

News of the Week.

XIth. CONGRESS.

Senate.—December 15.—Resolutions of sympathy with Spain were reported. Bills were referred prohibiting army officers from holding civil offices, and to punish the holding office in defiance of the XIVth Amendment. The bill repealing the prohibition of militia organizations in the South was passed, with an amendment excepting Mississippi, Texas and Virginia.

December 16.—A resolution declaring against the green-back payment of any part of the debt, and declaring for a speedy resumption of specie payments, was tabled. The Judiciary Committee were directed to consider the expediency of such legislation as will prevent the liberation of Virginia convicts by the recent decision of Judge Underwood. The Secretary of the Treasury was directed to report the total cost of the U. S. fractional currency. The motion to take up the bill giving a full day's pay for 10 hour's work in the U. S. service, fail d. Mr. Morton's bill for the resumption of specie payment was discussed.

December 17.—The House bill extending the time for selling stamps under the Whiskey and Tobacco bill to Feb. 15, was passed. The Resolution disapproving of the President's financial vagaries was passed.

December 18.—The Judiciary Committee reported against the Bill requiring certain guarantees from the Reconstruction States. The resolution expressing sympathy with the people of Spain was passed.

December 19.—A bill for the reassembling of the Georgia Reconstruction Convention was referred. The Judiciary were directed to report a bill re-appointing Congressmen in accordance with the XIVth Amendment.

December 21.—Bills allowing Judges of the Supreme Court to retire on full salaries in their seventh year, and reconstructing the Medical Department of the Navy, were introduced and referred. Adjourned till Jan. 5.

House.—December 15.—The Commerce Committee were directed to consider the expediency of prohibiting the carriage of explosive oils in passenger steam-vessels. The select committee on New York election frauds was announced. Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, Chairman. The House went into Committee on the Tariff Bill, and a reduction of duty and drawbacks on copper for ship-building (urged by the Maine members) was rejected.

December 16.—A bill repealing the prohibition of military organizations in five Southern States was passed. The President was asked for information relative to the Union and Pacific R. R. A bill was passed qualifying bankrupt Registrars to take evidence in election cases. The Banking Committee were directed to consider the expediency of legislation to suppress the "certified check" system in the National Banks. A resolution giving women in U. S. service the same salaries as are paid to men for the same work was passed (123-37).

December 17.—The death of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens was formally announced by his successor, Judge Dickey, and speeches in honor of his memory were made by seven members. A memorial of the Universal Peace Union in behalf of the Indians was presented.

December 18.—The Pension bill (appropriating \$23,250,000) was reported and made the order for Jan. 5. The credentials of J. W. Menard, (col.) as Representative from Louisiana, were presented and referred. A bill extending the provisions of the Homestead Act to soldiers' orphans, under twenty-one years of age, was passed.

December 21.—Mr. Van Wyck made his report on the New York Whiskey Frauds. Adjourned till Jan. 5.

STATES AND TERRITORIES.

City.—The Councils have passed a Bill for the erection of a new set of municipal offices on the Walnut st. front of Independence Square.

New York.—A fire in Rochester, Dec. 19th, destroyed The Democrat office, and consumed property to the value of \$100,000.

Virginia.—Gov. Wells has respited the wife-murderer, Peter Phillips, until his case (raised by Judge Underwood's decision) is decided by the U. S. Courts. Otherwise the Sheriff would have hung him.—Gov. Wise's plantation in Princess Ann co., has been restored to him by the U. S., and the owner of Libby Prison has received three years rent for its use.

Arkansas.—Four militia men were killed in a fight with the citizens of Augusta, Dec. 15.—The town has been nearly deserted by the people, in expectation of an assault upon the militia who hold it.—The town of Lewisburg was occupied, Dec. 16th, by four companies of militia, who burnt several stores and killed one citizen.—Citizens of Conway county are flying to Little Rock from the militia.—The militia have driven the insurgents out of Woodruff county.

