#### THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1867.

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## MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1867.

#### The Vote in Congress on the Contraction of the Currency.

It frequently happens that a question, the importance of which is secondary; is forced into a most prominent position by the ability of its advocates, while the absence of discussion leaves a far more vital issue pass by unheeded. This was the case in Congress on Saturday, when the impeachment vote monopolized all the interest of the public, to the detriment of the far more important question which was decided on the same day. We refer to the passage of the House bill in opposition to any further contraction of the currency. During the session of the Thirty-ninth Corgress, a bill was passed, April 12, 1866, authorizing the Secre-tary of the Treasury to withdraw, if he saw proper, the United States notes in circulation, at a rate not to exceed \$4,000,000 per month. In accordance with the power thus given him, the Secretary for several months withdrew the amount designated; but finding that a stringency in the market was beginning to result, and that the finances of the country were not in a condition to authorize any long continuation of the measure, he has not for many months past exercised the power vested in him. On Saturday the Committee of Ways and Means reported the bill repealing the power previously given, and preventing in the future any furthur contraction until another law was passed expressly providing therefor. The vote on the question was 128 yeas to 32 nays. The manner in which our Pennsylvania delegation voted on that important question is a valuable index as to their views on the subject, and we give the vote in detail:---

YEAS, Charles O'Neill, Leonard Myers, Wm. D. Kelley, Caleb N. Taylor. Benjamin M. Boyer, Thadeus Stevens, Ulyses Mercur. William H. Koonts Stephen F. Wilson, John Covode, James K. Moorhead, Thomas Williams, George F. Miller. Total, 18-12 Republicans and 1 Democrat.	NAYS. John M. Broomall, J. Laurence Getz, Adam J. Giossbreance, George V. Lawrence, Samuel J. Eandall, George W. Woodward, Daniel M. Van Auken. Total, 7-3 Re. ublican and 5 Democrats. Demo crats in Italics.
ABS	ENT.
Honry L. Caka.	Gienni W. Scoffeld.

Daniel J. Morrell, Darwin A. Finney. This latest proof of the spirit of the House, given by such a decided majority, may be considered as settling, for some time to come, the policy of the Government.

Whether or not it can be construed into a declaration in favor of policy demands that for the present it shall farther expansion, we cannot tell. The unjust and injurious policy of moving the punishment." In the language of Mr. Boutprevious question on such an important topic, and thus outting off debate, prevents all opportunity of an explanation of their votes by any of the members, and leaves us without any guide as to the feeling of the House save on the direct question at issue. We cannot deprecate in too strong language this rule. It has been years since we had what may be called a debate in the House. Whenever an important question comes up, instead of having that free and able interchange of opinions for which Congress is compelled to assemble together, the previous question is moved, and the only persons who have any voice in the framing of our laws are the members of the committee who had the matter in hand. It has been frequently remarked, and, in fact, openly acknowledged by members, that by this means all chance for a compromise is cut off, and the friends of the movement who are in favor of its modification, have no alternative but to vote with its enemies or accept it as it comes from the committee. We send representatives there to counsel together and to harmonize views, not to leave everything to the discretion of a committee. If the "previous question" had been in use in the days of our forefathers, we would never have had a Union or a Constitution. It was only by mutual compromise and conciliation that they were effected; but now a bare majority seems disposed to tyrannize over those who differ from them in opinion. We refer to no political party, for it frequently happens that the same result is achieved by the votes of the Democracy, as was shown on Saturday by the impeachment vote. We think that the rule allowing the "previous question" should be repealed. A wearisome debate is better than systematic gag law. We have been led to this digression by the uncertainty resulting from the forced vote on the contraction question, and the doubt as to whether it can be so construed as to favor inflation. While we are glad to see the action taken, yet we do not believe that further inflation at present is sound policy. What the exigencies of the future may require that future only can reveal, but it is well to remember that while we may ride clear of the present storm by means of a further issue of "greenbacks," yet we are in the condition of a ship running before the wind-it is all safe and pleasant sailing so long as we continue in that direction, but the longer we continue the harder and the more dangerous will be the final return to the destination from which we have been drifting. As the tendency now seems to be rather in favor of yielding to the wind, if we can describe inflation by that simile, we would impress on our legislators the difficulty of ultimately reaching the wished-tor harbor of specie payment.

