

A sleeping car on the Philadelphia and Erie Road caught fire near Lancaster, Monday night, and was totally consumed.

The House Committee for the District of Columbia, have discovered that seventy persons committed to the District jail have been recently bailed out and sold to substitute brokers.

Jacob Little, the great Wall-street stock operator, is said to have become deranged. His life for the last forty years has been one of continued excitement.

Those who are interested in the Erie Canal are exercised about the proposed ship canal around the Falls, fearing it will divert traffic.

A Paris letter says: "General McClellan intends to prolong his sojourn in Paris for some weeks, and thence go to Rome and Dresden, with the intention of spending next summer in the south of France, and returning to America next autumn."

General Grant writes that "if General Sherman's success continues a few days longer the country may safely indulge in exultation." In a private letter from the Lieutenant General he expressed the opinion that peace is not far distant.

Gen. Mosquera, President of the Republic of Columbia, and his Minister to London have arrived.

Gen. Grant, the War Department concurring, has declined an offer of Gov. Fenton of ten regiments of the National Guard for 100 days service in garrisoning the forts at Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, and other rebel ports.

The Louisville Journal says, editorially, the rebels are expecting soon to starve the whole country, and astonish the world.

A naval expedition of considerable magnitude is said to be fitting out at Cairo. The fleet will comprise 30 steamers.

A telegram from Memphis states that Major-Gen. Washburn has been assigned to that department.

Of all the coast forts seized by the rebels, and which Mr. Lincoln in his inaugural, declared it the duty of the Government to repossess, not one, since the possession of Fort Sumpter, remains in their hands.

One hundred paroled officers and nine hundred and seventy-five men reached Annapolis from Richmond last week. All were in a wretched condition, and three hundred were carried to the hospital.

Mr. John Overton, the Tennessee millionaire, who, it is said, gave \$5,000,000 to aid the rebellion, has deserted the cause, taken the oath, and is once more a peaceable citizen of Nashville.

The Grand Jury at Rochester have returned two bills of indictment against coal monopolists. The contents of the bills will not be made public until the parties indicted have been brought up to answer upon bench warrants.

Nevada produced \$15,000,000 in silver last year. That is about twice as much as the average annual production of the mines of Peru or of the mines of Mexico for the last two or three centuries.

The Springfield Republican states that Gen. Banks, not to permit the government or the public or himself to feel that he was a superfluous appendage to either the military or civil list, has offered his resignation to both the Secretary of War and President, and both have declined to accept it.

Estimates of Gen. Lee's strength, made from the best authority, prove him to have from 60,000 to 75,000 men, of which it is supposed, he has sent South to Beauregard from 10,000 to 15,000.

It is not considered probable, in military circles, that troops would be sent North to join Lee, as they would not be sufficient to enable him to attack Grant with any prospect of success, and their only hope is to impede and harass Sherman on his march northward, whose movements, so far, have been so completely enveloped by his cavalry, that they do not know within a hundred miles of where he will strike next, and consequently, have been unable to concentrate on his front.

From one of the returned prisoners, we learn that the Rebel prisoners sent back by exchange are sent south to join Hardee and Beauregard. The other day before leaving, Gen. Lee made a speech to about 1,500, telling them that it would only be necessary for them to postpone their furlough for a few days, when Sherman would be driven from his soil, and his army scattered and destroyed. They responded with more enthusiasm than do those troops who have been in such a state of destitution all winter in the rebel camps.

Advices from Mazatlan represent the surrounding country as thickly infested by Mexican guerrillas, on whom the French make constant reprisals, seldom taking any prisoners.

There are said to be at present about 154,000 tons of ice, varying from 12 to 16 inches in thickness, stored on the Hudson River.

The Hon. Johnathan L. Woods, an old and prominent lawyer of Lockport, died at that place Wednesday morning last.

