

News of the Week.

XLIII CONGRESS—First Session.

Senate.—February 4.—The bill to protect witnesses was passed. The resolution, asking the President to furnish copies of instructions given to Generals Pope and Meade, was reconsidered, amended and adopted. The Reconstruction bill was debated. February 5.—A resolution was passed authorizing the Secretary of War to employ counsel to defend Generals Meade and Rugeley or other officers proceeded against because of the Reconstruction acts. The Reconstruction question was debated. The House bill for the Southern railroad lands was referred. The Retrenchment Committee reported a substitute for the supplementary Tenure of Office bill. February 6.—A memorial was presented from the Arkansas Convention, asking power to appoint new State officers. A petition was presented from legitimate colored people of North Carolina, asking that they be sent to Liberia. The Reconstruction question was debated. The bill providing for representation at the Maritime Exposition at Havre was passed, with an amendment excluding Havre. February 7.—The Supplementary Tenure of Office bill was passed; yeas 32, nays 9. February 10.—No business of importance. In Executive Session, Chas. H. Tucker was nominated as minister to Greece. House.—February 4.—Executive communications were received, among them one from the Secretary of War, transmitting correspondence between the President and General Grant, which was ordered to be printed and referred to the Reconstruction Committee. The Senate bill removing the political disabilities of Ex-Governor Patton was referred. February 5.—Mr. Beatty, member elect from Ohio, was sworn in. The Senate bill for the protection of witnesses was referred. The bill for the Southern railroad lands granted by act of Congress, was passed—yeas 85, nays 72. The Senate resolution, providing counsel for General Meade and others, was concurred in. February 6.—The Military Academy, and Legislative and Executive appropriation bills were considered. An amendment to the Military Academy bill, looking to the exclusion of colored cadets, was rejected, and the bill was passed. February 7.—A bill was passed, restoring to the market the even-numbered sections of land along the Pacific Railroads. The Secretary of the Treasury was directed to furnish a statement of the trade with Canada, and the arrangements for fishing and navigation in Canadian waters. The House Judiciary Committee have begun the examination of the charge against Judge Field, of the Supreme Court. February 8.—The day was given to speeches on the finances, &c. Mr. Hunter, of Indiana, said the Democrats favored repudiation, and recommended that the Five-twenty bonds be paid in greenbacks, or made exchangeable into long bonds taxed one per cent. February 10.—The State department was directed to furnish information in the case of Antonio Peltier, U. S. citizen, who was imprisoned and had his property confiscated in Hayti. The impeachment testimony taken by the Judiciary Committee was referred to the Reconstruction Committee, and the President's answer to General Grant—which was sent to-day—was called for. The U. S. Supreme Court has dismissed the petition of the State of Georgia, asking that Stanton and Grant be restrained from carrying out the Reconstruction Act, on the ground that the Court has no jurisdiction on political questions. Diplomacy.—A letter from the Secretary of State read in the U. S. Senate, February 4th, gives a list of 22 special agents employed by the State Department on foreign missions, since March 4, 1861. In the list are the names of Archbishop Hughes, Bishop McIlvaine, Rev. Charles Hawley, Generals Schott and Smith, and Garibaldi.—Mr. Thornton, the new British Minister, was presented to the President. Financial.—The Public Debt Statement for January, published last week, shows an increase of \$23,000,000 during the month. STATES AND TERRITORIES. Maine.—The House of Representatives on January 29th, by a vote of one hundred against thirty-three, passed the bill to repeal the State Constabulary law, and a similar result is expected in the Senate. The Democrats are a unit for repeal and are under strict party discipline, while the Republicans are divided and have no concert of action. New York City spends \$100,000 per day for sleighing.—The Lunatic Asylum at Genesee, was burned, Feb. 6, and four insane women perished in the flames. Pennsylvania.—In the Senate, February 4th, a bill was passed allowing suits to be brought against agents of life and accident insurance companies in any county. In the House a bill was passed incorporating the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Free Railroad bill was passed in night session.—In the Senate, February 6th, a Bill was reported repealing the charter of "The Washington Library Company." Feb. 6.