VOL. VI.

RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1876.

. NO. 43.

It was Christmas eve. I was spending it not in the sweet circle round the home fireside, but in the saloon of a It was an awful time, ma'am. Charlie Southward bound steamer, where there was nothing to remind one of the blessed season of peace and good will save a see he was almost wild with anxiety. I'll solitary cross of evergreen which one passenger had fastened over her stateroom door. It was a wild night. We were just off Cape Hatteras, and the vessel was rolling like a plaything in the hands of the stormy sea. A violent snowstorm was raging, and on deck the score was dearn end arctic. Snow and scene was dreary and arctic. Snow and ice covered everything, and the muffled forms of the sailors passing to and fro under the glare of the lanterns appeared like the weird ghosts of dead arctic voyagers. I was glad to seek the warm saloon and gather myself into a corner of a lounge. To watch the movements of the passengers was amusement enough, and served to prevent me from thinking too tenderly of the home circle where I was missed from the festivities

of Christmas eve.
The usual crowd was collected which one always sees on a steamer Southward bound in the winter time. Here around a table were gathered a group of men, probably sugar merchants, striving, in spite of the motion of the ship, to play a quiet game of euchre. Stretched on the sofas were ladies in all the stages of seasickness. A few children not yet put to bed were crouching on the floor with their nurses, and in a warm corner near the heater lay a poor consumptive girl, carefully watched over by her mother and brother. She was going to die under the orange trees. Only the old story repeated over and over again. every winter.

Moving round among all those who were sick was the trim, plump figure of the old stewardess. She was carrying bowls of broth, tumblers of chopped ice, and all those little delicacies so welcome to a sufferer from seasickness. The quiet, placid face of the old lady interested me, and in those few days already passed since leaving port we had become firm friends. With the quick instinct of a woman who had had to do with all kinds of people, she felt that I liked her company, and she had already formed the nabit of coming for a quet chat with me the last thing at night after all her seasick charges were safely tucked in their bertha and her duties for the day over.

I was impatient to-night for her leisure hour to arrive, for I saw a strange tenderness in the old lady's face, and felt sure that the season was arousing old memories in her heart, which per haps I could induce her to tell me. So when at last she came and sat down on one end of the lounge where I was ly ing, I said, trying to lead the conversation to what I felt was uppermost in her mind : "It's a rough night for Christmas eve."

"Yes, ma'am," she replied, smoothing the folds of the kerchief across her breast; "but I've seen many a rougher night at sea in my day, and "—thoughtfully-" saller Christmas eves, too, Have you spent many years on the

ean?" I asked. 'Yes, ma'am, but not in this way. ed to have my own little cabin in my husband's slip-a cozy little place, where I used to be always at his side, and never felt afraid of storm nor

"Tell me about it." I said. "Surely a life like yours has much of interest in

"Well, ma'am, I've been thinking it all over to-night, and if you don't mind, I'll tell you some of the things a sailor's wife has to pass through, and how her heart gets wrung very hard sometimes. "I hadn't much knowledge of those things when I married Charlie, for I was a slip of a girl then and knew no more of the sea than one learns in watching the vessels sail out of and into a quiet land bound harbor. So when Charlie asked me to be his wife and go to sea with him-for although he was young, he had a ship of his own-I said yes with all my heart, for I loved the honest hearted sailor, ma'am, ever since we were little children together. I only thought then of all the strange sunny lands Charlie had told me about, and to go to see them with him was to take a trip to paradise. Well, we were married just before he was to start on a off in his usual jolly way, kissing Mi voyage to Brazil. I mind me so well of that voyage, ma'am, just as if it all happened yesterday. It was late in November when we started, and right here off Hatteras we had a terrible gale. I was so trightened when the wind howled and whistled through the rigging, and almost wished myself back in the old cottage with mother-for I had a dear

mother then, God bless her memory!' The old lady's voice broke, and she stopped to wipe away the tears which ran down her cheeks.

"But when the wind blew the wildest, Charlie only laughed, and at last I cried myself to sleep in his arms like a frightened child.

