

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Southern papers publish a circular from Assistant Adjutant-General Townsend, stating that the Peace Proclamation does not abolish martial law or interfere with the Freedmen's Bureau. The Second Comptroller of the Treasury has recently promulgated the most important decision, that persons living in the Southern States during the rebellion, who have demanded payment of balances alleged to be due them from the Government before the war, are not entitled to any consideration. Clement G. Clay has been released on parole. Our Government is sending troops to the New Brunswick border. Just as the Judiciary Committee of the House were about to report in favor of bringing Jefferson Davis and C. C. Clay before a military tribunal, the President ordered the release of the latter, much to the surprise of every member of the Committee. Detective Baker has made a report in reference to bounty-jumping frauds. He shows that of five hundred thousand men called out and sworn in by the Government, only one hundred and eighty-eight thousand reached the field as soldiers, although thousands of others received their bounties.

Michigan.—A Mackinac letter to a Chicago paper reports that at that point the ice is about two feet thick, and solid, with from one to two feet of snow on it, which, if it melts and freezes, will make the ice still thicker. No water was to be seen last week in Lake Michigan from Beaver Islands, and no water can be seen now from the highest point of this island in Lake Huron. Maryland.—A colored witness was brought into the Court at Annapolis, April 19, under the Civil Rights bill. Virginia.—The Christian Observer, tells "the praying people of the South that it is their special duty to pray for Jefferson Davis." Alabama.—Hon. Francis W. Kellogg, Collector of Internal Revenue at Mobile, who is here on a brief visit, says that the negroes in Alabama are working well, and that the cotton crop in that State this year will be about three-fourths as large as that of 1865. The negroes are receiving good wages, and the most perfect harmony exists between them and the planters.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—April 17.—A bill regulating the appointment of officers in the navy was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. April 18.—The Naval Contractor and Postal Appropriation bills were considered. The Habeas Corpus bill was taken up, and several amendments were agreed to. April 19.—Mr. McDougall apologized for his conduct a few days ago. The bill for the admission of Colorado was made the order for Tuesday next. The Habeas Corpus bill was taken up. April 20.—The Committee on the Pacific Railroad were discharged from the consideration of the bill to grant aid for the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad. A resolution was passed authorizing the President to procure three valuable gold medals, with suitable devices, one to be presented to Captain Croighton, of the ship Three Bells, of Glasgow; one to Captain Low, of the bark Kirby, of Boston, and one to Captain Stouffer, of the ship Antarctic, as testimonials of national gratitude for their gallant conduct in rescuing about five hundred immigrants from the wreck of the steamship San Francisco in 1853. The Habeas Corpus bill was considered and finally passed with some amendments. This bill grants indemnity to officers of the army for acts committed in aid of the suppression of the rebellion, and exempts them from liability to suits for such acts.

House.—April 17.—The Army bill was considered, and an amendment striking out the section relating to the Veteran Reserves was defeated. Other amendments were adopted, and the bill went over. The evening sessions were dispensed with for the present. April 18.—A report was received from the Secretary of War, in relation to the awards for the capture of the assassins and Jefferson Davis. The Army bill was considered, and an amendment, mustering out Veteran Reserve officers not on actual duty, was adopted. April 19.—The bill increasing the salaries of the Commissioners and Chief Clerk of the Pension Office was passed. The Niagara Ship Canal bill was reported back from committee and held over. The Army bill was considered and amended. A new militia bill was introduced and referred. April 20.—A bill was passed giving Ishmael Day, the old Maryland hero who kept the Union flag flying in the face of the rebels, a pension of \$424 50 per annum. The bill providing for deficiencies in the appropriation for public printing was passed. The Army bill was then taken up. April 23.—A resolution in relation to nitro-glycerine was adopted. The Judiciary Committee reported adversely to the President's recommendation for a modification of the test oath. A joint resolution was passed authorizing the President to carry out quarantine and other measures against the cholera or yellow fever. The Army bill was considered. A message was received from the President in relation to the French withdrawal from Mexico, which was referred to the Foreign Committee.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—A fire at Titusville, April 18, destroyed property valued at \$300,000. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of incendiarism. New York.—The British steamship Virginia arrived, April 18, from Liverpool April 4th, with 1048 passengers. She has had 38 deaths on the passage, and is anchored in quarantine. The disease is said to be similar to that with which the steamship England is infected. Since September, 1865, there have been received at New York, 711,857 bales of cotton, of which 394,538 bales have been exported. 10,331 immigrants arrived in New York last week. The street car-drivers of New York city, after a strike of several days, resumed work at the old prices. A gigantic enterprise has been started at Stockport, on the Hudson, close by the city of Hudson. A mile and a half of the river front has been purchased by New York, Albany, Troy and other capitalists, and it is designed to establish a great lumber and freighting depot, together with steam planing and saw mill, smelting furnace, machine shop and other important works. The docks and ships are calculated to have at least twenty feet of water at low tide, with an unobstructed channel to New York harbor. The Board of Health organized a Board of Excise, April 20, with full powers under the new law to regulate the liquor traffic. It is understood that no grocery is to be licensed to sell spirituous or malt liquors; that the concert saloons which have been an eyesore on Broadway and elsewhere are not to have license, and the lower dram-shops which have been the resort of thieves and abandoned women are to be closed peremptorily. The president of the board of Metropolitan Police estimates that the rigid enforcement of the license law will be equivalent to adding five

