

News of the Week.

XLI. CONGRESS.

Senate.—December 8.—Among bills introduced was one to continue the Freedmen's Bureau in certain States, and to abolish the Franking privilege. The President was asked for information as to Paraguayan relations.

December 9.—Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to declare the present Government of Georgia to be only provisional, as the requirements of the Reconstruction acts have not been complied with. The bill relieving Chief Justice Moses of S. C. from political disabilities, was passed. The President's message was received and a few pages read, but the passage denouncing the Reconstruction Acts as "unconstitutional laws" by Senator Conness interrupted with a motion to dispense with the further reading of this disrespectful and offensive message. The motion was seconded, and when withdrawn, after some debate, was renewed by Senator Simon Cameron. The Senate adjourned without coming to a vote.

December 10.—The Impachment Investigation Committee was continued. The Copper Tariff Bill and the Indian Bureau Bill (from the House) were appropriately referred, as was an Impartial Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution, and bills providing full pay for ten hours work in Government employ, regulating the elective franchise, making the two highest grades in the army and navy inaccessible by promotion for seniority. The remainder of the President's message was read, and it was tabled. Adjourned till Monday.

December 14.—A memorial from the Union League of New York in reference to election frauds, was presented. Bills were presented for the redemption of U. S. notes and to compel national banks to redeem their gold, to amend the Naturalization Laws, to punish the holding of office in defiance of the XIVth Amendment, and to reorganize the Supreme Court. The Secretary of the Interior was asked for information in regard to the battle with Indians on the Washita. Resolutions (offered by Senator Cattell) censuring the financial heresies of the President's message were referred.

House.—December 8.—The Bill increasing the Tariff on copper was passed. The Resolutions of the Oregon Legislature asking the Oregon Senators to resign for having voted for plainly unconstitutional measures, were passed, but on motion were sent back as "impertinent and scandalous." A bill was reported from the Military Committee, transferring the Indian Bureau to the War Department, and was passed (116 to 53). A bill repealing the Tenure of Office Act, and resolutions declaring war against Great Britain in retaliation for her treatment of Irish-American citizens, were introduced.

December 9.—A bill for an election in Virginia was reported and discussed. The President's message was received and read. Mr. Washburn denounced its "repudiating" doctrines and Mr. Broomall offered a series of resolutions repudiating Johnson's repudiation. It was voted to print the usual number of copies, but not to print any extra, nor to refer it to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, or any minor committees. The Virginia election bill was passed, with the change of the day fixed from Jan. to May.

December 10.—Bills were passed to sell Government property at Harper's Ferry, fixing the number and rank of Judge-Advocates, consolidating the soldiers' asylums, and giving full pay to officers detailed as military professors in colleges. Bills were referred—establishing a system of national military education, amending the whiskey tax law, and allowing national banks to issue unlimited notes, but substituting four per cent. bonds for those now held. Adjourned till Monday.

December 14.—Bills were offered to legalize gold contracts, to allow of military organizations in the Southern States, and to enforce United States laws in Georgia. The Reconstruction Committee were directed to investigate J. K. K. outrages, and the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of allowing military organizations in the South. Resolutions denouncing the President's financial heresies, and repudiating all forms of repudiation, were adopted by a vote of 146 to 6. A special committee was raised to investigate the election frauds alleged in a memorial of the N. Y. Union League. A message was received from the Secretary of State, saying that the divergence of the Alabama negotiations and correspondence was incompatible with the public interests. The bill for the resumption of specie payments was made the order for the first Wednesday of January. The Committee on Expenditures was directed to investigate the alleged misuse of \$2,000,000 of the Alaska purchase money. [Six of the bills proposed in Congress involve female suffrage, four proposing constitutional amendments for that purpose.]

GENERAL.

