

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

The Postal Service.—During the whole time that the States were beyond our military lines, the management of the United States postal department paid expenses, and showed a surplus. No sooner do they come back to us again, and have to be provided for by our national government, than the Department begins to be a losing concern.

XXXIXth CONGRESS.—Second Session.

Senate.—Dec. 4.—By unanimous consent, a resolution of inquiry into the advertising patronage of the Executive was passed. A resolution in regard to the withdrawal of French troops from Mexico was passed for immediate consideration, but was referred back to the committee.

Dec. 5.—Mr. Wade, of Ohio, introduced a bill for the admission of Nebraska into the Union. The various standing committees were then chosen. In the new arrangement of the committees, Messrs. Cowan, Doolittle and Dixon lose their chairmanships.

Dec. 6.—The House bill, depriving the President of the amnesty power, was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, and Mr. Trumbull asked its immediate consideration.

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Dec. 10.—The Committee on Retrenchment reported a bill to regulate the tenure of certain civil officers, appointees of the President; made the order for Thursday. The Elective Franchise in the District was taken up. The Committee on the District reported a substitute, restricting the right of suffrage to loyal persons and making it otherwise universal.

House.—Dec. 4.—The bill amendatory of the Bank and Currency Act was postponed to the third Tuesday in December. The Committee on Military Affairs was directed to inquire into the expediency of amending the additional bounty law.

Dec. 5.—Mr. Williams, of Pa., moved to reconsider the vote recommitting, on the 11th of June last, the bill regulating appointments to and removals from office, and read a written argument in support of the bill. The motion was carried, and some amendments affecting penalties for violation of the act were offered.

Dec. 6.—Mr. Eliot, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing for a committee of three to investigate the New Orleans riots. The Judiciary Committee were directed to inquire into the expediency of a law to more effectually punish bribery at elections, and to make persons who purchase votes ineligible to office.

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In the District of Columbia. A bill of last session, in relation to the Territory of Utah, was called up for the purpose of reference. It is a very important measure. Under the simple title of a bill to provide for the selection of grand and petit jurors, it proposes totally to abolish polygamy.

Dec. 10.—The Committee on Pensions were instructed to inquire whether pensioners whose names were stricken from the rolls on account of participation in the rebellion have been restored, and by whose authority. The President was requested to furnish a list of the names of Rebels pardoned by him since April 15th, 1865, with the names of those whose pardon was granted.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Dec. 4.—Rome.—The evacuation of the city by the French troops has commenced. Dec. 5.—Alexandria.—John H. Suratt is now in the custody of Mr. Hale, the American Consul at this place.—Dublin.—Many of the leaders of the Fenian organization were arrested in this city last night and during yesterday.

Dec. 7.—London.—Two more regiments of troops, and a company of engineers have been ordered to leave immediately for Ireland. The Board of Admiralty have ordered three iron-clads of the home fleet to sail for the Irish coast.—Dublin.—Frequent arrests of Fenians continue to be made by the Government officers, who are increasing in their vigilance and prompt in taking action in all suspected cases.

Dec. 7.—Liverpool.—All the depots of arms in this city have been placed under armed guards, the excited state of the feeling among the Irish population rendering these precautions necessary.—Dublin.—The Grand Lodge of Orangemen has held a meeting, and issued an earnest call for all members of the Order to support the government in its endeavor to keep the peace.

Dec. 8.—London.—The Fenian troubles in Ireland are evidently assuming still more alarming proportions, as it is reported here to-day that in addition to the troops already despatched to that island two cavalry regiments have been ordered to leave immediately for the scene of disturbance.—Edinburgh.—In spite of the repeated denials which have been made on all sides, the Scotsman to-day reiterates the statement that there has been trouble in the British Cabinet, and insists that Mr. Disraeli, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had threatened to resign his post unless the Government accepted a Reform bill, liberal in its provisions.

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Dec. 10.—London.—The Times, in an editorial this morning, says that the Fenians have been fairly checkmated, and that it would be madness on their part to attempt obedience to law, and avoidance of all secret societies. Arrests still continue to be made, and more artillery will leave for Ireland soon.

FOREIGN.

Mexico.—The city of Matamoros was occupied, Nov. 26th, by United States troops under General Sedgwick. The next morning Escobedo's forces attacked the city, but were repulsed by Canales, after which General Sedgwick withdrew his forces outside the city. Gen. Sedgwick's action was contrary to the orders of General Sheridan, but was done on the ground that the lives and property of the American residents might be protected. Gen. Sedgwick has been removed by Gen. Sheridan.

On the 30th of November, subsequent to the reception of Gen. Sheridan's despatches, Gen. Sedgwick appointed J. L. Sheridan, a civilian, a Commissioner, and demanded the surrender of Canales and his troops of war to the United States. Canales replied that he would rather surrender to Escobedo, and to Gen. Sedgwick agreeing. The two Mexican chiefs then joined their forces, amounting to 4000, for operations against the common enemy. Minister Bigelow's reply to Mr. Seward's cipher despatch to the French Emperor was received Dec. 4. It is as follows:—"In answer to a verbal communication the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Moustier, writes me to-day that France has not changed her resolution, but that on military considerations she has deemed it expedient to substitute one comprehensive evacuation for an evacuation in separate parts. All of our troops will leave Mexico in the month of March."