hundred policemen to the force.—The steamship England has arrived at New York, where she was kept in quarantine. There were 150 deaths on board of her at Halifax, but her passengers and crew are now reported well. The population of New York and Brooklyn is to be removed, and cholera hospitals are to be established in those cities. The Board of Excise has unanimously resolved not to grant liquor licenses to grocers or apothecaries.—Twenty new cases of cholera and ten deaths are reported on the steamer Virginia, at New York. Massachusetts.—An eight hour bill has failed to pass the Legislature. Illinois.—At the Chicago election, April 7, ten Republican and six Democratic aldermen were elected.—A tobacco firm in Chicago, employing about thirty hands, has adopted the eight-hour system, paying the same wages as before. Michigan.—A Mackinac letter to a Chicago paper reports that at that point the ice is about two feet thick, and solid, with from one to two feet of snow on it, which, if it melts and freezes, will make the ice still thicker. No water was to be seen last week in Lake Michigan from Beaver Islands, and no water can be seen now from the highest point of this island in Lake Huron. Maryland.—A colored witness was brought into the Court at Annapolis, April 19, under the Civil Rights bill. Virginia.—The Christian Observer, tells "the praying people of the South that it is their special duty to pray for Jefferson Davis." Alabama.—Hon. Francis W. Kellogg, Collector of Internal Revenue at Mobile, who is here on a brief visit, says that the negroes in Alabama are working well, and that the cotton crop in that State this year will be about three-fourths as large as that of 1865. The negroes are receiving good wages, and the most perfect harmony exists between them and the planters.

ordinance, regulation, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding the demurrer, and the defendant sustained the demurrer, and the case is now in session. The case was submitted on Wednesday, and after argument of counsel, Colonel R. P. Dehart for appellee, and Colonel W. C. Wilson for appellant, the case was taken under advisement. Cholera.—The new steamship Virginia arrived April 17th in New York Bay, fourteen days from Liverpool, with 1080 passengers on her list. Another very unwelcome passenger was the cholera, of which the papers speak as follows: "It did not appear that there was cholera on board until the 12th instant, when the vessel was eight days from Liverpool. On that day a man, who had had diarrhea, suddenly grew worse and died. It is said the diarrhea had existed, without any symptoms that were regarded as alarming, from the day of the departure of the vessel. When the man died, the ship's surgeon doubted whether the disease was cholera: but on the same day two other passengers were attacked. Afterwards the epidemic extended; and on the passage the number of sick was over one hundred—exactly how many, however, is not reported by the ship's officers. They say the whole number is certainly less than two hundred.—It is mentioned as a singular circumstance, that the cholera broke out on the Virginia in about the same place on the ocean at which the passengers of the steamship England, another of the National Steam Navigation Company's vessels (afterwards detained at Halifax), were attacked. There were 28 deaths on board the Virginia.