"And when we came down into the warm tropic seas I was so happy watching the schools of flying fish and the great floating fields of gulf weed; and at night, when the sea was shining and the ship seemed passing through a lake of silver, all my dreams of paradise were

"Then came the foreign land, with stronge, swarthy faces, and words I didn't know, and odd fruits, and all manner of queer things. Charlie was never tired of bringing me new and cu-rious trinkets, and I made my little cabin as fancy as a Chinese toyshop.

"When we came home from that voyage, my little Minnie was born. She

"But 1 couldn't bear it: so when he summer had passed since Charlie went came home again, I begged him to let away, and when Christmas came round me go back to my home in the little cabin. He had found it desolate enough

never forget that time, when I sat and night on the cabin floor, with Minnie clinging to my dress and poor little Pepita in my arms, listening to the waves crashing against the ship as if every moment mu t be our last. The sailors would come down now and then

into the cabin and almost carried me in his arms to the door. There I saw, gleaming through the fog, two great chining lights. They were like angels' eyes looking from beaven to me. I've my whole heart going out in thanksgiving and praise. No one to whom they have not shone as they did to me that hight can know what they really mean, standing there on the headland and pointing to heave.

pointing to heaven. "We'l, we saw the lights from other nearly wrecked ship up the harbor, and before night I laid Pepita in my moth-

er's arms. suffering too; so, for the sake of my little ones, I consented to stay behind Charlie bought a little cottage on the Jersey coast, where I could overlook the sea, and I settled down quietly to take care of the children while he went

his voyages.

"He kept on going to Brazil and back for a long time. Twice I left the children with mother—for she had com to live with us in the cottage-and went with him, for it hurt me to pass all my life away from Charlie's side. So everything went well with us. We owned our foot of the cliff. When Charlie came home she was always the first to see him for down the road, and I'll never forget how her pretty face used to look as she woul ; come dancing up the garden path pulling him with both her bands, and he laughing and calling her all manner of tender names.

"Those were sunny days, ma'am nd I'm sure there never was a happier family than the one pathered round cur-tittle table while Charlie was at home. "We had saved a good bit of money too, for Charlie wasn't like some sail ors, who throw everything about when they are on shore. Every panny we could spare he laid by for the little

girls; for they were always little girls to him, and always will be.
"But our day of anxiety was to come An opportunity was offered Charlie to go on a long voyage to the East Indies. The chance, as we looked at it, was too good to be thrown away; so he sold the Pepita, which was getting to be an old ship, and went off as half owner of another bark, the Arago. It was hard to let him go for so long a time. South America seemed like home, but the East Indies was an unknown world. He was so full of hope that he tried to go nie and telling her she would be a little lands; but there was a great heaviness in my heart, and when he came and put his arm around me and said: 'Keep up A muff of "crown Russian sable" is

baby. school, and mother and I kept the house tidy. But I was uneasy; I didn't darent to say anything to trouble the girls, but I never lay down at night without dreaming of shipwreck, and when the time and sets of black and shver for at \$100 to \$250. These high priced furs are bought only by the rich, and are not generally fashionable.

A chinchilla muff and a boa cost from \$50 to \$60. time came round when we could expect news from Charlie, it seemed as if my which once were sold for \$125 to \$150. heart would burst with anxiety. The news never came. Day after day we wait d, and little by little a sad silence settled down on our cottage. When a few years ago, is still in fas word would come of the arrival of ships sells at from \$20 to \$25 the set. which sailed long after Charlie's did, we would look in each other's faces and never speak a word, but each knew what sorrow was in the other's heart. Only little Pepita never gave up. 'My father will come back; my father will come back; my father will come hack the way well I could be hack the way well I could be also as a could be also as well I could be also as a could be a will come back; my father will come dyed, can be bought for \$50, \$90 and back, she used to say, until I couldn't \$100. bear to hear her, because I couldn't believe it; and when she used to stand for

again I laid my poor mother in the churchyard, and came back alone with

THE STEWARDESS' STORY. for home, another baby was in my arms. We called her Pepita, after our dear old ship, and it was hard to say which the sailors petted the most, the ship or the baby.

"All went well with us until we were soothed me to hear the children talk and within three days' sail of New York, and then a terrible storm came on. It was in the winter, and for eight long days we tossed at the mercy of the tempest.

