FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1871.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS. THE first session of the Forty-second Congress has come to an end, and the results achieved are before the country. There has been a great deal of meaningless talk; not a few exhibitions of blackguardism, that have tended to decrease the respect of the people of the country for the law-making branch of the Government; a great deal of quarrelling and spiteful oratory on the part of men who entertained exalted ideas of their own importance; and little or no legislation likely be of any practical benefit to the country. The only important measure that has received the full attention of Congress has been the Ku-klux bill, the utility of which is more than doubtful, while many subjects of unquestionable importance have either not been considered at all or have been unable to command the favorable notice of our Senators and Representatives. The Ku-klux bill passed yesterday, and now it only remains to be seen how much good or how much harm the efferts to enforce it will do. If it has any effect in putting a stop to the political murders and outrages that have disgraced certain portions of the Southern States since the conclusion of the Rebellion, its passage will not be regretted; but all the indications are that it will do more harm than good, and that it will tend to postpone that complete reconciliation between the North and the South which good men of all sections are anxious to bring about. Contrary to the dictates of sound political policy, and contrary to the urgent advice of the best and most thoughtful men of the Republican party, Congress refused to pass an Amnesty law: and this refusal, taken in connection with the passage of the Ku-klux, bill can scarcely to increase the irritation bad feeling that unhappily exist at the South. For the defeat of the Amnesty bill the Senate alone is responsible, and the great mistake made in this instance is unfortunately not the only performance that will tend to bring the "apper house" into discredit. The Senate announced its intention not to consider any measure but the Ku-klux bill, but the Deficiency bill was loaded down with amendments of every description, the great majority of them being private schemes to extract money from the public treasury, and well calculated to increase the unenviable reputation already obtained by the Senate of the United States, that it is one of the most corrupt legislative bodies in the country. Fortunately the House of Representatives is either more virtuous than the Senate or else its members stand in greater awe of public opinion, and it refused to concur in the Senate amendments. It was under the guise of a "Pennsylvania During the session about forty bills, public and private, were passed—some of which, like the one for the relief of Nicholas P. Trist, the negotiator of the Guadaloupe treaty, had merit. None of them, however, except the Ku-klux bill, were of special public interest or importance; and, with the result of the six weeks of Congressional labor before them, most sensible people will be apt to think that the session was a waste of time and money, and that it had better not been held.

RELIEF FOR WAR DAMAGES.

WE give to-day the report of a special committee of the Senate, which presents an interesting review of the causes of the destruction of Chambersburg by McCausland in 1864, and of the spoliation generally of the border counties by the Rebels, and it presents the question of responsibility for these claims in a manner that cannot fail to carry conviction with it. The committee are nnanimons on several most vital primary points. They all unite in testifying that the people, and not speculators, are the parties before the Legislature; that the measure proposed will stand the severest test as to the integrity of its aims, and that the General Government is justly or legally responsible for the liquidation of the claims, The only diversity of opinion among the members of the committee is as to the proper method of presenting the matter to the General Government. The majority unite in a proposition that seems at once just and practicable. They say that by reason of the withdrawal of the troops, organized by the State for our own defense, to reinforce the defeated Federal armies, Chambersburg was burned and the exposed counties suffered great losses, and therefore the General Government owes it to the State and to the despelled citizens to make restitution. They say, furthermore, that these citizens cannot make successful claim before Congress, but that the State, acting in her capacity of a great Commonwealth, can do so without fear of failure, whenever she can do so in her own name. The majority of the committee do not propose to pay the claims, nor do they ask that any new debt be incurred, or that taxes be increased; but they apply an amount less than the taxes of the raided counties to the payment of interest on the claims, and thus bring them into the possession of the State to recover the money from the General Government with which to pay them. This measure, it is claimed with reason, will afford substantial and immediate benefit to the people who have lost their property, without imposing debt or taxes upon the State, and secure the payment in full of these extraordinary losses at an early day by the United States. It seems to be free from objectionable features, and it will doubtless afford the much needed relief to the citizens who have suffered, without in any degree impairing the very flattering condition of our finances and credit. The committee seem to have united in a careful effort to have all speculative, frivolous, and dishonest chains excluded from the benefits of the bill; and if that be faifffully | mocratic State legislators and Connailmen done, the measure will be satisfactory to the | would besitate to provide profitable places for

