

Arms of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

President Johnson's Household is thus organized under a law passed by Congress at its last session:—Private Secretary, Robert Johnson; Assistant Secretary, Robert Morrow; Secretary to sign Land Patents, Edward D. Neill; Aide-de-Camp, Colonel W. G. Moore, Lieutenant-Col. Wright Rivers, Col. Andrew K. Long.

General Pickett's Case.—The public cares little for any new revelation of the President's compliance with rebel prayers or demands, but it will be glad to learn that General Grant used his pen to secure clemency to this well-known rebel leader, who is doubly infamous for shooting twenty Union North Carolinians, at Plymouth, we presume, who had served in his ranks. General Grant, in his letter to the President in behalf of Pickett, says: "General Pickett I know personally to be an honorable man, but in this case his judgment prompted him to do what cannot well be sustained, though I do not see how justice, either to the friends of the deceased or by fixing an example for the future, can be secured by his trial now. It would only open up the question whether or not the Government did not disregard its contract entered into to secure the surrender of an armed enemy."

The State Department has been officially informed of the appearance of the redupster in Switzerland. The energetic measures to check it, it was believed, would speedily cause it to disappear.

XXXIXth CONGRESS.—Second Session.

Senate.—Dec. 11.—Mr. Anthony, of R. I., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, routing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the legislation necessary to provide better for the Presidential succession. The District Suffrage bill was taken up, and Mr. Cowan's amendment extending the suffrage to women was discussed.

Dec. 12.—Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, offered a resolution requesting information of the President as to whether office-holders commissioned during the recess, particularly the Surveyor or Naval Officer at Philadelphia, have been continued without submission to the Senate for confirmation. On motion of Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, the resolution was amended so as to call for information as to compensation of such officers. It was then adopted as amended. The District Franchise bill was taken up, and Mr. Cowan's amendment, striking out the word "male" was discussed. Messrs. Brown, of Mo., and Buckalew, of Pa., spoke in favor of it. Messrs. Doolittle, of Wis., and Davis, of Ky., spoke against it. The amendment was finally defeated, by 37 yeas against 9 nays. Mr. Dixon, of Conn., offered an amendment limiting the suffrage to persons able to read and write.

Dec. 13.—The District Suffrage bill was taken up, and Mr. Dixon's amendment, restricting the suffrage to those able to read and write, was defeated, the yeas being 11 and the nays 34. A vote, as reported, was then passed by a vote of 32 yeas to 13 nays, and goes to the House for concurrence. It allows colored persons to vote on age, and excludes all who have voluntarily given aid and comfort to rebellion.

Dec. 14.—On motion of Mr. Wade, of Ohio, the bill for the admission of Nebraska was taken up, and Mr. Brown, of Mo., offered a proviso that the act shall take effect only upon the abolition of distinction on account of color by the people of Nebraska. This gave rise to considerable discussion, pending which the resolution for a holiday recess was taken up and agreed to.

Dec. 17.—The repeal of the amnesty section of the Confiscation bill, and the bill to admit Nebraska, were under discussion.

House.—Dec. 11.—The bill providing for the organization of the House, so as to exclude members not entitled to seats, was reported from the Judiciary Committee and passed yeas 123, nays 31. The Judiciary Committee reported the bill excluding the unrepresented States from voting in the Electoral College, and after some discussion it was made the order for to-morrow. The bill repealing the Neutrality laws was also reported and placed upon the order for the same day. The bill repealing certain portions of the act of 1790, and providing that prosecutions for treason and other capital offenses against the United States may take place after the expiration of three years from the commission of the offence, was reported and discussed. Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, urged the passage of the bill, and Mr. Stevens of Pa. opposed it, and said he would prefer to deal with rebels as captives, not criminals.

Dec. 12.—The bill to provide for the punishment of treason, by repealing the act of 1790, same as reported, and Messrs. Jencks, of Rhode Island, and Rogers, of N. Jersey, spoke against the measure, after which it was re-committed. The bill authorizing brevet promotions for merit in the volunteer service was passed. The bill regulating appointments to office came up, and after several amendments and some discussion was postponed for a day. On motion of Mr. Niblack, of Indiana, the President was requested to communicate information in regard to the New Orleans riots of July last.