The Freedmen.—President Johnson has subscribed twenty-five dollars towards the Tennesseean, a paper published in Nashville, in the interest of the Freedmen. Senator Sumner subscribed five dollars. Lenses.—It is stated that, in the production of glass for achromatic lenses, the American glass makers beat the world. FINANCIAL. U. S. 5-20's in London, April 7th, 74.—The Treasury receipts for the year ending June, 1865, were, exclusive of land, \$329,567,126 00. The aggregate receipts for 9 months of the present fiscal year to April 1st, 1866, were \$410,041,230.—The number of defaulting distilleries in New York recently seized and held by the internal revenue bureau is twenty-two, and the estimated amount of which they had cheated the Government is \$500,000. Of this amount, at least \$200,000 for fines and taxes will be recovered.—The receipts from internal revenue last week amounted to \$3,464,194 58.—There are \$130,000,000 in the Treasury.

FOREIGN. Great Britain.—According to M. Chevalier, the use of opium in England is increasing enormously. The quantity now used is certainly enormous. In 1845 the consumption was 38,229 pounds; in 1863 it was 144,213 pounds. France.—The Paris Monitor confirms the reports of the withdrawal of French troops from Mexico. It is announced, however, that France will occupy the chief Mexican ports by way of "security." Mexico.—Brownsville advises say it was reported there that the Liberals had captured a wagon train between Parras and Monterey, with \$200,000, and had killed and captured two hundred French soldiers. The train contained about one hundred and fifty wagons, and left Monterey about the 1st of April, with supplies and money for Matamoros. It is also said that Escobedo, early in March was twenty-two leagues from Matamoros, his distance beyond that point, Canales endeavored to dispute the passage of the Imperialists, but Lopez's regiments repulsed him, killing twenty-two and wounding a larger number.—A large force of Imperialists have been defeated by the Liberals, near Mazatlan, with a loss of 700 killed and wounded and 350 captured. West Indies.—A case of "Obilism" has occurred in Hayti, where a party was recently detected feasting on cooked infants.—The digging for oil in Cuba has in many cases been successful. The oil found is the same as that of Pennsylvania. Chili.—Advices from South America state that the Spanish frigates Blanca and Numanca were driven out of the channel at Tablada by Chilean sharpshooters, whose fire they were unable to resist.

THE MASSACRE AT BARLETTA, ITALY. Among other places where a small community of Evangelical Christians had sprung up was Barletta, a handsome town, and sometimes busy port, not far from Bari. The church was placed in charge of Giannini, an Evangelist; the worship was conducted without offence; and the number of worshippers increased. During the winter the priests thundered against these "pests and plagues of heaven." It was, perhaps, natural: Italian priests are neither very sparing in their censures nor enlightened in their ideas. Even when the Lenten preachers commenced an organized woe assault upon the little congregation, people neither remonstrated nor cared. They began, however; to run a race in reckless speed; they represented the extirpation of the Protestants as a necessary duty and pleasing to God; and an ignorant crowd in Southern Italy may be worked into mischief by a heated friar. Mysterious hints were also dropped, and on Sunday, the 13th of March, the authorities were informed that something would happen. Although the sermons were fiercer on that day than usual, no one seems to have dreamed a riot. But on Monday, the Feast of St. Joseph, a certain Canon Postiglione roused the excitement to a pitch beyond restraint, and rushing from the church at the head of a wild mob, found his foes in the meeting-place of the Evangelical Fratelli. Two of these brethren were murdered in cold blood, the proprietor of the house and Giannini escaping by the roof; the furniture was smashed, and one of the dead bodies flung from the balcony into the street, and when the house was set on fire it was tossed back into the flames. All this was seen by the National Guard, whose barracks were not ten yards away. The colonel had run off and hid himself; his men mysteriously disappeared; and it was not until the riot widened; a brave priest left his altars to join in the holy work; two more houses were burnt; three more persons were murdered; the shout of "Death to the accused ones!" rang through the streets; the prefect was attacked to the cry of "Down with taxes!" while cheers were given for Jesus, the Pope, and Garibaldi; the sub-prefect with difficulty saved his life; a parliamentary delegate was badly wounded, and for some hours there was an absolute reign of terror. At last the military interfered, and a detachment of twenty or thirty carbiniers was sufficient to restore order.