BY ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

December 15.—London.—The Queen's speech was read to-day by royal commission. It recommended a recess till the election [i. e. re-election] of members to fill seats legally vacated by the present incumbents.—The Commons adjourned to meet Dec. 17, the Lords Jan. 11.—Bright and Gladstone have issued addresses respectively to Birmingham and Greenwich, asking their re-election to their seats.—Earl Mayo is to be recalled from India and to end out the Marquis of Salisbury a year hence, Sir John Lawrence continuing as Viceroy in the meantime.—Memorials asking the Queen to pardon the Fenians were extensively signed at all the Catholic churches on Sunday.—The Madrid correspondent of The Daily News ascribes the suppression of the Cadiz insurrection to the good offices of the U. S. Consul.—Vienna.—An Athens despatch says that the Greek Government has rejected the demands of Turkey and great popular enthusiasm.—The Greek minister has left Constantinople and the Turkish Ambassador has withdrawn from Athens, when the people made enthusiastic demonstrations before the Embassies of other nationalities.—Madrid.—Trade is at a stand still and disturbance and disorder prevail throughout the country. The Government is prosecuting the journals for sedition.

December 16.—London.—Reverdy Johnson, being taken to task by the Loudon workmen, in a letter to the workingmen, responds in a letter urging the example of Gen. Grant and Sherman as towards the Southern leaders, and ascribes the cause of the American papers to secret dislike of and hostility to England.—The Telegraph complains that no Congressional action repudiates the plan of sending the 5,200 in greenbacks.—Mr. Mill ascribes the defeat of the workingmen's candidates to election expenses and urges the Government to pay that which is necessary and prohibit what is not.—Turkey demanded that Greece should disband her volunteer forces in five days, prohibit further volunteering, send the Cretan fugitives back, dismantle all vessels used to carry supplies to Crete and concur in all treaties.—Le Moniteur says that the great Powers urged Greece to respect international law, but they will insist on moderation at Constantinople as well as Athens, and think that their united acts will shut Greece has given way, but the French papers are silent as to this.—Madrid.—The orders of all parties pledge themselves to do all in their power to keep the peace till the meeting of the Cortes to settle all pending issues.—The end of the uprising at Cadiz has given the Provisional Government a new prestige and dissipates all alarm.—To

the new loan 500,000,000 reals has been subscribed.—Dolce sailed to-day with his fleet for Havana.—Maurice Roberts is to be Minister to the U. S.

December 17.—London.—John Bright is to be President of the Board of Trade, and Layard Commissioner of Public Works.—The Times accepts with surprise Mr. Johnson's statement that the Alabama negotiations are closed, as he had increased his demands after Lord Stanley had granted everything consistent with the English honor. It regrets that so much has been published about them.—Constantinople.—Many suspected Greeks have been arrested, and all male Greeks found in Turkey two weeks hence will be treated as subjects. A Greek iron-clad sent to bring Lome the Ambassador was refused admission to the Bosphorus, and Hobart Paoha is blockading the Port of Syria, the Greek steamer Erosia having been chased in. He is to be reinforced by a squadron.—Madrid.—The Provisional Government is harmonious and Cadiz is tranquil.

December 18.—London.—Earl Mayo is not to be recalled from India.—The Times says that the ambiguity of Congress in regard to the payment of the whole debt in specie is all that prevents the annual interest being reduced to one half its present amount.—The Standard crows over the Postal Convention with the U. S. as a Tory achievement which will confer unmeasurable benefits on mankind.—The Times denounces Greece as the offending party, that she ordered her vessels to fire on Turkish vessels which should try to overhaul them, but thinks that the Powers will bring such pressure to bear as will secure peace. The Standard and The Star ascribe the outbreak to the Turkophilism of the Great Powers. A Constantinople despatch says that the Erosia fired the first shot and was damaged in the fight before she ran for the harbor of Syria. A Corfu despatch says Greece has called out her reserves and put her militia on a war footing. The students are forming a battalion and Greek subjects of the Sultan are offering their services and it is said that the command has been offered to Garibaldi. An invasion of Epirus is called for. Two men of war have been sent to Syria to demand that Hobart Paoha shall not obstruct the entrance to the harbor. (He has already allowed two Greek vessels to enter, but will not let the Erosia come out.) Letters from Athens (to the 10th) say that the city was thronged with bands of volunteers from the interior, and the French Admiral has made himself very unpopular by his demands upon Greece.—Paris.—The Emperor and Empress visited Queen Isabella to-day.—The member of the Cabinet (Pinard) who is held specially responsible for the recent Press prosecutions has retired, and a more liberal administration is expected. The official journals confirm this report.—Madrid.—The Progressives of Cartagena nominate Espartero for King. The election for the Cortes will soon be held in the cities. The Provincial Governors expect no disturbances. Serrano's resignation is rumored. Carlist conspiracies in Navarre and Navarre have been suppressed.