Dec. 13.—A bill was offered by Mr. Stevens, providing for the admission, as a territory, of North Carolina; referred to the Territorial Committee. A resolution, offered by Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, providing for a recess of 15 days from the 20th inst., was adopted, and goes to the House for concurrence. The Deficiency bill was considered in Committee, reported to the House and passed, an amendment appropriating over \$170,000 to Washington, City, for improvements, being struck out. The bill appropriates for public printing, overland telegraphing, and contingent foreign expenses, \$820,000, and increases the pay of the District police 50 per cent.

Dec. 14.—Mr. Julian, of Ind., introduced a bill providing Territorial governments for the lately rebellious States, excepting Tennessee. Referred to the Reconstruction Committee. The Deficiency bill, as amended by the Senate, was passed, and goes to the President. The District Suffrage bill, as passed by the Senate, was taken up and passed under the previous question, by a vote of 118 to 46.

Dec. 17.—Inquiry was ordered into various acts of Southern authorities designed to punish Union soldiers for military acts, also into the sale of a colored man, for crime, into slavery in Maryland. The requisite two-thirds vote for suspending the rules, could not be had, on a motion for the appointment of a select committee of seven to inquire whether any acts had been done by any officer of the Government of the United States which, in the contemplation of the Constitution, are high crimes and misdemeanors, and whether such acts were designed or calculated to overthrow, subvert, or corrupt the Government of the United States, or any department thereof. The vote was 83 to 49.

THE CITY.

The U. S. Frigate New Ironsides was burned at League Island on Saturday night. She was built in Philadelphia, of Pennsylvania oak and iron, and was considered the best iron-clad in the navy. The New Ironsides was launched at Kensington in May,

1862, and did conspicuous service during the rebellion. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—It is announced that the authorities of Columbia, have begun a movement toward the rebuilding of a bridge across the Susquehanna at that place, which was burned by the Union troops, about the time of the battle of Gettysburg, to prevent the rebels from coming into Lancaster county. A stock company is to be formed for building this bridge, which will have a railroad as well as a wagon-road across it.—Col. John W. Forney has written a letter to Dr. Worthington, of the State Senate, withdrawing from Senatorial contest, and recommending Thaddeus Stevens as the best man to fill that position.

New York.—Snow fell at Buffalo, to the depth of two feet, and railroad travel to the West was interfered with.—It is now stated that the contest for the United States Senatorship has narrowed down to Ira Harris, the present Senator; Rosego Conkling, of the House of Representatives; and Judge Noah L. Davis, of Oneida county.

New Jersey.—Charles R. Rush was sentenced, Dec 17, for bribery in the Legislature of 1866.

Massachusetts.—A second election for Comptroller in the Third Ward in Boston was held Dec. 12th, the previous one having resulted in a tie vote. The Republican candidate a white man, was chosen over his Democratic competitor, a colored man, by 78 majority.

Illinois.—Arrangements are being made in Chicago, for the establishment of a Union League Club House, after the example of Philadelphia and New York.

Missouri.—Governor Fletcher, has issued a proclamation calling out the militia to put down outlawry in several of the counties of the State.—A force of bushwhackers entered Lexington on Friday and engaged the troops stationed there. After a severe fight, in which one of their leaders was killed, the outlaws retired, and several of the prominent secessionists of the town were held as hostages for the general safety.

North Carolina.—The Constitutional amendment has been rejected by both houses of the Legislature. In the Senate the vote for its rejection was 44 to 1 for its adoption. In the House 93 voted to reject it, against 10 who voted for its ratification.—The Legislature on Saturday last passed a bill amnestying both rebel and United States officers and soldiers for offences against the criminal laws of the State, done in the discharge of their duty.

Louisiana.—The board of Aldermen of New Orleans have unanimously adopted a resolution appropriating a room in the City Hall for the use of the Committee of Congress to investigate the riots, and requesting the Mayor to provide messengers, couriers and all needed assistance in the prosecution of their duties.

Financial.—The last monthly statement of the National debt shows a small net reduction in the principal of \$1,071,767, notwithstanding the circumstances of the gold application of the month to the payment of the November interest on United States 5-20's exceeded the gold customs of the month about thirteen million dollars.—The estimated income of the current year is \$565,000,000, or about one-fourth of the entire National debt.—U. S. 5-20's in London, Dec. 17th, 71.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dont want Silver Money.—The Bank of Kingston, Jamaica, has refused to receive American silver, and the shopkeepers refuse it except at 25 per cent. discount. This causes much consternation, as the people have a large amount of American silver in their hands.