the New York Journal of Commerce, which gives a correct idea of the real status of the greenbacks." While we do not go so far as to denonnoe the "lggal-tenders" in the unmeasured terms in which our contemporary indulges, yet we desire as earnestly as it does that specie payment may be resumed, and the necessity which compelled the "greenbacks" being issued be removed. It says :---

"The recognition by the Secretary of the Treasury of the fact that all the financial evils which are now manifest, and the daugers which are apprehended, are due to the direct issue by the Government of an inconvertible currency with the legal attributes of money, affords gratifying evidence of a wholesome chasge in public sentiment;" and adds: "It is something to gain official recognition of the fact that the issue of legal-tenders was a grand mistake from the beginning, inevitably demoralizing and corrupting in its tendency, and to be withdrawn before there can be any hope of restoring the country to a sound financial condition."

The great danger to which we are continually subjected by legislative action on financial topics arises from the liability of professional men to go to extremes in business transactions. Congress is composed to a large extent of lawyers, and has but a small proportion of merchants or business men. Hence, there is always danger of the grand law to "never use force in finance" being overlooked. We hope, however, that having declared, very properly, against further contraction at present, that body will also exhibit a commendable discretion in the exercise of its other attributes in the power to issue new loans, and thus prevent inflation. Of the two evils, it is hard to decide which will do the country more ultimate harm.

#### A Quictus.

As the country had every reason to suppose, from the temper manifested by a majority of the Republicans in Congress, the proposed impeachment of Andrew Johnson was deeisively defeated on Saturday afternoon, the vote standing 108 noes to 57 ayes. Of the former but 42 were given by the Democratic members, while 66 Republicans altogether voted in the negative. The opposition to impeachment, therefore, embraces not only twothirds of the whole House, but a clear majority of the Republican side of it. This last fact is one on which the country certainly deserves congratulation, for it places the impeachment faction so clearly and definitely in the minority that they have no hope whatever of gaining the ascendancy as matters now stand. It likewise places the position of the Republican party squarely before the country. Andrew Johnson is considered by a large majority of its adherents, if not by every man who can properly lay claim to cooperation with it, as a "bold, bad man." But it has decided most emphatically that, although it considers the President guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors which might warrant impeachment, public not prosecute these charges "to final trial and well, "it is not strange that a sensitive and conscientious public opinion shrinks from a

brought us, in the night, to Jefferson City, on the Missouri river, the then terminus of the railroad. The remainder of our journey to the "promised land" whither we were tending was to be made by boat. I well remember what a rush there was from the cars down the steep gangways, lighted with flaming pine torches, to the boat. Our tickets were through tickets from Buffalo, New York, and called for "state-rooms" and meals on board the Missouri river packets. But, alas! how should a boat with state-rooms for perhaps a couple of hundred passengers, find accommodations for nearly a thousand? The boats, at that time, ran directly from St. Louis through to the Kansas border, taking passengers the whole distance. The result was that every state-room had been taken by those who got on at St. Louis, making the entire trip by water; so that when the boat stopped at Jefferson City for the crowd who had come up by the cars, there was simply room to take them aboard, and that was about all. However, an American assemblage rarely loses its good temper, nor its fertility of invention to make the best of everything. Perhaps, too, a little incipient hardship was not lost upon those who were so soon to brave the privations and perils of Kansas life, such as it then was. The first thing was to improvise me kind of arrangements for sleeping, for the human system claims sleep as inexorably as it does food. The immense cabin was turned into a vast dormitory, one end being curtained off for the women and children, with rows of mattresses on the floor from side to side. Each man took his carpet-sack for a pillow, and soon the cabin was filled with the reclining forms of the tired travellers. It was hours, however, before the crowd quieted down, so that much sleep could not be obtained. I have always noticed that if you get a dozen men together under unusual circumstances, somebody's sense of the tudicrous will be so excited, that he must make a "deliverance" of some sort. So it was now. Imaginary waiters were hailed with commands for articles of comfort or luxury clearly beyond our present condition and surroundings. Some mirth-provoking question would be put with all possible gravity by a man to his neighbor, when a dozan answers would come to it from all parts of the cabin, accompanied with roars of laughter. I remember one chap, who must have been the original of the definition given of man by Socrates, or some other equally responsible authority, that he was a fowl without feathers, for his imitation of the crowing of a rooster was most perfect, and loud enough to have aroused the "seven alcepers," had he lived in their day. The officers of the boat finally interfered to check the holsterous mirth, in favor of those who desired to sleep, and quiet soon prevailed. Thus passed our first night on a Missouri river packet-boat. The trip occupied three days and nights. There were many little things that struck one as singular. I shall never forget my emotions as stepped into the wash-room in the morning and turned on the water for a wash. A yellow, diriy-looking fluid poured forth, like the waters of the Schuylkill in a freshet, apparently as suitable for one's ablutions as & mud-puddle after a heavy rain. The appearance, however, was worse than the reality. The Missonri river water is very pure naturally, but loaded with a fine, almost impalpable yellow sand. Let it stand for half a day, and it becomes clear and paiatable for drinking. The steamboat hands, however, dip it and drink it directly from the river, and experience no evil effects from its use. The matter of feeding so large a crowd was