It was an awful time, ma'am. Charlie down, and we couldn't one of us speak

another word. "It was a sad Christmas eve, ma'am —the first one when all hope had really gone out, and when I lay down to sleep that night I felt that, except I must live for the children's sake, it would be such a blessing to die.

"Christmas morning was very clear, and I remember how the sunlight danced in our little kitchen. It fell for a drop of bot coffee and to warm their frozen fingers, for everything on deck was covered with ice. They hadn't the heart, poor fellows, to speak to the

Charlie in the room and Pepita's arms around his neck; then I fell on his shoulder like one dead.

"There are no words to tell you, eyes looking from beaven to me. I've passed those Highland lights many a time since, ma'am. I've seen them in soft summer evenings and clear spring selves. I didn't dare to take my eyes mornings, but I never see them without from Charlie for a moment, lest I should look back and find him gone. Minnie and Pepita both sat clinging to him. He had a long story to tell us of ship-wreck upon shipwreck, of long waiting upon lonely islands, watching month after month for sails which seemed never to come—adventures through vessels all around us, and at daybreak a which many a poor sailor has passed, tug was alongside taking our forlorn, and from which many a one has never come back to tell the story as Charlie

"That night, sitting by the fire after my going to sea again. He said he could bear anything if the children were not suffering tree as for the children were not leave me again but a leave me again. sea and stay with us in the cottage.

"I didn't realize "till long afterward how hard it had been for him to promise me that. I had come to have such a terror of the sea that I couldn't realize how a sailor's heart delighted in it. When years had passed, and Minnie and Pepita had both married and left us alone, I began to feel how hungry Charlie was for the life he had loved so much. He used to spend his time wan-dering about the docks and going on poard the ships in from foreign ports; and sometimes he would sit on the cliff for hours with his spyglass, watching cottage and a bit of a garden, where mother end Minnie used to pass long the passing vessels, and more than once summer days weeding and watering and I heard him sigh as it his heart was tending the beds of poppies and mari- bursting; but I would never listen golds and asters—old fashioned flowers when he spoke of going to sea again, such as mother loved. Pepiti was her until at last his health began to fail, father's own girl. She loved the sea, and it seemed there was nothing for him and would leave Minnie to take care of but to return to his old life or die. But the garden, and go and sit for hours on the beach watching the waves tumble in the couldn't bear to leave me behind. among the stones and beat against the We were both too old to begin life over in the long trading voyages; and as Charlie had the offer of the place of first mate on this ship—the captain is an old friend of his, ma'am-I got the situation

trength to bear the journey." The old lady stopped and looked hesitatingly at me and at some other passengers who had gathered near to sten, as if she feared we were wearied

by her long family history. I hastened to reassure her by thanks for the pleasant way she had entertained us during the long Christmas eve at sea. "And so Charlie is really on board with you ?" I said.

"Oh, yes, ma'am," she replied, smil-g. "I would not be here without ng. him. Did you mind the man who was speaking to me at the cabin door tonight—the tall, stout man with a gray beard? Yes, you saw him, did you? That was Charlie."

Winter Furs and Their Prices.

The most splendid and costly furs are Russian sable, sea otter and black and silver fox. The Russian sable is the nie and telling her she would be a little silver fox. The Russian sable is the he did not look up sgain, although I woman when he came back—she was finest of all the martens, and, since it is could see that he heard every word we fourteen then—and promising Penits to fourteen then—and promising Pepita no not very prolific, its skins are costly, end of curious things from the foreign the best and darkest are obtained in

your courage, Maggie; I'll soon be now worth in New York from \$1,100 back, I couldn't look a' him. I hid my down to \$300. Sets (by which is meant face in my hands and sobbed like a a muff and boa) of sables not of the very highest quality cost \$500 to \$550. Sets "After he was gone we settled back of sea ofter are valued at \$150 to \$250, into the old ways; the children went to and sets of black and silver fox at \$100

New York and Canada minks are the When a few years ago, is still in fashion and

The most beautiful sealskin sacks

Sicilienne sacks and dolmans are lined with the skins of Siberian squirrels, was a darling blue eyed baby, and Charlie was so anxious for her comfort that he persuaded me to stay at home with mother, and he went on the next voyage alone.

