

MEN AND MEASURES AT WASHINGTON.

From Our Own Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1868. The Meeting of Congress. The Fortieth Congress has been constructively in session ever since it was organized on the 4th of March, 1867. On this account there is less preparation for the third session, which meets one week from Monday next, than there would be under different circumstances. Both the Hall of the House and the Senate Chamber have been in readiness for the assembling of Congress since the adjourned meeting held early in the fall. The arrival of Senators and members next week, and the presence of strangers from all parts of the Union, will give substantial tokens of the beginning of the regular session.

Sherman's Funding Bill.

One of the first measures brought before the Senate will be a bill prepared by Senator Sherman for funding the national debt, and reducing the present rate of interest. A similar measure, it will be remembered, was reached the House at the last session, but the President too late to receive his signature. The shape in which it finally passed was quite different from that in which it was originally offered in the Senate by Mr. Sherman. He does not at all regret its failure to become a law, because he believes that a much better measure can be passed at the approaching session. It is his purpose to introduce a new bill at an early day, retaining all the good features of the former bill, and introducing some new ones advantageous to the Government. Among these will be a reduction of the rate of interest from one-half to one per cent, and the lowest figure heretofore named. The plan of funding the debt will be simplified so as to prevent expense to the Government and inconvenience to the people. Senator Sherman, who is at the head of the Senate Finance Committee, is regarded as one of the ablest financiers in Congress. He has given this question of funding the debt very close attention for more than a year past, and will be prepared not only to explain his bill, but to defend it against assaults from whatever quarter. In this he will be seconded by nearly all the members of the Senate Finance Committee, and possibly by a clear majority of the Senators. At the last session the funding bill met with considerable opposition in the House, and only passed that body after material modification. This, however, it is believed, was more owing to a misapprehension of the provisions of the bill than opposition to the measure itself.

The Universal Suffrage Amendment.

Conversations with the various Senators and members now here, as well as correspondence with those who are yet at their homes, forebode the passage of a bill at the approaching session submitting to the State legislatures an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing for universal suffrage in all the States and Territories of the United States. There are those who regard this as of doubtful propriety, while many fear the people are not ready for it, and that it is, therefore, premature. A clear majority, however, in both houses are of opinion that the present Congress cannot do less than take the responsibility of submitting such an amendment to the people. Many of the ablest and most prominent men of the Republican party regard the mission that party incomplete while any portion of the adult male population of the United States is disfranchised on account of race, color, or previous condition. There can be little doubt that at an early day of the session a bill proposing this amendment will be introduced. Such a one is said to be in course of preparation by the Hon. William D. Kelley, of your city. It is probable that he will take charge of the measure in the House, and the Hon. Charles Sumner will be its champion in the Senate. It will, of course, arouse bitter opposition among the Democrats, and may give rise to a protracted debate. Should Judge Kelley undertake the management of it in the House, his well-known ability as a debater, and his familiarity with all the points and precedents bearing on the subject, will go far towards overcoming whatever opposition may be manifested by the Democrats. Since the death of Thaddeus Stevens Judge Kelley is regarded as the ablest man in the House from Pennsylvania, and his championship of this or any other question of national importance will secure the active co-operation of nearly all the Republicans. In the Senate Mr. Sumner will, of course, give it his best energies.

The Forty-first Congress.

Although the approaching session will last but three months, there will be no crowding of legislation, and consequently no more blunders made than usual. The Forty-first Congress assembles on the fourth of March next, as will be seen from the following, which is the first section of an act passed at the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, and approved January 23, 1867. It is entitled "An Act providing for the meeting of Congress," and reads as follows: Be it enacted, etc., That in addition to the present regular time of the meeting of Congress there shall be a meeting of the Fortieth Congress of the United States on the 4th of March, on the fourth day of March, the day on which the term begins for the fourth of March, except that when the fourth of March occurs on Sunday the meeting shall take place at the same hour on the next succeeding day. Except this law should be repealed at the approaching session of which, so far as I can learn, there is no prospect, the House of Representatives elected last fall will assemble on the 4th of March immediately after the dissolution of the Fortieth Congress. It has been customary, after the inauguration of a new President, for the Senate to convene in extra session, by proclamation of the President, for the purpose of transacting executive business. As the Senate, however, is included in the above act, there will be no occasion this time for a Presidential proclamation.

The President's Message.

The forthcoming annual message of President Johnson will excite less attention than any public document, except, perhaps, the report of Director Deimar, of the Bureau of Statistics. Last year's message, however, was so full of advance copies of the message, in order that they might get it before the public, or previous to its transmission to Congress. This year it will probably not bring more than a dollar for early copies. The people have already commenced to forget Andrew Johnson, and they are becoming alarmingly indifferent to any opinions he may hold about public affairs. They are anxious to "speed the parting and welcome the coming guest" of the White House. Men no longer talk about what President Johnson will do; it is rather what President Grant will do. This ungrateful indifference on the part of the people will not prevent Mr. Johnson from inflicting upon the newspapers eight or ten columns of an annual message. It is said that he not only reviews the history of the Government from its foundation to the present time, but that he compares his own administration with those of all his predecessors, and shows in his own satisfaction that no President has equalled him since the days of Washington. The late rebellion, reconstruction, the finances,

are all elaborately discussed. A forbidding picture of the speedy destruction of the Republic is drawn as an inference from the late Presidential election. Those who have read the message say it consists of a defense of Mr. Johnson's administration, and a sort of farewell address to the people prior to his departure for Tennessee.