It is quite plain that a more timely action of the authorities would have prevented much of these excesses. So soon as it went vigorously to work the riot melted away. Postiglione, and some other priests, and about two hundred laymen, have been arrested, and the battalion of soldiers which was sent for was scarcely necessary to quell any disturbance. The truth seems to be that there was a mixture of treachery, incapacity, and cowardice. One of the first persons arrested was a banker, a member of the town council, and an officer of the National Guard, and a list was found upon him with upwards of one hundred houses and two hundred citizens marked for destruction. The clerical reaction has been gaining strength, and seems inclined to test it. Now, though Europe will have no fear for the issue, we must expect a struggle of great intensity, and of no little danger to the infant Evangelical Churches. The first feeling through Italy will be one of shame, and the Protestants of Barletta are now certain of sympathy and security. Mr. Meyer, (of the Scotch Free Church at Ancona), preached there to seventy people on the Sunday after the tumult, and nothing seems to be more admirable than the courage, firmness, and prudence with which he has acted through the whole affair. But we fear that Barletta is not yet begun, and that as ecclesiastical intolerance and Christian life advance in Italy, they will encounter the most determined hostility.—Weekly Review.

DRUNKENNESS IN FRANCE. A work has just issued from the pen of M. Jules Simon, a member of the French Institute and of the Legislative Body, giving a very different view of the state of things in that country as regards sobriety from what we have been accustomed to see presented in speeches and publications in Great Britain. The following extract is a sad exhibition:—"Even in France there are towns where women rival men in habits of intoxication. At Lille, at Rouen, there are some so saturated with it that their infants refuse to take the breast of a sober woman. In the mountains of the Vosges, infants drink eau-de-vie. On Sunday in the churches the air is literally infected with the smell of eau-de-vie made from potatoes. In those mountains there are no more frequent causes of idiocy and imbecility, for in general the dwellings are healthy, and the water is excellent. The great misfortune is, that the children of habitual drunkards are idiots, so that the punishment follows from generation to generation, from the guilty and degraded father to the innocent children. In the manufacturing towns the magistrates are obliged to take measures against the parents that supply eau-de-vie to children, for there are drunkards of fifteen as there are laborers at eight; and, morally and physically, they present a melancholy spectacle. Can it be thus precarious debauchery and the consequences of it which oblige the War Department to lower the regulation height for the service? What is done to combat the evil? A few sermons which are not listened to; a few municipal ordinances that are not carried out; pathetic exhortations, which nobody pays attention to, are not sufficient to obviate society, which allows the pestilence to spread, as if it were an inevitable consequence of industry. Instead of preaching and punishing, a cure should be applied, and for that the wretched people who hunt the public-house to ruin and to poison themselves have any excuse for so doing. Yet that of the twelve hours that these men spend in their workshops—twelve long and wise hours, without any recreation, without even the pleasure of seeing their work finished under their hands; for the artisan is a mere piece of machinery, and feels no interest in what he produces. After those twelve hours, so exhausting, so monotonous, follow him, in the snow and frost, when he quits his shop. Mount the crazy and rotten staircase leading to his room. Enter with him into the frightful doghole, where his meal is scarcely ever ready, for his wife is at work like himself; too dear; where he takes never, because wine is so dear; where he cannot breathe, because air fit for breathing is dear, still than wine; where he has no furniture, for during illness and stoppage of work his furniture is sent to the pawnbroker; and where he finds no rest, for covering, nor sleep! Do you know many men, even among those who are most eloquent on drunkenness, who would resist the attraction of the pleasant taproom, well lighted, well warmed, with its glittering pots, its dusty bottles, its gay companions, and all the semblance of happiness which hides from him the want of real happiness?" M. Jules Simon notices the efforts made by the co-operative associations in England, Germany and France for the improvement of the habitations of the poor. London, he says, is of all places in the world the city where most has been done in this way. "It, indeed, wanted it, and will want it more for a long time to come; for in a city so immense, containing a floating population so numerous, many years will pass before anything like complete reform can be effected." In spite of many difficulties, he admits that a great deal has been done in London; and French architects and organizers of associations for the improvement of lodging-houses would learn much from it. One thing in particular is deserving of imitation, namely, that water is carried into all the rooms; and, he adds, "cleanliness becomes gradually a habit and very soon a necessity. With it on the contrary, water, and consequently cleanliness, is an object of luxury."—Weekly Review.

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