In the New Jersey Legislature Wednesday the election for United States Senator was postponed until the 15th inst.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on Wednesday Feb. 16th, decided that unless there is a positive stipulation between the parties to the contrary, the party selling a property and furnishing the deed must likewise pay the stamp duty imposed by Act of Congress upon the same. It would therefore be well for parties buying and selling to have a clear understanding upon the subject.

About 3 o'clock Wednesday morning, Feb. 22d, a fire broke out in the second story of Asa Austin's store at Upper Lisle, and spreading rapidly soon destroyed the entire building. Only about \$300 worth of goods were saved. Total loss \$6,000 or \$7,000. Insurance \$2,700. Mr. Austin was absent at the time.

By virtue of the Constitution of Delaware, Gov. Salisbury, President of the Senate, becomes Governor of the State for the unexpired term of Gov. Cannon.

On Wednesday of last week about 50 guerrillas dashed into the town of Paoli, Tenn., burned the depot and robbed the families resident there.

Dr. Gwin's San Francisco organ denies emphatically that the Emperor Napoleon has withdrawn from the Sonora colonization scheme.

The Richmond Dispatch confirms the intimation that Sheridan is advancing down the Shenandoah valley at the head of 100 of the finest cavalry divisions in the service.

There was a rumor afloat in Wheeling Tuesday last, that the Union garrison at Bulltown, (Braxton County, Va.) had been gobbled up by a few of the enemy.

A dispatch from Oil City says a fire occurred at one o'clock Friday afternoon, which totally destroyed the New York Hotel, four dwelling-houses and the building occupied by Pool Brothers and Reisinger. The heaviest loss is on the New York Hotel. The buildings were new, just finished and ready to be opened in a few days. The insurance amounts to \$2,000. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. No further particulars have been received.

The Legislature of Vermont has sent the thanks of that State to the people of Philadelphia for their hospitality to Vermont soldiers passing through that city.

Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Thursday, March 9, 1865.

THE INAUGURATION.

On the Fourth of March, 1861, the oath of office was administered to President Lincoln, who had by stealth arrived at the Capital of the Nation. Washington then swarmed with open secessionists and secret enemies to the Union. The life of the Chief Magistrate was hardly deemed secure from the malevolence of the conspirators who sought the overthrow of the Nation. Addressing, on that occasion, the multitude which surrounded him, the newly made President plead in an honest and fervent manner for the peace and prosperity of the country, and for assistance to guide the good ship of State safely through the perils which had already begun to environ it on every side. His earnest desire was that the Union should be preserved inseparable and that the "madness which ruled the hour" should be allayed and our "erring Southern brethren" be brought back to a realizing sense of their duty to their country, and of the wickedness and futility of the schemes which had been formed, and which were just beginning to develop themselves. There was in his address at that time, nothing but words of kindness and persuasion—utterances which acknowledged the rights and privileges of the South—and which should have caused the wickedest and most desperate of the conspirators to pause in their mad career.

Since that time four years have passed—four years of fratricidal war, of unholy rebellion, of blood and carnage, and desolation. The South has been ravaged by the conquering armies of the North. The territory, confined to a limited section of her territory is now about exhausted, and tatters to its fall. Again President Lincoln takes the oath of office, and in compliance with universal custom, addresses his fellow-citizens, who surround him. On this occasion he is greeted by thousands of loyal hearts, and treason, if it be present, hides its head in silence and ad secret. The voice, which four years ago besought the Southern leaders to return to their duty and allegiance, now properly utters the truths which the events of the intervening time have written with characters of blood upon the history of the Nation. To those who have doubted, by the President, the realization of the causes and objects of the Rebellion we commend his plain and earnest words. "To strengthen, perpetuate and extend" the institution of Slavery "was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it."

In this war, with its desolation South, and its misery North, the President acknowledges the purposes of the Almighty. That it may speedily end is his fervent prayer, to which an anxious Nation will respond Amen!

WHO MADE THE WAR?