Senators and Members in Washington.

The following Senators have already arrived:—Cole, of California; Corbett, of Oregon; Fournier, of Kansas; Rice, of Arkansas; Edmunds, of Vermont; Spencer, of Alabama; Trumbull, of Illinois; Morton, of Indiana; Sherman, of Ohio; Sumner, of Massachusetts; Harlan, of Iowa; Howe, of Wisconsin; and Osborne, of Florida. The only members of the House here are Kelogg, of Louisiana; Ingersoll and Washburne, of Illinois; Lincoln, of New York; and Cavanaugh, of Montana. JOSEPHUS.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

CITY CRIMINAL CALENDAR.

Young Thieves—A Sneak—Accomplice.

—Larceny of Turnips—Robbing Sew Houses—Stole a Watch—Fighters. —William McConnon and Thomas McJugan, boys, yesterday visited a store on Columbia street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, and stole a quantity of turnips, which were subsequently found in their possession. Alderman Heins sentenced them to the house of correction for a term of fifteen days.

The Store of Mrs. Catherine Sandall.

—The store of Mrs. Catherine Sandall, No. 1203 North Eleventh street, was yesterday entered by William Brown (colored), who lifted a quantity of goods, and stole a watch, and giving the alarm, the thief dropped the coat and took to his heels. He was soon captured, and is now in the house of correction in default of \$1500 bail.

Thomas Moore and Dennis Lanahan, Inds.

—Thomas Moore and Dennis Lanahan, Inds. were yesterday arrested by the police, on charge of being implicated in the larceny of five sheep mentioned in THE TELEGRAPH on Wednesday last.

—A farmer stopped on William street, Richmond, for the purpose of delivering a bag of potatoes. While in the house, James Kelly, aged eighteen years, stole a quantity of the potatoes, and carried off a bag of turnips. He, however, did not get far before he was arrested. Alderman Neill committed him.

—A quantity of goods were received at Police Headquarters of robberies that have been committed in a lot of new dwellings in the neighborhood of the city. The thieves would carry off all the lead pipe that was exposed in the buildings. Last night Policeman Clark saw two boys trying to break into a house in the neighborhood of the city, and he took them into custody. They gave the names of John Greiner and John Grima, and were committed to the house of correction.

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DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE SIXTH WARD.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon fire broke out in the extensive five-story brick structure, No. 293 Arch street, occupied by the railroad company for cattle purposes. When first discovered the flames were in the rear part of the basement, occupied by H. K. Wright, a dealer in earthenware and crockery. An effort was made to extinguish them, but it was not accomplished, in consequence of the great quantity of straw and crates in the third and fourth stories, and the difficulty of access to the roof. The fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes had reached the top of the building. The fire broke out in the rear part of the basement, occupied by H. K. Wright, a dealer in earthenware and crockery. An effort was made to extinguish them, but it was not accomplished, in consequence of the great quantity of straw and crates in the third and fourth stories, and the difficulty of access to the roof. The fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes had reached the top of the building.

After spending through the cellar, the fire then ascended by means of the hatchway to the first story, and from there to the second, and so on, until it had reached the top of the building. The fire broke out in the rear part of the basement, occupied by H. K. Wright, a dealer in earthenware and crockery. An effort was made to extinguish them, but it was not accomplished, in consequence of the great quantity of straw and crates in the third and fourth stories, and the difficulty of access to the roof. The fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes had reached the top of the building.

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THIRD EDITION FROM THE CAPITAL. WASHINGTON.

The President and Revenue Difficulties—The Eight Hour Law Question—Poor Work on the Pacific Railroad.

The President and Revenue Difficulties. WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—It is said that the President has not dismissed the subject of the whisky frauds in New York and the suspension of District Attorney Courtney and other officers, but is waiting for further evidence which is promised to be forthcoming.

The Eight-hour Law. The long-promised opinion of Attorney-General Evarts on the Eight-hour law of the last Congress has been delivered to the President. It is voluminous, and will soon be given to the press.

The Pacific Road. General Warren of the Engineer Corps will make a report of his inspection of the Pacific Railroad, and it is said that he criticizes the construction so severely that the President contemplates withholding the further issue of bonds.

The European Markets. Yesterday's quotations. [The commercial despatches of yesterday were delayed by an interruption of the land line.]

LONDON, Nov. 27.—A. M.—Consols, 94 for both money and account. United States bonds, 74; Erie, 27; Rock Island, 27; Central, 27.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 27.—A. M.—Cotton quiet; sales of today are estimated at 10,000 bales; sales of the week have been 109,000 bales; exports, 22,000 bales; for speculation, 13,000 bales.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—A. M.—Wholesale oil, 238 1/2; Calcutta Lard, 59s. 6d. Fine Kerosine, 15s. 6d. Petroleum, 12s. 6d. India Rubber, 22s. 6d.

PARIS, Nov. 27.—A. M.—The decrease of bullion in the Bank of France is reported at 7,600,000 francs.