The Fenians.—A Boston despatch says prominent Fenians declare that Fenian privateers to prey on English commerce, will soon swarm on the ocean, and that more than one is already afloat.

The Settlement made by our London Consul with Frazer, Trenholm & Co., for Confederate property in possession of this firm, has been repudiated as unauthorized.

FOREIGN.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE. Dec. 11.—Paris.—The evacuation of Rome will be virtually completed to-day. The departure of the French fleet of war vessels and transports for Vera Cruz is now said to be fixed for next week. The vessels are expected to reach their destination about the middle of January.—Rome.—This morning the French troops evacuated the Castle of St. Angelo, the French flag was hoisted, and free Pontifical colors hoisted. The 29th regiment has left France.

Dec. 12.—Rome.—The French Minister, Count Montebello, has informed the Pope that if he withdraws from Rome, the French troops hereafter will give him no support whatever.—London.—The Fenian troubles in Ireland are increasing. Another regiment of artillery has been ordered and will soon proceed to Ireland.

Dec. 13.—London.—The Empress Eugenie has finally decided to visit the Pope at Rome.—Paris.—The Monitor of this morning has a telegram, dated Mexico, December 3d, and signed by Bazaine and Castelnau, which says Maximilian is still in Mexico. As the evacuation must be completed in March, it is urgent that there should be no delay in the arrival of the transports. The mission of Sherman and Campbell—who left Vera Cruz on the 3d—appeared to be of a most conciliatory character.

Two more Explosions.—Barnsley, Thursday night, Dec. 13.—A third explosion took place at the Oaks Colliery at 10 o'clock this morning. There is no longer any hope for those in the pit. It is estimated that three hundred and fifty have lost their lives by this terrible catastrophe. The mines are now on fire, and the flames have burst from the mouth of the main shaft with great violence.—Hauly.—A fearful explosion occurred at noon to-day at Falkhill in a coal pit. Two hundred men went into the mine this morning, of whom only thirteen have been taken out alive, and they are badly injured. Forty dead bodies have been brought out of the pit.

Dec. 14.—Paris.—Under the new organization the French army, with the usual reserves, foots up about 1,200,000 men. Such a mighty standing army in times of peace will have no good effect.—Rome.—The anticipated troubles in this city, consequent on the withdrawal of the French troops, have not occurred. The city is tranquil. The idea that the Pope has an intention of leaving the Holy City is universally abandoned.

The Explosions.—Hauly.—Eighty-five of those who went into the mine at Talk o' the Hill on the morning of the explosion, are known to be dead. All the dead that have been recovered were buried on Sunday at Talk o' the Hill. The ceremony was deeply impressive. At Barnsley over eighty funerals have taken place. One hundred and sixty women have been left widows, and 330 children have been made orphans by this terrible calamity.

Dec. 15.—Barnsley.—Three more terrible explosions occurred this morning.—Klor-

once.—The Italian Parliament was opened Friday. The King, in his address said that he would respect the territory of the Papal States. He hoped that the moderation of the Italian people, the wisdom of the Pope, and a spirit of conciliation on both sides, would remove all differences, and said it was his wish that the Pope should remain independent in Rome.—Death of the Empress Carlotta.—It is announced by a cable despatch that the Empress Carlotta, wife of Maximilian, died at Miramar, at noon on Friday.

Dec. 17.—Paris.—It is stated, semi-officially, that General Almonthe has received assurances by telegraph, that Maximilian has abandoned his intention of leaving Mexico, and avowed a determination to put himself at the head of loyal Mexicans, and fight for his crown.

Mexico.—It was reported last Thursday that Maximilian has received \$25,000,000 from the Mexican Bishops, and that the merchants of Mexico have promised him \$10,000,000 annually. On this encouragement he will stay in Mexico. A proclamation stating that he will remain in Mexico, and that Ortega's partisans are following his example.

The Catholic Standard says: "We are informed that a neat little paper, for the use of the Sunday-schools, is soon to be issued in this city. It will supply a want long felt, and we have no doubt that it will tend largely to the promotion of sound catholic doctrine."

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