"A summer and winter and another discovery that he persuaded the went on the next worked alone that he went on the next worked to stand for home and whose beautiful gray backs and lighter colored belies make a pretty shifting contrast. Such sacks, with border of squirrel edging, are set off by fancy oxidated clasps, and are fixed at \$125 to

A young man in Bridgeport, Conu., pulled back so hard, when his compan-

ONE OF DICKENS' CONVICTS.

Spending a Lifetime in Solitary Confine-ment---Decorating a Cell Under Dim-culties---A Singular Character.

Over thir y years ago, says a Phila-delphia letter, when Charles Dickens made the tour of this country that re-sulted in his "American Notes," he de-voted much of his time to the inspec-tion of our prison system. Our principal prison, then as now, was the Eastern penitentiary, in which the system of solitary confinement prevailed. Mr. Dickens in a few graphic sentences pictured the miserable condition of the unhappy convicts to whom the sound of a human voice is almost unknown for year after year.
That Mr. Dickens' notion of the sys

tem was a fair one, the experience of many years and the testimony of some of the best minds of the age have shown; but many men the heart, poor fellows, to speak to the children, and I saw more than one tear on their rough cheeks when they looked at them, and Pepita would smile and stretch out her little hands in her unconscious baby way.

"But God saved us after all. In the evening of the eighth day the wind changed, and we drifted into calmer waters. If it hadn't been for the east have drifted the other way, for the ship was almost helpless. It was about two in the morning when Charlie rushed into the cabin and almost carried me in Charlie in the room and Pepita's arms

"I don't know how it all was; I know to say grace, when—oh, as light and airy thirty years ago as it is now, and a recent personal visit convince me that it is as pleasant and wholesome a place as is compatible with massive stone walls and unyielding bars of iron. Possibly Mr. Dickens' imagination, as is apt to be the case with men of such high strung sensibilities, was wrought upon by his surroundings. At all events, these who read his vivid description will shuder more at the price of the many men are still living—some of them now within the walls of the prison itself—who are ready to testify that the institution was as light and airy thirty years ago as it is now, and a recent personal visit convince me that it is as pleasant and wholesome a place as is compatible with massive stone walls and unyielding bars of iron. Possibly Mr. Dickens' imagination, as is apt to be the case with men of such high strung sensibilities, was wrought upon by his surroundings. At all events, these who read his vivid description will shuder more at the walls of the prison itself—who are ready to testify that the institution was as light and airy thirty years ago as it is now, and a recent personal visit convince me that it is as pleasant and wholesome a place as is compatible with massive stone walls and unyielding bars of iron. Possibly Mr. Dickens' imagination, as is apt to be the case with men of such high the walls of the prison tready to testify that the institution was as light and still living—some of them now within the walls of the prison itself—who are ready to testify that the institution was picture so powerfully brought before them, than they would be apt to at the

original.

The building covers a square, and branches off from a circular hall in the center into seven long corridors, all well lighted and excellently ventilated. Everything is as clean as soap and water can make it, and within the cells, which are ranged along the corridors in two tiers, there is neatness and cleanli-ness which would shame many model honsewives.

In Dickens' time there was a prisoner of forty years or thereabouts, whose dejected appearance especially attracted the attention of the novelist. He was in the corridor fronting the entrance, and had devoted all the time allowed him from his work to painting and ornamenting his cell and cultivating his little garden—a patch of ground about eight feet long and five or six feet wide. Dickens describes the cell and the garden briefly, but devotes a long para-graph to the downcast expression and

demeanor of the prisoner.

It was the arrest of this man—Charles Langheimer by name—that suggested this letter. Laugheimer was discharged from the penitentiary in September last, and lately was brought up before a magistrate charged with stealing an overcoat. He is seventy-four years old, with bushy gray whishers and grizzled hair, and has all the appearance of a well-to-do mechanic. As far as I can ascertain, he is not a hard drinker, but say that his long life has been one constant series of larcenies. In prison he loves to work, and shows great taste and ingenuity; but, once at large, his itch-ing of the fingers returns, and he is soon in trouble again. When Dickens saw him, he was serving his third term for grand larceny. Since then he has "done" three terms of five years each, nd five others of a year or two each, returning to the prison with the regu-

larity of the seasons.