—A convention of College Presidents and Professors was held at Harrisburg, and it was determined that a bill should be presented to the Legislature making all colleges State institutions, with an annuity of \$3000 each. "Want of occupation" caused 59 cases of insanity last year. Ohio.—The Legislature proposes to punish with imprisonment persons reporting prize fights.—Cincinnati has established a Strangers' Home, where persons happening in the city for a night or so, and who are out of money, may find clean and comfortable lodgings and meals. It is under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. Nebraska.—The Fort Sanders Index says that a regiment of one thousand Indians is raising for service against the hostile Indians on the frontier. Michigan.—The whole number in the State Priory during last year was 756. Maryland.—Fifteen hundred vessels are reported to be engaged in the oyster trade in Chesapeake Bay, which bring annually to Baltimore fourteen million bushels of oysters. The trade gives employment to fifteen thousand persons. Kentucky.—The Legislature recently voted to pay a visit to the Lexington Lunatic Asylum. The proposition was opposed vigorously, on the ground that the members would not get over the spree sufficiently early to do any work during the week.—The Ohio river bridge, at Louisville, will be finished in 1869; it will cost \$1,600,000.—Lands are given away along the Florida railroad, to induce immigration.—The cornerstone of an academy for freedmen has been laid in Geesville. Virginia.—It is said that the people of the cotton regions have wisely determined to put in a larger crop of cereals than usual during the coming season. North Carolina.—The Freedmen's Bureau reports are unfavorable. Breaches of contract and non-payment of wages are complained of, and the system of working on shares has proved a failure. Destitution is very general among the people.—There are 230 Freedmen's schools, with 12,500 scholars, in North Carolina. Florida.—During the month of November last, there were deposited in the Freedmen's Savings bank of Jacksonville, \$26,733.—Lands are given away along the Florida railroad, to induce immigration.—The cornerstone of an academy for freedmen has been laid in Geesville. Alabama.—The election to ratify the new Constitution of that State began Feb. 4th.—Returns of the election are said to indicate the failure of the new Constitution. It wants of a sufficient vote. Gen.

Meade has extended the time of the election another day.—Returns of the election show a light vote, and it is doubted if the Constitution has been carried. Kansas.—The Senate has passed a bill allowing women and negroes to practice as lawyers in the Courts. Mississippi.—By the Republican nominating convention, R. B. Eggleston, President of the Reconstruction Convention, was nominated for Governor of the State. Texas.—It is estimated that within the past two years and a half, 2000 persons have been murdered by the revolver and bowie-knife, and few or none of the murderers have been punished. Tennessee.—Gen. Carlin, of the Freedmen's Bureau, reports outrages on the freedmen, by armed ruffians, which he estimates at the civil authorities will not take cognizance of.—A savings bank in Memphis having failed, six Tennessee went to the home of the cashier on Wednesday night, provided with ropes for the purpose of hanging him. Luckily that officer was absent, and so his life was saved. SOUTHERN CONVENTIONS. Virginia.—The Convention has rejected amendments to the article on the qualifications for Governor, excluding negroes and persons who had aided rebellion from the office.—A section was adopted providing that the offices of Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Auditor be filled by appointment of the Legislature. Feb. 8.—They also adopted a section authorizing the creation of a Bureau of Agriculture and Immigration. North Carolina.—The Convention has passed a tax bill to provide for the payment of members.—A resolution was adopted applying to Congress to remove political disabilities from supporters of Congressional Reconstruction.—A resolution making negroes or persons unable to read and write ineligible as Governor was rejected. South Carolina.—The Convention has adopted sections prohibiting slavery, declaring paramount allegiance to the Government, and asserting freedom of assembly, of speech and of the press.—Nine additional sections of the bill of rights were adopted, Feb. 7. Georgia.—The Convention has passed an ordinance annulling all debts contracted prior to the close of the rebellion. Gen. Meade will give the Convention \$30,000 by the 10th of March, but nothing more, nor will he approve of any financial scheme involving the State credit or future revenue.—An article was adopted relating to the State Executive, fixing the term of Governor at four years. The first section of the franchise article, requiring six months' residence in the State, and thirty days in the county, as a qualification, was adopted.