That pink of modesty, and honesty, R. M. T. HENRY, the sullen demagogue who used to figure in the United States Senate as a Senator from Virginia, and who, more recently was one of the rebel Peace Commissioners, made a speech at a war meeting held in Richmond, after his return from our lines, in which he says "We (meaning the rebels) are not responsible for the war." This bold and infamous falsehood is in character with the whole rebel programme. The rebellion was started on a lie, and it has been sustained by lies up to this hour. It could never have been inaugurated, if the people of the Southern States had not been deceived as to our feelings, and the intended action of the general government, towards them. All manner of frauds were perpetrated in order to mislead, and get them into a fighting fever against us, and now the brazen-faced HENRY says "we are not responsible for the war." What does the record say?

It is a well known fact, that the Southern democrats, who commenced the war upon the government, have almost always had, with the aid of their Northern allies, who invariably went with them on political issues, the control of the government, and could and did legislate about as they pleased. It is equally patent, that if the rebel ring-leaders had not deserted the government, they would still have had the control of both Houses of Congress, after President Lincoln's inauguration. This power too, they could, in all likelihood, have retained until their party was again in the ascendency, for it was through their own division that they were defeated.

Then, when the factions, discontented, and arbitrary South demanded new concessions, and new guarantees—all unnecessary because they had still power over the legislation of the country—many, perhaps the majority of the people of the free States, were willing to concede their insolent demands, not that they thought them right or just, or had any cause to make them, but because the slaveholders threatened to break up the government, if the North did not yield; and rather than have even a pretended cause for this, the people of the free States, were willing to submit to almost anything. With this view Mr. CRITCHELD, of Kentucky, introduced one set of pacific resolutions, and Mr. CORWIS, of Ohio, another for the purpose of satisfying these demands of the South. The moderate, and reasonable men of the South declared either of these measures ample, but they generally preferred that of the former. This measure, when it came up in the Senate was defeated by six of the Southerners refusing to vote, and these six scoundrels—HENRY among them—afterwards became the ring-leaders in the rebellion. Moreover, these men with their colleagues, who withdrew from the Senate, declared when leaving their purpose to make war upon the government. Then followed in rapid succession those aggressive acts upon the govern-

ment, such as taking possession of forts, arsenals, navy yards, ships, the robbing of Custom Houses, firing on the "Star of the West" when she was sent with provisions for Major ANDERSON. All this had taken place, and six States had passed edicts of secession, before President LINCOLN was inaugurated, and while the government was still in their possession, yet these impudent villians, have the hardihood to assert that "we are not responsible for the war." Nor did the government amidst these open assaults upon her rights resist them. So that no act of hers could offend, or aggravate the hatred of her enemies. She submitted quietly, and waited patiently, for the restoration of reason among the rebels; and A. H. STEVENS, the rebel Vice-President, declared in his Montgomery speech that the government of the United States had given them no cause for complaint. Yet they make war upon her, and are still not responsible for it. Well, this is one way of reasoning. We have the satisfaction of knowing that it is not believed, and SHERMAN is taking HENRY's falsehood home to roost. The government is defining its position, and this vile pettifogger of secession is ruled out. Right, justice, and truth are arbitrating her cause, and the verdict is, liberty, equality, and Union, now and forever inseparable.