The cell he occupied in 1842 is one of the side shows of the prison, but the as stewarders, and for three years Char-lie and I have been traveling back and forth together, and we will continue to garden is not as well kept as it was then. The walls and ceiling of the cell are elaborately painted in red, blue, and do it as long as God gives us health and strength to bear the journey."

green. Every time he comes back he tries to get his old cell; but failing in this, he goes to a new one, and contentedly begins the work of embellishment When I saw him, just before his release, he had spent nearly a year in a cell in the southern tier, and had painted and arranged it so thoroughly that it looked almost inviting. The paint he obtained by soaking colored yarns in which he worked in water, and extracting the dye. Such trifles as he could obtain from the chaplain or the warden he utilized with wouderful ingenuity. His garden bed, like that described by Dickens, was coffin shaped, but his flowers were the brightest and most blooming in the prison. He sat at his wheal as the warden ushered me into the cell, looking up with a pleased expression at the sound of our voices, but never stopping his work for a second. An expression of surprise at his wonderful ingenuity drew forth a faint, flickering smile which was painful to see, but after the first glance said, and watched our motions sharply out of one corner of his eye.

He will take up his old quarters for a year or two more, and I am glad to say that his comfortable cell has been reserved for him. He is a standing argument for the authorities of the prison in favor of the silent system. "Why, they say, "if this man wanted to, he could get out of this State and into New York as soon as he is released, for our prisoners seldom go away empty hand-ed, and there he could serve his time in Sing Sing or on Blackwell's island and herd with his fellows. This system may not work the same with all men, but the stories of insanity arising from solitary confinement are all bosh. Invariably we find that our insane prisoners were mentally unsound when they came to

Anticosti Island. It is believed that the Canadian government will renew its efforts to colonize Anticosti island—that narrow strip of land which lies between the coast of Labrador and Quebec. The surround-ing waters teem with fish, and the land said to be fertile in most parts of the island. At present there are nearly a hundred fishermen living in rude but comfortable cabins on Anticosti. These have earned an ample livelihood by curing fish and taking them in skiffs to Gaspe bay, where their supply mer-chants are located. A Quebec steamer, the Napoleon III., runs to the island once a month with fresh supplies for the lighthouse keepers and employees and for the agents of the Anticosti Colo-

THE U. S. TREASURY.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer of the United States.

The moneys received and covered into the treasury by warrants during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, were as follows: 30, 1876, were as follows:

From customs.

From internal revenue.

From sales of public lands.

From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks.

From repayment of interest by Pacific ratiway companies.

From customs' fines, penalties, etc.

From labor, drayage, storage, etc.

From labor, drayage, storage, etc.

From proceeds of Indan-trust lands.

From proceeds of sales of government property.

From marine lospital tax.

From steamboat fees.

From tax on seal skins.

From infecellaneous sources.

Total ordinary receipts...... Total net receipts, exclusive of Proceeds of bonds of 18s1, Geneva .\$287,482,039,16 6,613,820.12 Balance in treasury, June 30, 1875, in-cluding deposits of coin and United States notes represented by certifi-cates outstanding. Total net receipts

Total available each\$438,738,231.69 BEPREDITURES. The not expenditures by warrants ame period were: For civil expenses...... For foreign intercourse. For Indians For Indians
For pensions
For military establishment, including
fortifications, river and harbor improvements, and areanals....
For naval establishment, including
vessels and machinery and improvements at navy yards.

For miscellaneous civil, including
public buildings, lighthouses, and
sollecting the revenues.

collecting the revenues.

or interest on the public debt, including interest on bonds issued to
Pacific railway companies clairus 6,641,287,26 08,580,752.08

Total net disbursements...... Balance in treasury June 30, 1878... This statement shows that the net revenues for the fiscal year were... \$287,489,000.16

And that the net expenditures were... 258,439,797,35 Leaving a surplus revenue, exclusive of provision for the sinking fund of \$29,029,241.5

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE PISCAL YEAR The receipts during the first quarter were : From internal revenue.
From sale of public landss.
From tax on circulation, etc., of national banks.
From repsyment of interest by Pacific railways.
From customs' fines, etc.
From consular, patent and other fees From proceeds of sales of government property. 3,534,707.87

425,684.75 \$78,110,524,49 Proceeds of bonds of 1881, Geneva 2,402,445.53 award...... Total net ordinary receipts..... Balance in treasury June 20, 1876 ...