December 19.—London.—Mr. Laird has published correspondence with Mr. Johnson, which shows that their coquetting antedates the Liberal banquet by some months, and began on Laird's side.—The Times is dissatisfied with the recent course of the U. S. in regard to the Alabama negotiations.—Hobart Paoha awaits orders from the Sultan before coercing the Erosia. Omar Pasha has been forbidden to invade Greece unless Greek troops cross the Thessalian frontier. The Greek Ambassador demanded of the Ambassadors at Constantinople the protection of Greek residents, but that of France refused to take any action. The Sultan demands their banishment from Bulgaria and Belgrade. They ask to be allowed to stay as neutrals in Constantinople. The Turkish troops are ready to take the field.—Paris.—Rumors are on foot about a Russian remonstrance against the course of Turkey, addressed to the Western Powers. All the Powers unite in asking five days delay for negotiations. The respective Ambassadors have not left Athens and Constantinople. The Greek Naval Commanders are instructed to avoid a collision. The Athenians are delighted at the prospect of war, but the deputations from more exposed provinces denounce it as ruinous. A revolt of the Greeks in Macedonia and Thessaly is hoped for. A new ministry has been formed with the old Premier (Alex. Koumourouovras), but the country has not been prepared for defense.—Madrid.—The monarchists are carrying a majority of the elections to the Cortes in the cities, but all is orderly.—The Cadiz insurgents are to be tried by court martial, but not punished with death.—Berlin.—The resolution guaranteeing absolute freedom of debate has failed to pass the upper House.

December 20.—Athens is disposed to listen to terms and a sentiment favorable to peace is spreading. The Western Powers continue to sustain all the demands of Turkey, but Russia seeks their moderation.—Paris.—The ex Queen of Spain has paid a visit to the Tuilleries.—Madrid.—A collision between the people and the National Guard in the Province of Zamora led to a riot, which has been suppressed.—La Correspondencia asserts that a deep and wide-spread Carlist conspiracy is waiting to take advantage of Liberal dissensions.

December 21.—London.—The Times approves of the treatment given by Congress to the President's message.—The members of the new Ministry have been re-elected without opposition. Gladstone made a speech and said that he was not for the ballot if voting could be free without it; otherwise he was. Bright explained that he could not accept the Secretaryship for India (first offered him) because it required too much work for his poor health, and the nation's views on Indian policy were not advanced enough for him. He urged for the ballot.—Paris.—The Presse thinks the war excitement as intense at Constantinople as at Athens, and says the Russian flag was publicly burned in the streets.—Constantinople.—The Sultan approves of Hobart Paoha's course.—The Ambassadors here refuse to interfere in the affairs of Greek residents, who are petitioning Athens to avoid a war.—Madrid.—The troubles growing out of the city elections are trivial. Lisbon.—(Advices from Rio Janeiro, Dec. 16th.) The allies are advancing to invest Lopez, and U. S. Rear Admiral Davis had gone up the river with his fleet to demand reparation for the wrong done to the U. S. flag.

FOREIGN BY MAIL.

Sandwich Islands.—A severe earthquake occurred at Hawaii, on Nov. 16th, and the volcano of Manna Loa resumed its activity. There was a torchlight parade and general display of flags in Honolulu, on the receipt of the news of Gen. Grant's election as President. Male Kekanua, father of King Kamehameha, died on Nov. 27th.

Our readers should notice the advertisement headed "To the working Classes, &c."

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