CHARLESTON, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Since our last publication the news has been heralded to all corners of our land, that Charleston, the haughty, the guilty city of Charleston, has fallen. Her proud crest is lowered, her taunting insolence is silenced, and gloom and sadness hangs over her dismantled ruins. A just retribution. No fortunate event of this terrible war has been hailed with more quiet, serious satisfaction, by the Union-loving people of the North, than this closing scene of this mischievous, and rebellious city. Not that the loyal people take pleasure in her misfortune, nor that they bear malice, nor that they take delight in the suffering of their enemies. Nor yet, that they are pleased to see this turbulent city humbled to the dust, her population sent adrift, homeless, and breadless—for they would feed them if they could—and her walls darkened with the smoke of the scorched fire. No, for none of these are we satisfied; but, because justice has been done, because punishment has come where punishment was deserved, and needed, because the sword came to him who slew with the sword. If a man sets fire to an inhabited dwelling, burns it partly down, and some of the inmates are consumed in the flames, the right-minded, the humane, the just, nay all rejoice if the criminal is punished. Not that all these take pleasure in suffering, oh no, only this, that the merciless, the wicked, are punished for inflicting sorrow and suffering on others. So here—Charleston—(we can hardly name the blasted city with composure) deliberately kindled a civil war in the best government under the sun, and the consequent loss, sorrow, and suffering, no human tongue can tell; and people, the world over, so long as man lives, will rejoice that vengeance came to the perverse jade who kindled this torch.

Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, and second only to Charleston in criminality, fully as proud, as rich, as rampant in bitter hostility to the government, as influential in Southern councils, and as dominating, has also fallen into our hands. The conquering legions of SHERMAN took this boastful city, and her palatial surroundings. The first secession ordinance was concocted, promulgated, and adopted here; and here, as in Charleston, the last ditch of the chivalry was to be found. When the trial came, the vaunting braggadoocies of South Carolina, who were going to show the world an example of heroic devotion to a cause, such as had never been given before, took to their heels and ran when the yankee bayonets bristled in their sight. We suppose these braves consoled themselves with the old adage:

"He who fights and runs away, Lives to fight another day."

THE CHARGE.—Now that the conquering armies of the Union make the tottering cause of the rebels, daily more visible, the spiteful, sneering, boastful words, and tones of the rebel organs, are wonderfully changed. They now tell of SHERMAN'S glorious march thro' their territories, the fall of Charleston, the probable taking of Wilmington, of Raleigh, of Mobile, and even of Richmond, without promising any severe thrashing, or killing repulse, to the yankee armies. We hear nothing now about the impregnability of Fort Fisher, of the preparations made to receive TERRY, GILMORE, and SHERMAN "with bloody hands and hospitable graves." And our Northern democrats, the sympathisers, no longer tell us that the South cannot be whipped. We hear no more from them of the superior armies, of the superior equipments, of the superior discipline, of the superior tactics, and strategy of the rebels. No more do they tell us that our victories are humbugs, and give promise when the truth is known, they will turn out to be disastrous defeats to our armies.—Some of them seem to have lost all interest in the contest, such too, as used to be very busy, and were ever ready to give glowing accounts of rebel valor and success. From these travelling, noisy cunning democrats, who saw, and knew, long before hand, how this struggle would end, one can hardly get a word. They don't read the papers, they appear to be afraid the great SHERMAN, and his great army, will be engulfed. Poor fellows, they begin to see "nunc, nunc, tekel, upharin," on the wall; but no matter, so that the war is ended, the government is saved, the union perpetuated, and freedom is universal.

The reported expulsion of the American Consul from Matamoros is confirmed by the latest New-Orleans advices, and the report given that our flag had been hauled down by some person unknown.

FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, March 3, 1865.

On the 22d, Washington's birthday, the two Houses met at 10 o'clock, and, after the journal of the House was read, the Senators came into the Hall to listen to the reading of Washington's farewell address. The document was well read by the clerk of the House, and I was sorry to see so little attention paid to it; a great majority of the members were reading newspapers, writing letters, fawning documents or talking, and some were passing round the room. We have all read that address, perhaps many times, still respect to the occasion, and veneration for the author should induce us to listen to it whenever read upon a public occasion, with at least becoming stillness. After the clerk had concluded, Mr. WELSH, of Lehigh, moved that five thousand copies in English and three thousand in German be printed for the use of the House. KELLEY, of Washington, moved to strike out the German, this motion was strongly opposed and was finally voted down, by 70 yeas and 10 nays. Some one then moved to print one thousand in French, voted down. DONNELLY moved to print one thousand in Irish, voted down, by 39 to 55. MILLER, of Philadelphia, moved to add, in some number of Jackson's farewell address, agreed to. THOMAS, of Philadelphia, moved to print one thousand in Welsh, five thousand in French, and one thousand in Italian, not agreed to. Mr. BUDDEMAN moved to add five thousand in Latin, voted down. ALLAMAN, of Dauphin, moved to print five thousand copies in English of Jackson's Nullification Proclamation, and one thousand of Gen. Sherman's proclamation to the people of Atlanta, not agreed to. The resolution was finally amended so as to have ten thousand in English and three in German of the two farewell addresses. During these proceedings, a telegram was read in which it was announced that Fort Anderson was taken. This called forth a spirited applause in which one side of the House participated with great earnestness.