was an immense one, loaded down with emi-

grants for Kansas. About seven hours' ride

no slight affair. Tables were set the whole length of the cabin. Those who managed to get to the first table fared very well, but woe to the unlucky wight who depends upon the

were at that time making their headquarters there, and shares in the town were selling readily at from five hundred to eight hundred dollars in gold. The town company had commenced grading the main street to the river, and were making an immense cut through the rocks at the top of the bluff. It remains unfinished to this day, and shares are now worth the value of 'the land for agricultural purposes, although a modest little village has grown up back of the river, on the height of land. We put up at the chief and only hotel of the place, a large building which had just been erected. In lieu of mortar the partitions between the rooms were covered with white cotton cloth, a device which was quite commoa in Kansas in those days.

The evening after I arrived I had my first view of the political contest that was then agitating the Territory. The Free State men had refused to recognize the laws passed by the "bogus" Legislature elected by the Missouri invaders. The consequence was that the country was left to be regulated by the law of local public opinion and organization. In Quindaro, which was a unanimous Free-State town, the law was that no whisky should be About night-fall I noticed a sudden assold. semblage of men near the river. I went down to see what was up. When I got there I found a young man standing on a dry goods box and in a deep bass voice haranguing the crowd-He went on to state that, in the absence of all iswful authority in the Territory, it devolved upon the people to protect themselves. The people of Quindaro had enacted that no intoxicating liquors should be sold in their midst; notwithstanding this, the prisoner at the bar (the bar was a big stone) had been guilty of opening a saloon and of selling whisky, in defiance of the law they had adopted. What would they do with him? A court was extemporized, the case was tried in about ten minutes, the offender found guilty, and some slight penalty affixed, with a warning of a severer fate if the offense was repeated. This was Kansas law under "squatter sovereignty."

The distance to Lawrence was forty miles; the stage line was a span of second-rate horses, for the whole distance, and a mud wagou; the number of passengers eight, with an average of two big trunks each. We started with a light wagon, but gave that up before we had gone a mile, and sent back for a heavier one. Finally we were off, and a more delightful morning for a ride never dawned. It was April, the sun was genial, but not oppressive, the trees all about us were bursting into leaf, the wild gooseberry bushes were in full bloom, the grass was springing on the prairies, and the birds singing in the trees. We soon left the timber and struck the "long prairie rolls, green blilows of a sea which had turned to solid ground, ere its bosom had sunk to rest. The road was a succession of long gradual ascents and descents As the load was heavy, we soon established the precedent of walking up the hills to relieve the team, which looked none too promising for the journey before us. Thus we travelled on till about three o'clock in the afternoon, when we struck the deep wooded valley of Wolf ceek, We had breakfasted early, and the lapse of time, as well as the exercise of so much walking, had made us all ravenously hungry, but there was no settlement on the whole route. It was an Indian reservation that we were passing over, and uninhabited by them even until within a few miles of Lawrence. Happily, we here found a camp of laborers who were building a bridge over Wolf creek. They had been to dinner, but had left a pot half full of baked beans and a few biscuit. We bought the stock, made a ring around the pot, one of our company produced a bottle of pepper-sauce from his trunk, and we made a feast off of those beans and biscuit such as hunger alone could have prepared for us-

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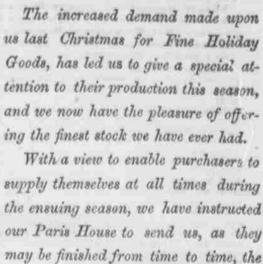
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In connection with this subject we can but Impress upon Congress the sentiments of

proceeding so solemn in its character, the end of which men cannot foresee."

