, and Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska to the Republicans.

The general result in the several States is as follows: Massachusetts—Rice, Republican candidate for Governor, is elected by a plurality

of about 18,000 over Gaston, the Democratic candidate.

Connecticut—The Republicans have made some gains in members of the Legislature; no State officers were chosen.

New York—The entire Democratic ticket is elected by majorities ranging from 12,000 to 15,000, although the Republicans have secured a majority on joint ballot in the Legislature. In New York City, John Morrissey, the anti-Tammany candidate for State Senator in the Seventh District, is elected.

New Jersey—Gen. McClellan is elected Governor, together with the rest of the Democratic State ticket, by from 12,000 to 15,000 majority. Legislature strongly Democratic.

Pennsylvania—Entire Democratic State ticket chosen by from 8,000 to 10,000 majority.

Maryland—The Democratic candidate for Comptroller (the only State officer chosen) elected by a large majority.

Virginia—Holliday, Democratic candidate for Governor, elected without opposition.

Mississippi—Governor Stone re-elected—no Republican ticket run.

Illinois—Chicago elects the entire Republican ticket. The State-house appropriation is defeated.

Wisconsin—Entire Republican State ticket elected by from 5,000 to 6,000 majority. Legislature Republican.

Minnesota—Entire Republican State ticket elected by about 12,000 majority.

Kansas—The Republican nominees, Humphrey for Lieutenant-Governor and Horton for Chief Justice, are elected by a large majority—probably from 20,000 to 30,000.

Nebraska—Republican by about 10,000 majority.

WIT AND WISDOM.

A LIBEL—Some vile old traducer says that for the period of a month before marriage and a month after death, men regard their wives as angels. GENERAL NEPOKOITCHITSKY, Nicholas's Chief of Staff, went from Warsaw to war, see? He must be "the largest Pole" that knocks the persimmons.—Graphic.

A TRAMP called at a house on West Hill the other day and asked for something to eat. He was so thin, he said, that when he had a pain he couldn't tell whether it was a touch of the colic or the backache.—Hawkeye.

AN American savant named Smith observes that "you rarely if ever see a politician with smooth hair, a great scholar with fine hair, an artist with red hair, a fop with coarse hair, or an editor whose hair is carefully adjusted."

"THE Lord will provide" is an excellent motto, but "The Lord helps those who help themselves" is equally good. The patriot who sits all day in the sun on a dry-goods box before the village store, whittling and talking 'bout last 'lection, though he have all the faith in the world, musn't expect to go home to supper and find quail and buttered toast waiting for him when he gets there.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

In a Connecticut district school a few days since a little boy six years old was seen to whisper, but denied doing so when reproved by the teacher. He was told to remain after school, when the teacher, trying to impress upon his youthful mind the sinfulness of not speaking the truth, asked him if they did not tell him in the Sunday-school where bad boys went who told falsehoods. Choking with sobs he said: "Yes, marm, it is a place where there is a fire, but I don't just remember the name of the town."

A Desperate Fight.

A fatal encounter between a couple of men, named respectively F. Redell and Andreas Mille, took place at the summit, across the valley from Tuscarora, the particulars of which are given as follows: Redell called Mille out of his tent and said he was going to settle an old grudge between them, the former being under the influence of liquor. A desperate fight ensued, continuing until both were exhausted, Redell returning to his tent. Shortly after, however, he came back armed with a revolver, and again called Mille out to finish the fight. The latter also had a revolver, but it contained only one load, and taking the weapon he stepped forth, when Redell fired, the ball striking Mille in the abdomen and passing clear through his body. Mille returned the fire but missed his aim, when a hand-to-hand combat between them ensued, Mille getting his antagonist's pistol and firing over his shoulder at Redell, who was at his back and holding him around the waist. After another struggle both fell to the ground, and Mille dropped his pistol, but, freeing himself, he sprang to his feet, seized an ax, and with it dashed out Redell's brains. Mille is suffering intense pain from his wound, which, it is thought, must prove fatal.—Elko (Nev.) Independent.

JULIUS BAUMGARTEN, a Philadelphia engraver, has just completed a new great seal of the United States, for the use of the State Department at Washington. This is the only seal made for the State Department since the original seal was made, at the foundation of the Government.