THE CLOSING HOURS of the session in the House of Representatives yesterday were devoted by Butler and Farnsworth to a characteristic purpose. Butler attempted to show that he was not a blackguard, as charged against him by garrulous old Garrett Davis, but unhappily thought it necessary, in so doing, to prove that almost everybody else was a blackguard. Farnsworth, who appears to think that he was sent to Congress for the express and solitary purpose of worrying Butler, indulged in the same line of talk, but succeeded only in confusing Butler with his brother-in-law. Beck, the lively Kentucky Democrat, likewise participated in the melee, and proved that Southern Democratic virtue of the old-fashioned ante-bellum type is not extinct. And finally, just before the Speak-er's hammer fell and the session was adjourned without day, Sunset Cox expressed a desire to have the coroner called in. If the coroner could be called in to hold an inquest on Butler and Farnsworth, it would be a good thing for Congress and the Republican party. These two worthies are getting monotonous. Butler may not be an honest man, and Farnsworth may not be a white man, but a coroner's jury, the people begin to think, would be the best authority to inquire into and settle the matter.

Councils yesterday determined to appropriate the Spring Garden Hall property, at the corner of Thirteenth and Spring Garden streets, to the purposes of the Girls' Normal School. The present building will either be extensively altered or else torn down and a new one erected. It is most probable that a new structure will be put up, as the present one is not adapted to the uses of the school, and the alterations required are so many that it will most likely be considered advantageous to erect an entirely new building with all the modern improvements. The present Normal School building in Sergeant street is notoriously inadequate, and better accommodations should have been provided long ago. The Boys' High School has been accommodated in an elegant and commodious edifice upon our noblest thoroughfare for many years, and it is not creditable that the girls' school, which is of equal importance, should have been up to the present time confined to the dingy and incommodious structure on Sergeant street. The location of Spring Garden Hall is an excellent one for the Girls' Normal School; and whether the present building is retained or a new one erected, it is to be hoped that the necessary work will be completed at as early a day as is possible, in order that the school may have the benefit of the change without farther delay.

SMITH, that incorrigible "Rooster," suffered a relapse yesterday afternoon. In fact, he was subjected to another attack of pneumatics, which was severe enough while it lasted, although happily it did not last long. and New Jersey Transportation Company' that Smith introduced his submarine tubes to the House. Sam Josephs, who finds it quite impossible to be a stranger to virtue on all occasions, riddled Smith's tubes so effectually that they would not hold "slush," and an indefinite postponement put an end to the business. Smith must try again.

THE DEMOCRATIC ADDRESS. In the Congress of the United States, at Washington, the Democratic party are fortnnately in a minority. At Albany, the capital of the State of New York, as well as in New York city, and in some of the Southern States and districts where Ku-kluxism is most rampant, they are in a majority. We refer to these well-known facts because, in view of the tone of the address issued by the Democrats in Congress yesterday, they afford a forcible new illustration of the old rhyme setting forth that

"When the devil was sick the devil a monk would be When the devil got well the devil a monk was he," The Democrats at Washington, being in a minority, complain that "partisanship is the only test applied to the distribution" of Federal patronage, they are shocked at the enormous amount of the national expenditures, and they burn with indignation at the thought that "the public offices have been multiplied beyond all precedent to serve as instruments in the perpetuation of power." While it is quite possible that there is some truth, perhaps too much, in these charges, the wonder is that the party which has its chief seats of power at Albany and New York, and which finds its master-spirits in the Tammany Hall Ring, should presume to make such accusations at a time when the inherent rottenness of its own organization is so painfully apparent, Surely some better time should be chosen for these accusations than the moment when Tweed is completing his arrangements for the extension of a series of unprecedented exactions upon the tax-payers of New York, and when the evidences of his controlling influence over the Democratic organization are being multiplied. It may be wrong to make partisanship the only test applicable to distribution of patronage, but Democracy, who invented the doctrine that to the victors belong the spoils, who have maintained it with a vigor unknown to all other political organizations, and who do not even now pretend that they will ever depart from this cardinal principle of their faith, are not the men to denounce the Republicans for a partial imitation of their example. However wrong it may be to multiply public offices unnecessarily, what prudent citizen would venture to look for a reform of this abuse to the party of Tweed and Tammany Hall? Coming nearer home, how good policemen did Daniel M. Fox keep in office, despite their Republicanism; and how many bad ones did he appoint and retain in office, despite their deficiencies and delinquencies, simply because they were zealous and faithful adherents of the Democratic party? And how many De-

their partisan associates if they had the power?