—Feb. 8.—An ordinance was adopted levying a tax of one mill to pay the expenses of the Convention. An additional section of the franchise article was adopted, leaving the suffrage open to all without distinction of race or color. Mississippi.—Feb. 8.—In the Convention Gen. Gillen was requested to issue orders for the relief of the destitute. Louisiana.—In the Convention an article was adopted making the public schools open to all children, without distinction of color. All public institutions of learning under State control are similarly regulated. A superintendent of schools is provided for, to be elected for four years. They also adopted articles relating to the militia, exempting from militia duty those who are disfranchised, and declaring the secession ordinance null and void. Feb. 8.—The Convention adopted an ordinance providing for an election to ratify the new Constitution, and chose State and municipal officers, after its adjournment. The Convention has not yet fixed a day for adjournment.—Feb. 10.—Ordinances were adopted, providing for the appointment of elective officers and fixing the meeting of the State Legislature on the third Monday after the official announcement of the adoption of the new Constitution. Florida.—A minority of the Convention, according to a Tallahassee despatch, are in secret session, and have adopted a Constitution. The majority, consisting of four negroes and 21 whites, do not recognize the minority, some of whom are said to be British subjects or non-residents. The minority have the President with them, however.—Feb. 8.—The Minority Convention have signed the Constitution adopted by them in secret session, and have also nominated a State ticket. The Majority Convention will meet to-day, and it is said, will disregard the other division. BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH. February 4.—London.—Despatches from Abyssinia represent the army as well supplied, and the advance, under General Napier, had reached the neighborhood of Antolo.—It is reported that the Italian Financial Minister will place a loan of 400,000,000 liras in the market.—Cork.—One of the gates of the city was undermined last night and blown up.—At the same time all the telegraph lines to the city were cut. The prompt action of the police prevented any further demonstration.—Paris, evening.—The debate in the Corps Legislatif on the bill for the regulation of the press, was continued. Minister Rouher urged upon the members the passage of the law. He was unwilling to oppose liberal tendencies, but the Empire and people alike demanded that some restraint be imposed upon the press. The clause of the bill abolishing the preliminary licence to publish was adopted by an almost unanimous vote.—Florence.—The "Nazion" newspaper asserts that negotiations for a new convention on the Roman question are going on between the French and Italian governments, but Gen. Menabrea prefers the September treaty.—Garibaldi has written an eloquent and enthusiastic letter to Admiral Farragut. He congratulates the United States on the encouragement given by the presence of an American fleet to the national aspirations of Italy.—Vienna.—It is reported that Pope Pius Ninth is willing to resume negotiations for a revision of the Concordat. February 5.—London.—John Bright made a speech at Birmingham, yesterday, and pleaded the wrongs of Ireland in part, continuation of the late Fenian outrages. He said there was nothing the United States Government could do, if Ireland was part and parcel of the United States, that England might not do also, if she would.—Paris.—Benedetti, the new Italian Minister to Berlin, was warmly welcomed by the King of Prussia, as the first ambassador from Italy accredited to the North German Confederation.—Florence.—The Pope recently ordered the Catholics to have the Te Deum sung in all the churches of Italy for the victory of Mentana.—King Victor Emmanuel has issued a proclamation prohibiting the holding of religious ceremonies for such purposes within the Kingdom.—Tumults are reported in Padua yesterday. The Government is using every means to restore order. February 6.—Vienna.—The Debate, a semi-official journal, asserts that the Czar, on the suggestion of Prussia, has protested with the other European Powers, against the extensive armaments going on in Serbia.—Lisbon.—The King and Queen of Portugal and their suite, near Braga, to-day, were fired upon from the road side. Their guards returned the fire, killing some of the assailants and wounding others.—The King and Queen were uninjured. February 7.—London.—The resignation of the United States Minister, Mr. Adams, has been announced. The Standard has an editorial, highly complimenting Mr. Adams, and expressing regret at his approaching retirement from the position—he has so ably filled.—Late advices from the army in Abyssinia are very discouraging, and forbid any hope of a successful or safe move this season.—Berlin.—It has been officially given out by Count Bismarck, that negotiations for a commercial treaty