The Cabinet, with one exception, it is understood, side with the President. It is considered doubtful, however, whether any further remonstrance will be made, and the probability is that the French Emperor will be allowed to have his own way. Indirectly it is hinted that Napoleon's action in refusing to withdraw was mainly because of what he regards as a violation of the pledge of neutrality and non-interference on our part, his position being that by the arrest of Gen. Ortega, the despatch of Gen. Sherman, and other objectionable movements, our pledge of neutrality was broken, and the compact therefore is withdrawn, rendered null and void.

Napoleon having changed the time for the evacuation of the French troops from Mexican soil, and the ports of Mexico being still blockaded by France, a question has arisen whether the United States man-of-war can land Gen. Sherman and Minister Campbell. It is asserted that the probabilities are that the vessel will remain in Mexican waters until advices reach there from our own and the French Governments.

The Distillers in trouble again.—It looks as if there was going to be no end to the distillery seizures for defrauding the revenue. In a single day no fewer than fifty small concerns have been pounced upon in Collector Wood's district, (Brooklyn), all charged with manufacturing whisky and selling it without paying the tax.

"Ecco Homo" has reached its twelfth thousand in England, and the demand still continues. The author's name is not yet known; but if he prefers profit to fame, he is probably satisfied, for it is announced that his publishers have already paid him \$30,000.

A MERCANTILE TRIUMPH.

No invention of a similar labor-saving character ever resulted in the same practical benefits to the people, or has come into such general use as that wonderful simple piece of mechanism—the Sewing Machine. What could we do without it? Where would we now find hands enough to accomplish the labor which these busy little workers are doing?

The history of this discovery is full of interest. As early as 1836, an ingenious and prolific inventor, named Walter Hunt, of New York, invented the first machine that was of any practical value for sewing. Being of a rather indolent disposition, and disinclined to undertake the labor of introducing so novel an invention into general use, he neglected to patent his discovery, and sold the right to manufacture such machines to a Mr. Arrowsmith, who, however, neglected to test the practical value of his purchase or to secure it by a patent.

Six years elapsed before any further action was taken toward the introduction of Sewing machines, and then, on the 12th of February, 1842, the first American patent was granted to John J. Greenough, of Washington. The next recorded attempt at an application of the idea was made and patented by Benjamin W. Bean, of New York. In the same year (1843) a Sewing Machine was patented by Geo. R. Corlies, of Greenwich, N. Y., but no one seems to know much about it; an evidence that its practical value was small.

Although the machine patented by Mr. Howe would now be considered worthless, if compared with the more recent inventions of others, yet he stands at the door of the Sewing Machine business, as it were, and levies a tax of one dollar on each finished machine in which the principles he invented are used. A fortune closely approaching two million of dollars has thus been accumulated by Mr. Howe—a very fair return, considering the fact that the Howe Machine has been left far behind by those whose subsequent inventions have effected a revolution in the manufacture of clothing, shirts, caps, boots, shoes, embroidery, and house-furnishing goods.

The utility of a Sewing Machine for family use depends upon its adaptability to the greatest variety of work; and this article would be incomplete, if, after tracing the rise and progress of the idea, we should fail to point out, from among the many varieties, the one that comes nearest to perfection and combines the greatest number of useful qualities. For certain kinds of work there may be machines more peculiarly adapted than others; but for all the numberless requirements of a family, we unhesitatingly pronounce the smoothly, silently, and swiftly running Grover & Baker Machine the best.

One great advantage is, that the thread is drawn direct from the spools, and requires no previous winding on shuttles; and the simplicity of all its parts and the easy adjustment of needle, thread and work, make it more readily comprehensible to the learner than any we have yet seen. Another important fact is, that they perform, without an alteration of the adjustment, a much greater variety of work than is possible on others. We might thus enumerate quality after quality in our own way, but we think we do the inventors and makers full justice, and at the same time relate our experience in terms which there is no mistaking, when we say that the Grover & Baker Machine may be chosen as the best, simplest, and most reliable Sewing Machine in the market.

The trade in these necessities, which have now become so indispensable, is assuming gigantic proportions. Grover & Baker alone send many thousands to foreign markets, and this popularity abroad is an evidence of their merit and superiority. American Sewing Machines are used all over the world, and, like American pianos, have furnished the principles which have been adopted by a great majority of foreign manufacturers.—New York Citizen.

New Publications.

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BOOKS FOR THE SEASON. THE NEW AND GREAT WORK. By the Author of "The Schonberg-Cotta Family."

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Miscellaneous.



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After a careful examination, we can cheerfully say of The Little Corporal, that it deserves all the praise that has been lavished upon it by the press everywhere.—Philadelphia Episcopal Recorder.