Aside from the moralizing passages of the address of the Democratic Congressmen, its other paragraphs relate mainly to revenue reform (so-called) and the Ku-klux bill. The talk about revenue reform means free-trade, but the authors of this document have been too cowardly to say so in plain English. They wished to secure the signatures of all the Democratic Senators and Congressmen, and as a few of the number were anxious to win tariff votes in their districts, it was deemed impolitic to deal fairly and frankly with the people. The true attitude of the party is well described in the statement that it is for free-trade everywhere except where more powerful interests demand protection, when it suddenly becomes, in such particular localities, an ardent champion of domestic industry. But in reality it has not been for many years heartily in favor of protecting anything except slavery, and since its abolition it is at this moment heartily and sincerely in favor of the principle more nearly allied to slavery in its practical operation than any doctrine extensively advocated in this country, to wit, free-trade. The Ku-klux clause of the address is false

in some of its assertions and ridiculous in others. It has the audacity to assert that the Democratic party has no sympathy with attempts to deprive any man of his rights under the Constitution-an assertion which, in view of innumerable outrages upon colored citizens and in view of the doctrines openly proclaimed by a large portion of the Democratic party, is manifestly untrue. It also alleges that "no word of conciliation, of kind encouragement, or fraternal fellowship has ever been spoken by the President or by Congress to the people of the Southern States." This assertion is so preposterously and notoriously false that it is positively ridiculous. The whole address is so notably weak and deficient that it is charitable to suppose that its author, before preparing it, had indulged in an extra allowance of Bourbon, by way of mitigating his grief over the tendency of recent political events to heal dissensions in the Republican ranks and to ensure continued Republican ascendancy,

DR. DOLLINGER. Dr. John Joseph Ignatius Dollinger, against whom the Pope has hurled the major excommunication, was born at Bamberg, in Bavaria, on the 28th of February, 1799. He was educated for the Church, and, immediately after his ordination in 1822, was appointed chaplain to the dlocese of his native town. In 1826 he made his first appearance as an author, publishing in that year a work on "The Doctrine of the Etcharist during the First Three Centuries." This brought him into prominence, and the same year he was invited to lecture on the history of the Church before the University of Munich, a Roman Catholic institution, with which he has remained in connection until the present time as Professor of Church History. The

substance of his lectures was published in 1828, under the title of "Manual of the History of the Church," and in a more extended form in 1838, as a "Treatise on the History of the Church.

Turning his attention to political life finally, he was, in 1845, elected to represent the University of Munich in the Bavarian Parliament, becoming in 1851 a delegate to the Diet of the Germanic Confederation at Frankfort. Here he gave full vent to his extremely liberal opinions, and cast his vote for the absolute separation of the Church from the State. He then attacked the temporal power of the Pope, the abandonment of which he advocated in a series of lectures delivered in 1861. Throughout his long career he has frequently appeared as an author, all his works having a direct bearing upon the history of the Church and its relations to the State. His erudition is as accurate as it is ex tended, and he has long stood in the very front rank of the historians of the Church.

The action of the late (Ecumenical Council on the question of Papal infallibility served to fully arouse the venerable theologian, and during the discussion in the Council Dr. Dollinger assailed the arguments of the Papal party in a masterly manner, effectually exposing their absurdity, and bringing down upon himself the full measure of Papal wrath. He is suspected, also, of having been one of the unacknowledged authors of "Janus," the famous anti-infallibilist tract which appeared the year before the assembling of the Council. This suspicion tended to increase the disfavor in which he was held at the Vatican, and his final refusal, when called upon by the Archbishop of Munich, to give in his adhesion to the obnoxious dogma has resulted in his excommunication by the Pope. But Dr. Dollinger still holds his professorship in an orthodox Catholic university, and the grave question which is now presented involves his retention or removal from this post. It is understood that he will be supported fully by the Minister of Worship and the other lay functionaries of the Bayarian Government.

It is scarcely possible that, in opposition to them, King Louis will succumb to the demand for his removal; and in the event of his retaining his professorship, a lively and necessarily bitter warfare between the Liberal and Ultramontane parties in Bavaria is in prospect. Whatever may be the result of the struggle, the high reputation of Dr. Dollinger is beyond its reach, and in the end the cause of a liberal and enlightened Christianity will not be apt to

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