between the United States and the Confederation of the North are progressing with a prospect of a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. February 8.—London.—The Fenian, Captain Mackay, was captured in Cork last evening by the police, and while the officers were taking him to jail, a friends rallied in great force, and a desperate fight prevailed; but the mob was finally broken down, and Mackay was lodged in jail. He is charged with leading the attack on the Martello Tower, at Duncannon.—It is understood Minister Adams will leave England in April next.—Despatches from Athens state that the new Cabinet is at length formed, with Bulgareas as President and Minister of the Interior.—Paris.—Young Iturbide, heir of Maximilian, recently enlisted in the Papal Zouaves, at Rome.—The diplomatic relations between the Emperor and the Pope have suddenly assumed a much cooler aspect, and the correspondence is of a far less cordial character, on the part of the Emperor, than even a week ago. The cause of this is that his Majesty has become convinced of the existence of Bourbon intrigues against his throne, hatched in Rome.—Napoleon has renewed with King Victor Emmanuel his friendly tone and assurances, and has forwarded a special order to the French Minister in Florence, enjoining him to shape his diplomacy with that object.—Berlin.—Bismarck has obtained leave of absence as Prime Minister of the Confederation, and will devote several months to travelling through Europe. His health has at length compelled him to seek relaxation.—Madrid.—None of the troops raised in Spain by the authorization of Queen Isabella for the service of the Pope will go to Rome as an official detachment, from Paris states that the Emperor objects to such interference. The contingents will be at once disbanded, and the Queen will be obliged to revoke her military warrant. February 9.—Berlin.—At an interview, last week, Bismarck told Carl Schurz that it was the most earnest desire of the King of Prussia to cultivate the good will of the people of the United States.—Paris.—The bill for the regulation of the press is still under discussion. An amendment, providing for trial by jury of all offences of the press, was defeated by a vote of 20 to 35.—The French Government has consented to expel the Hanoverian refugees from France. February 10.—London.—The Ambassador from Italy, the Marquis D'Azeglio, has resigned.—The evidence against Mackay seems conclusive. Several of the attempted rescuers are convicted.—An attempt to forcibly release Burke is anticipated.—Dublin.—The Grand Jury have indicted Lennon for treason and murder, and Pigot for sedition.—Cork.—Another fracas took place between the police and the Fenians.—Nobody hurt; nobody caught. FOREIGN. Nova Scotia.—In Parliament notice has been given of a motion to dissolve the union with the Canadian Dominion. BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—LADIES dressing the hair elaborately for the evening, will find that Burnett's Cocaine will keep it in shape for hours. Choice Garden and Flower Seeds. B. K. BLISS & SON, IMPORTERS AND GROWERS OF Garden, Field, and Flower Seeds, Nos. 41 Park Row and 151 Nassau St., N. Y. (Late Office of the American Agriculturist.) THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1861 THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED TWO FULL CARGOES OF THE FINEST NEW CROP TEAS, 22,000 HALF CHESTS by slip Golden Sails 12,000 HALF CHESTS by the George Shelton In addition to these large cargoes of Black and Japan Teas, the Company are constantly receiving large invoices of the finest quality of Green Teas from the Mysore districts of China, which are unrivalled for fineness and delicacy of flavor, which they are selling at the following prices: English Breakfast, 50c, 60c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 1.00, 1.10, best \$1.20 per lb. Imperial (Green), 80c, 90c, 1.00, 1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. Young Hyson (Green), 60c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 1.00, 1.10. Uncolored Japan, \$1.10, best \$1.25 per lb. Gunpowder, \$1.25, best \$1.50 per lb. Coffees Roasted and Ground Daily. GROUND COFFEES, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, best 40c per pound. Hotels, Boarding-Houses, Kitchens, and Families who use Beans, Coffee, Tea, and other commodities, can purchase at the lowest prices of 30c per pound, and warrant to give perfect satisfaction. Consumers can save from 50c. to \$1 per pound by purchasing their Teas of the GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY, NOS. 31 AND 33 NASSAU ST. Post office Box No. 5643, New York City.

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