The expenditures during the same period were: For civil and miscellaneous expenses, including public buildings, lighthouses and collecting the revenues. \$15,937,203,41 For Indians. 1,434,765,93 For pensions. 9,582,257,98 For military establishment including fortifications rives and barbon for the civil person of the civil person o ing fortifications, river and harbor improvements, and arsenals. For naval establishment, including vessels and machinery and im-9,715,661,35 or leterest on the public sebt, in-cluding Pacific railway bonds.....

Alabama Claims..... 2,353,634,21 Total expenditures. \$84,725,176.24 slance in the treasury, Sept. 30, 112,597,526.08

For the remaining three quarters it is estimated that the receipts will be: From customs..... From internal revenue..... From sale of public lands..... Prom tax on national banks. From reimbursement by Pacific rail-From customs' fines, penalties, and forfeitures From consular, patent, and other fees From proceeds of sales of public property. From miscellaneous sources, includ-

lug premium on coin..... Total net receipts \$191,181,925 10 For the same period it is estimated that the ex-penditures will be:

Total ordinary expenditures. . . \$158,876,350,00 Total ordinary expenditures. .. \$158,576,330,00 It will be observed from the statement of actua receipts and expenditures for the first quarter, ending September 30, and of the estimates of the same for the remaining three quarters, based upon existing laws, that it is expected that the revenues for the current fiscal year will yield the sum of \$256,492,449.50, and that the expenditures will amount to \$237,628,753.35, which will leave a surplus revenue of \$25,603,603.24.

The amount which should be applied to the sinking fund is estimated at \$33,705,805.67. The surplus revenues will fall below that amount, in the opinion of the department, by not less than \$7,042,-110.48.

The Chinese.

The commissioners who are taking testimony in California as to the Chinese mainly hear expressions of local prejudice; but in Col. Hollister, one of the most extensive farmers in the State, they secure a witness on the other side. He said : "I do not think there are half enough Chinamen in the State. I am in favor of letting all come that will. I believe that in the cities the savings banks have larger deposits from laboring men in proportion than in any other State. In the country most of the earniugs of the white laboring men go down their throats in whisky. The honesty and sobriety of the Chinese are so exemplary that I have serious thoughts of but there is no reason why they would not make as good citizens as any other class of foreigners. Among the farmers without me, so he said, and we went again together.

"How I got through the next year, "How I got through the next year, "This voyage we lay a long time in the Brazilian port, and before we sailed the Brazilian port, and before we sailed the cottage.

"How I got through the next year, ma'am, I can never tell. As I look back truth of the story is vouched for by the Bridgeport newspapers.

"How I got through the next year, ma'am, I can never tell. As I look back truth of the story is vouched for by the Bridgeport newspapers.

"How I got through the next year, ma'am, I can never tell. As I look back truth of the story is vouched for by the Bridgeport newspapers.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

On the opening of the session the certificates of election of Jorome B. Chaffee and Henry M. Teller, United States Senators from the State of Colorado, were presented. In drawing for terms, Mr. Chaffee drew for the long and Mr. Teller for the short term.

Mr. Davis (Dem.), of West Virginia, presented the credentials of Samuel Price, appointed United States Senator from West Virginia, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hen. A. T. Caparton.

pointed United States Senator from West Virginia, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hon A. T. Caperton.

The new Senators, together with Mr. Blaine, of Maine, whose appointments were laid before the Senata last summer, advanced to the deak of the presiding officer and were sworn in by him. Mr. Pices taking the modified eath.