The Treasury.—The Annual Report of the Secretary deprecates the continuance of an irredeemable "green back" currency, proposes this shall not be legal tender for debts contracted after Jan. 1, 1870, nor after Jan. 1, 1871, for army debts; urges that our debt ought to be a home debt, whereas \$850,000,000 are held in Europe, while \$1,100,000,000 of gold has been sent out of the country since 1848. It shows that the Internal Revenue receipts have been falling off at an increased rate since 1866, and recommends a reduction of expenditures and proposes to raise \$300,000,000 next year by increased internal duties and a reduced tariff. During the year the national debt has increased \$55,000,000, of which \$24,520,000 went for the Pacific R. R., and \$7,200,000 for Alaska. It urges the early payment of the whole debt. It shows that the debt at the close of the war was really \$2,997,386,203, of which \$470,256,650 has really been paid. It strongly opposes all forms of repudiation, payment in green backs, or funding in bonds bearing a lower interest by use of threats to adopt the former alternatives. It vindicates the National Banking System, but sharply censures some of the practices of the New York banks. The total debt, Dec. 1st, after deducting cash in the Treasury, was \$2,539,031,844.14, an increase of \$11,902,292 since November 1st. During the month \$24,205,000 was paid out in interest falling due, and \$44,337,000.00 of the whole indebtedness is loaned to the Union Pacific R. R.

U. S. Supreme Court.—The first Friday in February has been fixed for the hearing of Judge Black on the question whether the Act of Feb. 3, 1865, deprived the Court of jurisdiction in the McCord case.

STATES AND TERRITORIES.

Massachusetts.—The Democrats re-elected their Mayor in Boston, Dec. 14th, also the Mayor of Newburyport.

New York.—An American citizen of African descent, James H. Dorrell, has sued the City Board of Registry for illegally excluding him from Registration.

Illinois.—The Mississippi is frozen from Cairo up and the thermometer has been down to 10° degrees below zero at Chicago.

Indiana.—A "Vigilance Committee" (one hundred strong) came from Seymour early on the morning of Dec. 12th to New Albany, broke open the jail, and hung four of the notorious Reno family (express robbers), two of whom had been arrested by the Dominion of Canada upon a pledge by the U. S. that they should have a fair trial, and if found innocent should be returned to Canada.

Montana.—Gov. Tat in his annual message recommends legislation to encourage European emigration, as a counterpoise to that from China.

California.—In San Francisco the small-pox is very prevalent, 1,110 cases in six months and 162 cases in the first ten days of December.

Virginia.—In the Richmond U. S. District Court, Dec. 12th, Judge Underwood discharged a colored woman under sentence of death for arson, because one of the State Judges, who tried her, was disqualified by the XIVth Amendment. This liberates 159 convicts in the State Prison.

Arkansas.—Great excitement is reported to prevail in Conway county, in consequence of the irregular conduct of the colored militia. The Sheriff has petitioned the Governor to disband the militia, and has, in the mean time, called upon the white citizens to assist him in restoring peace.

Florida.—The Supreme Court has rendered a judgment of ouster against Lieut. Gov. Gleason, who will probably appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Louisiana.—The crews of several Peruvian transports at New Orleans, have mutinied and raised the American flag and the municipal authorities refuse to receive them.

The Indians.—Col. Wynkoop, Agent of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, has resigned his position, denouncing Gen. Custard's attack on Black Kettle and his band as a massacre, as they were friendly and on their own reservation.—Keokuk and other friendly chiefs, present the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for arresting them at Chicago and for false imprisonment, laying damages at \$10,000 each. The Bureau had ordered that no delegations be allowed to visit Washington without permission.

BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

December 8.—London.—A heavy gale swept across England on Sunday night, damaging houses, harbors and ships.—A new telegraphic arrangement fixing uniform rates, instruments, (Morse & Hughes) and language to be employed on the lines of continental Europe, has just been concluded by a convention at Vienna, and goes into force with the new year. The tariff to India is reduced 50 per cent., or to 6 1/2 francs.—Disraeli formally resigned the seals of office yesterday.—J. D. Coleridge is to be Solicitor General.—One boat with fifty-two passengers of The Hibernia reached Glasgow safely. Three other boats with 81 passengers and sailors are still missing.—Paris.—Le Monitor announces that Bismarck in interviews with the Ambassadors of France, Russia and England, assured them that he confidently hoped for the peace of Europe.