Such being the deliberate decision of the recognized leaders of the party, after months of wearisome agitation, we hope we shall not again have occasion to refer to impeachment during the remaining fifteen months of Mr. Johnson's administration. At the end of that time he can be quietly lost sight of, and left at liberty to devote the remainder of his natural existence to ruminating upon the vast amount of mischief which he accomplished while in the flesh politically, and the still greater evils in the effort to thrust which upon the country he was forestalled by a faithful and patriotic Congress. But it is not enough that the question of impeachment has been formally and definitely settled. An end should be put to all discussion of the matter, especially in the halls of Congress, which has enough before it in the single department of finance to occupy the whole of the present session. The country will, therefore, regret that, as soon as the vote had been taken, and the attention of the House turned to the important subject of the contraction of the currensy, several members dragged the dead carcass of impeachment before that body and attempted to fan it into spasmodic vitality-Such a course should be deprecated by all who have the welfare of the country and the integrity of the Republican party at heart, and we hope that we shall not witness the repetition of such an unseemly farce.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Kansas Revisited-1857 and 1867 Contrasted.

LAWRENCE, Kansas, Dec. 5, 1887. Probably no part of the country has witnessed more extensive and important changes, during the past ten years, than Kansas and Western Missouri. Two days ago I stepped aboard of the cars at St. Louis, in the afternoon at halfpast three o'clock, en route for this place. The afternoon and evening wore rapidly away in conversation with old friends whom I chanced to meet, and about 11 o'clock we took our berths for the night. Morning found us refreshed by sleep, and clear across the State of Missouri, at the State line between it and Kansas, where a fine hot breakfast was awaiting us at the railroad eating house and hotel. A transfer to the cars of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, a couple of hours' ride up the matchless valley of the Kaw or Kansas) river, and we are at the beautiful and historic city of Lawrence, renowned not less for her devotion to, than her sufferings in, the great cause of human freedom.

I made this same journey ten years ago last spring, and, by way of contrast, let me briefly describe it. The simple recital may serve more vividly to pleture the actual changes that have taken piace than any general expressions could serve to do.

Then, as now, I took the cars of the Missouri Pacific Railroad at St. Louis, at the same depot, and at the same hour of the afternoon. There, I

second and even third tables! The only chance to secure a good meal was to pre-empt a chair along the sides of the cabin for an hour or two before meal-time, and to hold on to it until the chairs were placed at the table, and then to stand behind it ready to defend your claim against all comers. I am afraid Chesterfield would have lost his polish under such unfavorable circumstances. The animal triumphs over the spiritual in man on very slight provocation sometimes.

The process of "wooding up" at night on one of these great boats is picturesque in the extreme. They consume great quantities of wood for their engines, and at convenient points for landing, those who make a business of furnishing wood for steamers cord it up in long piles of hundreds of cords, generally in the depths of some forest. As a boat approaches one of these places where she intends to wood up, she blows two ar three long notes of warning with her whistle, which can be heard for miles around. so that the owner or his agents may be on hand There is no waiting for them, however. The wood is taken whether they are present or rot. In case of the owner's absence, the captain writes the name of his boat and the amount of wood he has taken on a card. and leaves it sticking in the crevice of a stick at the end of a pile, and settles the bill on his return, or on his next trip. Arrived at the wood yard, the planks are thrown out, the boat fastened to the shore by a huge cable, the torches lighted, and all hands fall to and bring on the wood. The torches are made of pitch pine split into fine pieces, and are burned in a sort of iron holder or frame work, set up near the bows of the boat, and leaning out over the bow, so that the falling pleces may not endanger the boat. They make a beautiful and brilliant light, illuminating the whole neighborhood.