Mr. Edmunds (Rep.), of Vermont, submitted a resolution, which was read, ordered to be printed and lie on the table. It provides that the committee on privileges and elections when appointed be and it is hereby instructed to inquire and report as soon as he may—first, whether in any of the elections usmed in the second section of the Fourteenth amendment in the Siaves of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi in the years 1875 or 1876, the right of any portion of such inhabitants and citizens to yote has been in any wise denied or abridged; second, to what extent such denial or abridgement has been accomplished

ment has been earned; by what means such denial or abridgement has been accomplished and by whom.

The resolution also provides for inquiry as to the eligibility of any person elected on the seventh of November last

Mr. Ingells (Rep.), of Kansas, introduced a joint resolution, which was ordered to be printed and lie on the table, recommending a convention to revise and amend the Constitu-

convention to revise and amend the Constitu-tion of the United States. Mr. Morton (Rep), of Indiana, submitted a Mr. Morton (Rep), of Indians, submitted a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States so as to provide for the election of President and Vice-President of the United States by the direct vote of the people, which was read, and it was ordered that it lie on the table until the appointment of committees, and then be referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

ferred to the committee on privileges and elections.

Mr. Edmunds (Rep.), of Vermont, moved to
take up for consideration the resolution submitted by him, ordering an inquiry into the
late election in South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. The
resolution, after much discussion and several
amendments, was adopted.

Mr. Withers (Dem.), of Virginia, submitted
a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate, if not incompatible with the
public interest, under what authority and for
what purpose troops of the United States occupied Petersburg. Va., on the seventh of Nevember, 1876, the day of the election. Objection was made by Mr. Edmunds, and the resolution was laid over.

lution was laid over.

A bill providing that the revised statutes shall be emended so that the election for President and V.cc-President shall be held in October, and that the electoral college shall meet in the January following, was referred. House. In the House Samuel J. Randall (Dem.), of

Pennsylvania, was elected Speaker in place of M.C. Kerr, deceased, receiving 161 votes to e-ghty-two for James A. Gavfield. The new Speaker in taking his seat paid a high compliment to his predecessor, saying that he was a good and great man. In concluding his remarks he said:

are the adherents of a party, and only remembering that we are American citizens, with a country to save, which will be lost if unauthorized and unconstitutional rots on the part of executive officers be not frowned down at once the country was laboring under an enorgenize of the country was laboring under an enorgenized country was laboring under an enorgenized country was laboring under an enorgenized country to save, which will be lost if unauthorized country to save a save and the save xecutive officers be not frowned down at once ith releutlessness and unspaying condemna-

The following new members, elected to fill vacaricies, were sworn in: Mr. Warner, of Connecticut; Mr. Frye, of Maine: Mr. Humphrey, of Indiana; Mr. Carr, of Indiana, and without a war, and in amanner highly honorphrey.

Mr. Stanton, of Pennsylvania.

Objection was made to the swearing in of Mr. Buttz, of South Caroline, and Mr. Belford, of Colorado. In relation to the latter, Mr. Springer (Dem.), of Illinois, offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to in-

mittee.

Mr. Hewitt (Dem.), of New York, presented a resolution providing for the appointment of three select committees—one of fifteen members to proceed to Louisiana, one of six members to proceed to Forida, and one of nine members to proceed to South Carolina, to investigate the action of the returning or canvassing boards as to the recent elections in those States, and to report all the facts essential to an honest return of the votes for electors of President and Vice-President, and to a fair understanding thereof by the peonle, and whether the electoral votes of those States wholld be counted. The committees are to should be counted. The committees are to have power to send for persons and papers, to 1,200,000.00 take testimony, to appoint sub-committees with like powers, and to employ stenographers, clerks and messengers. This was adopted by a vote of 155 to 78.

The Speaker announced the appointment of

The Speaker announced the appointment of the South Carolina committee as follows: Messrs. Sayler, of Ohio; Abbott, of Massachusetts: Stenger, of Pennsylvania; Eden, of Illinois; Jones, of Kentucky; Philips, of Missouri; Banks, of Massachusette; Lapham, of New York, and Lawrence, of Ohio.