December 9.—London.—Henry A. Bruce is to be Home Secretary, and Layard, President of the Board of Trade.—The Telegraph says that the Liberals are now ready to continue the Alabama negotiations in the same spirit of honor and concession as characterized the diplomacy of Lord Stanley, to whom Earl Clarendon will be a worthy successor.—The Hibernia was lost through the breaking of the screw shaft, which when loose caused a fearful leak in the hold.—Paris.—The editor and publishers of Le Reve Politique have been heavily fined for their share in the Baudin subscription.—Madrid.—La Gazette announces that the insurgent Republicans were not put down in Cadiz as reported, and that they hold the city, but were trying to make terms with the Provisional Government.—Vienna.—The President has issued a pacific address to the army.—Berlin.—Bismarck agrees that after 1870 the expenses of Foreign relations shall be made part of the North German and not the Prussian budget. He says that Prussians have enjoyed for twenty years all the liberties accorded by recent Austrian reforms.

December 10.—London.—Twenty-five persons were certainly lost in The Hibernia.—The Times says it can hardly believe that the U. S. Cabinet or a Congressional majority will reject all the English advances towards a settlement of the Alabama claims.—The new Parliament was opened this afternoon, the speech from the throne being omitted.—The new ministry had met the Queen yesterday, and formally accepted their positions.—The Sultan has given Greece six days to answer, and is sustained by England and France.—Paris.—La Patrie thinks President Johnson's message of no importance.—Madrid.—The Cadiz Republican insurgents have secured an armistice to bury the dead and remove the women and children. They have armed the convicts and are three thousand strong.—Buenos Aires.—The rebels have offered terms which will probably be accepted.—Pesth.—The Emperor in his speech at the closing of the Hungarian Parliament praised their measures to restore harmony and preserve the integrity of his dominions, and hoped for friendship with Prussia.

December 11.—London.—Earl Spencer is to be Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.—Paris.—Le Gaulois ascribes the Cadiz insurrection to emissaries of Isabella.—Madrid.—A bloody, but indecisive battle between the insurgents and the troops has taken place, the terms proposed by the former being rejected. The Republicans hold the foreign Consuls prisoners, to prevent the bombardment of the city. Xeres and Malaga, in the South, and Tarragona, in the East, are greatly excited. Prim has gone to the South.—Berlin.—Bismarck says, "The fears of war, prevalent last summer, have passed away."

December 12.—London.—Geo. F. Train has been liberated and sails to-morrow for America by the Australasian. He uses the Marquis of Abercorn (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland) for \$100,000 damages, besides some smaller items.—Spain is profoundly agitated and all classes are alarmed, but the insurrection is confined to Cadiz. The Government has done everything in its power to obviate the necessity for a collision, and to induce the Republicans to yield to reason and patriotism, and not force the national troops to fire on them. A Carlist uprising in Arragon is feared.—Vienna.—As Grece refuses to accede to the demands of Turkey, (backed by the Great Powers), her Ambassador is preparing to withdraw from Athens.

December 13.—London.—In Spain a crisis is approaching. Admiral Topete has gone to Cadiz, but the insurgents refuse to listen to his offers, unless they receive a share in the Provisional Government. The port has been declared blockaded.—A fleet of two iron-clads and transports with 3000 troops sails for Cuba, Dec. 15th. Turkey is preparing for war with Greece and concentrating troops in the Thessalian frontier. Athens despatches say that Greece will yield nothing, but the king has been written to by the king of Denmark (his father) and the Prince of Wales (his brother-in-law), urging him to come to terms, and hopes of an agreement are entertained in Paris.

December 14.—London.—The Times praises the U. S. system of cheap newspaper postage, and free exchanges, and hopes for its adoption in England.—The elections (from boroughs) of 34 Liberals and 37 Conservatives are disputed.—Paris.—The Cadiz insurgents have given up their arms, and the troops now hold the city. The Duke of Montpensier offered to help in putting them down, believing that they were acting in the Carlist interest.—The Great Powers are straining every nerve to keep the peace between Turkey and Greece, and do not despair of success.—Vienna.—The Budget shows a deficit of £3,500,000.—Madrid.—About thirty persons have been arrested for inciting the workmen to insurrection.

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