The Speaker's desk was ornamented with an elegantly executed portrait of Washington, which was presented by Miss ANNE L. COLLAZAY, a pupil in the "School of Design for Women," located in Philadelphia. The painting is creditable alike to the institution, and the young lady who presented it. But little except local matters are attended to. There are several important bills yet to be acted upon, but unless attention is directed to them soon, they will hardly be reached if the adjournment takes place on the 24th of March as it is now expected. The committee on ways and means has reported the finance bill, it has not been printed so I can give no information relative to it, this bill will occupy two weeks or more; then the revenue bill prepared by the committee of last year's legislation, has not been touched. I presume that there will be a week recess to allow the members to attend the inauguration, this will not leave much spare time before March 24th. Soldiers are coming in rapidly, not a day passes that companies do not pass out of the camp for the front, and frequently several companies per day.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.—The Moravia, from Liverpool Feb. 16, via Londonderry, Feb. 17, arrived at Portland Wednesday with two days later news.

The Rebel steamer Shenandoah was at Ferral and said to be leaky. The news of the Peace Conference produced a great depression in commercial and financial circles, which ceased, when from later accounts it became apparent that the war would go on.

The Oel of London claims to have received from special sources of information the terms of peace proposed by Lincoln through Blair to Davis. They are said to be as follows: Abolition of Slavery to be left to the Legislatures of the Southern States, restoration of the Union with the same rights of the Southern States as before, incorporation of the Confederate Army with the Union Army, with a view to foreign wars, the past to be forgotten.

Cardinal Wiseman died on Feb. 15. The French Chambers were opened by the Emperor on Feb. 15. His speech was entirely silent on the American question, and with regard to Mexico, expressed gratification at the consolidation of the Imperial Government and the development of the resources of the country.

CONGRESS.—The Senate sat all Friday night, and then went into Executive session. The Civil Appropriation Bill was the main feature, to which several amendments were made. The report of the Conference Committee, on the Amended Enrollment Bill, was concurred in. A number of private bills were passed. About 7 A. M., on Saturday, the Senate had a brief recess. Upon reassembling, the bill for the coining of three-cent pieces was passed. The question of admitting the Senators from Arkansas went over. While discussing the bill regulating Commerce between the States, the special matter being an amendment that no citizen shall be excluded from any public conveyance on account of color, the hour of twelve drew near, and preparations were made for adjournment. Vice President Johnson was introduced; Mr. Hamlin, the retiring officer, made a brief address, the oath of office was administered to Mr. Johnson, after some remarks by him, and Mr. Hamlin pronounced the Senate adjourned sine die. The Clerk immediately read the proclamation for an extra session, the new members were sworn in, and the Senate in a body joined in the ceremonies of the inauguration of President Lincoln.