On the third day we arrived at the great bend of the Missouri, and got our first view of Kansas, at the point where the flourishing town of Wyandotte now stands. There were a few houses there then, but the site was beautiful and inviting. The ground gently rose and swelled away from the banks of the river; the trees were shady and green, and the whole appearance of the land as one first gazed upon it. was calculated to rejoice the heart. The emigrants crowded the deck and gave three cheers for Kapsas. The crowd now began to disperse. Some had already stopped at Kansas City, a couple of miles back; others stopped at Wyandotte, and still others were to get off at Quindaro, Delaware, Leavenworth, and other points. Lowrence was then the great point of interest in the Territory, and from all these points on the river there were daily lines of stages to itit being situated on the Kaw river, some forty miles in the interior. I had determined to stop at Quindaro, a few miles above Wyandotte. I had seen, before starting, an advertisement in the New York Tribune, that there was a daily line of boats from Quindaro to Lawrence by the Kaw river. I never found the line, and the navigation of the Kaw, except for catfish, has since, in slang phrase, "played out." Quindaro was a town of half-a-dozan houses situated on the steep face of a rocky cliff, rising directly from the river's edge. It was one of twenty points in the Missouri River which were all expecting at that time to make the future metropolis of the State. Governor however, all correspondence ceases. The train Charles Robinson, S. N. Simpson, and others,

The best bill of fare ever put before the guests of the Continental could not have been eaten with greater relish.

We drove on, and, as the afternoon declined, our poor team became more and more weary, until we were forced to walk all the time, down hill as well as up. At last, a little after sundown, one of the horses stopped, and would go no further. He was completely tired out. A council of war was held. We were still seven miles from Lawrence, and all of the way through the woods. There were no houses except a few Indian cabins along the road. We had no food or blankets for camping ont. It was determined to leave the driver with the team and the trunks, hoping that the horses would finally drag through, while the passengers would push on, on foot, for Lawrence. One of our company knew the road well, so that he could act as our guide. I will cut my story short without waiting to describe our stopping and getting supper with old Sarcoxie, a Delawave Indian chief, and some laughable incidents connected therewith, and simply say that, after a long and weary walk, we arrived on the banks of the Kaw opposite to Lawrence, at about midnight. It took us nearly an hour to rouse the ferryman on the Lawrence side, so that he would come across and ferry us over. At last we heard the plash of his boat, and soon found ourselves among friends in Lawrence at the end of our journey.

That was ten years ago. The nearest railroad was then at Jefferson City—now it is here, and extends three hundred miles west, with a branch road to Leavenworth, and another line leading south under construction. Then the telegraph lines reached only to Boonville; now they have been extended across the continent to the Pacific, and we are in instant communito the rate, and we as the country. Then the Kaw river was crossed by a rope-ferry—now a spien-did bridge, costing forty thousand dollars, spans the stream. Then Lawrence had one weekly paper, with mails twice a week—now she has daily mails cast and west, and two large daily papers. Then Lawrence had about one thou-sand inhabitants—now she has ten thousand, with a State university, public schools, church and all the appliances of modern civilization, Such are some of the changes of the last ten years, as shown by a journey to Lawrence 1857 and one in 1867. T. D.

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JAMES S. CLAXTON, 12921 NO.1814 CHESNUT STREET.
AT "THE CHEAP BOOKSTORE"
THACKERAY'S WORKS.
PENDENNIS SELLING AT 50 CENT
NEWCOMPS NELLING AT 50 CENT -
Everything in our Line either at Whois- sale or Less than Cost.
Cell and look over our counters. Store kept open neill 10 o'clock each evening.
JAMES S. CLAXTON,
12.7 NO. 1914 CHESNUT STREET.

NO. 808 CHESNUT STREET.

A NEW INVOICE OF CHOICE TABLE SHERRY, THE NAME AS WE HAVE HO LONG FURNISHED AT A LOW PARCE, IN SNALL CANES, (26 GALLONS EACH), OR BY THE DEMIJOHN.

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WINE.

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ALSO, YET ON HAND, A POBTION OF OUR BASTIMPORTATION OF HIGH AND MEDIUM GRADES VERY FINE SHERRY. DIRECT FROM THE CELEBRATED HOUSE OF GONZALES & DUBOSC, XERES. BY THE CASH OR BETAIL.

- SIMON	COLTON	& CLA	RKE,		
W. COR. REGAD AND WALNUT STN.,					
10 22		PHILA	DRIPHIA		
The preparation of the preparati	BOOK-KE. CALCI MAY at MEN'S COMM SNUT Stree EN DAY AN Iructed sepa. Ion for bundred by ba obtaine ENDEN OU AND HUST	EPING, ULATIONS, IERCIAL O L. COTHER O D EVENIN rately, and as gained her a of young m d at the Coll DM MEBCIA MYESS MAN	OLLEGE f Heventh G. received e has sires to to to to to to to to to to	ha dy HI-	