The House was also in session all Friday night. A bill was passed regulating the disposal of coal-tips on the public domain. It was voted to print 35,000 copies of the report of the Commission on Flax and Hemp; 20,000 of the amended internal revenue act, and 35,000 copies of the Agricultural report for 1864. The House concurred in the Senate's joint resolution that this Government will never recognize the rebel debt on any condition. By a vote of 53 to 67, they non-concurred in the Senate's amendment to the joint resolution, changing from three to fifteen per centum ad valorem the duty on printing paper. The House refused to lay the resolution on the table, and asked a Committee of Conference. The Army Appropriation Bill was passed, omitting the section to compensate the Illinois Central Railroad for doing Government transportation. The Senate bill removing all disqualification of color in carrying the mails was passed. A resolution was adopted requesting the revocation of a military order requiring that all colored persons leaving the District of Columbia shall have passports. At 7:15 A. M., the House took an hour for breakfast. On reassembling, a few unimportant bills were passed. The bill to organize a Government for the Indian Territory was put over. The Committee of Conference on the Miscellaneous or Civil Appropriation Bill made a report. The question left unsettled was that introduced by Mr. Davis, of Maryland, exempting civilians from trial by court-martial and military commission. The contest on this point consumed the session, and while calling the yeas and nays on an unimportant motion, the hour of twelve arrived, and the Civil Appropriation Bill did not pass. The speaker then delivered an eloquent address, and the House adjourned sine die.

INAUGURATION.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

The procession reached the Capitol at about a quarter to twelve o'clock, escorting the President-elect. At a subsequent period the President and Vice-President, together with the justices of the Supreme Court, members and ex-members of Congress, foreign ministers and other persons of distinction, assembled in the Senate Chamber. There was a very large attendance, and the scene was one of marked interest. At 12 o'clock Mr. Johnson was introduced by the Vice-President of the United States, and addressed the audience until 15 minutes past 12. The members of the House of Representatives then entered the Senate chamber and stood behind the persons seated in the circles of the Hall. The oath of office was then administered by Chief Justice Chase to Mr. Johnson, and he was duly inaugurated to the office of Vice-President of the United States. The newly-elected Senators were then sworn in, and before 12 1/2 the marshals had cleared the Senate chamber. A procession, there formed of the persons on the floor, moved out of the Hall and entered the rotunda, pass to the platform erected on the steps of the east entrance of the Capitol. The Judges of the Court and the members of the Cabinet were, seated on the left of the Senators, and members of the House on the right of the stage. The members of the foreign legations were seated behind the Judges and Cabinet officers, and a pressing crowd of ladies, members of the press and other persons soon filled the stage and the landing of the east entrance to the Capitol. On the ground below and on the vast platform erected in front of the south wing, not a foot was left unoccupied. The vast assemblage extended into the park, half filling it with its swaying masses, and long columns occupied the streets beyond the public grounds. The procession from the White House had already arrived, and coiled itself in numerous folds in front of the Capitol. Just as the President and Vice President came forward and took their places between the officers of the Court and Cabinet around them. When President Lincoln appeared on the stage, the music of the bands was drowned by the cheers of the people. As soon as the marshal had quieted the multitude the President rose and thus addressed the people around him:

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS. Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural Address was as follows: Fellow countrymen: At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement of a course to be pursued seemed very fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declaration have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With respect to the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured. On the occasion corresponding to this, four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it; all sought to avoid it. While the Inaugural Address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to seeing the Union without war, insurgent agents were in this city seeking to destroy the Union and divide its efforts by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would surely have sought to divide the Union and the other would accept war rather than let it perish; and the war came. One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the conflict might cease so soon or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and prayed to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God to attend to their quarrels, but let us judge not that we are not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully.—The Almighty has His own purposes. We into the world because of offenses, for it must be that offenses come; but we do to that man by whom offense comes. If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of these offenses, which in the providence of God must needs come, but which having continued through His appointed time He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the scourge of their iniquities, the prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully.—The Almighty has His own purposes. We into the world because of offenses, for it must be that offenses come; but we do to that man by whom offense comes. If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of these offenses, which in the providence of God must needs come, but which having continued through His appointed time He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the scourge of their iniquities, the prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully.—The Almighty has His own purposes. 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