On the States of the Union, the Speaker announced the following select committees:
On Louisiana, Mr. Morrison, Ill.: Mr. Jenks, Pa.; Mr. McMahon, Ohio; Mr. Lynde, Wis.; Mr. Hou e, Tenn.; Mr. Phelps, Conn.; Mr. New, Ind.; Mr. Ross, N. J.: Mr. Townsend, Pa.; Mr. Dauford, Ohio; Mr. Hurlbut, Ill.; Mr. Orapo, Mass., and Mr. Joyce, Vt. On Fforida, Messre, Thompson, Mass.; De-On F'orida, Mesers. Thompson, Mass.; De-bell, Mo.; W. O. Hopkins, Fa.; Garfield, Ohio, and Donnel, Miss. On the South Carolina committee, the name

of Mr. Cochrane, Pa., was substituted for that of Mr. Stenger, Pa., excused an account of ill-ness in his family.

The Sultan's Ironelads.

The late Sultan Abdul-Aziz was justly proud of the magnificent ironelads he had acquired—so proud that he always kept them moored within sight of his palace, that he might feast his eyes supon them, and invariably requested all foreign naval officers who came to Constantinople to inspect them. Among these officers was Sir Hastings Yelverton, when in command of the Mediterranean fleet. Sir Hastings found the vessels in admirable order, and the crew in a high state of discipline; but, on inquiring when they went to sea, he learned that they never did so at all. Shortly afterward he had an audience of the sultan, who asked his opinion of the interpreter, that they were as good as any he knew, and that the crews were in excellent training, but that he would respectfully suggest to his majesty that it would be well to send them to sea at least once a year for practical maneuvers. The sultan had this repeated and translated to him a second time, as though he doubted the correctness of what he heard; and then, raising his hands and his eyebrows, he ejaculated: "What! Send my ironelads to sea! No, no! No, no becoming a pagan myself. The Chinese are generally healthy, and work to the full extent of their ability. They shame our own people in habits of cleanliness. I never met with a Chinaman who desired to become a citizen, but there is no reason whether well as good as any he knew, and that the crews were in excellent training, but that he would respectfully suggest to his majesty that it would be well to send them to sea at least once a year for practical maneuvers. The sultan had

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:—In submitting my eighth and last annual message to Congress, it eeems proper that I should refer to and in some degree recapitulate the events and official acts of the past eight years. It was my fortune, or my misfortune, to be called to the office of Chief Executive without any previous political training. From the age of seventeen I had never even witnessed the excitement attending a Prosidential campaign but twice antecedent to my own candidacy, and at but one of them was I eligible as a voter. Under such circumstances it is but reasonable to suppose that errors of judgment must have occurred. Even had they not, differences of opinion between the Executive, bound by an eath to the strict performance of his duties, and writers and debaters must have arisen. It is not nece sarile vidence of blunder on the part of the Executive because there are these differences of views.

MISTARES HAVE BEEN MADE,

as all can see and I admit, but it seems to me oftener in the selections made of the assistants appointed to aid in carrying out the various duties of administering the government. In nearly every care selected without a personal acquaintance with the appointee, but upon recommendations of the representatives chosen directly by the people, it is impossible where so many trusts are to be alletted that the right parties should be chosen in every instance. History shows that no administration from the time of Washington to the present has been free from those mistakes, but I leave comparisons to histors, claiming only that I have acted in every instance from a conscienhave acted in every instance from a conscien-tious desire to do what was right, consti-tutional within the law, and for the very best interests of the whole people. Failures have been errors of judgment, not intent.

commenced, too, at a most critical and diffi-cult time. Lees than four years before the country had emerged from a conflict such as no other nation had ever survived. Nearly one-half of the States had revolted sgainst the government, and of those remaining faithful to the Union a large percentage of the popula-tion sympathized with the rebellion, and made an "enemy in the rear" almost as dangerous as the more honorable enemy in the front. The latter committed errors of judgment, but they maintained them openly and courage-ously. The former received the protection of the government they would see destroyed, and reaped all the pecunary advantage to be gained out of the then existing state of affairs, many of them by obtaining contracts and by MY CIVIL CARRER

SWINDLING THE GOVERNMENT in the delivery of their goods. Immediately on the cessation of hostilities the then noble President, who had carried the country so far through its perils, fell a martyr to his patriotism at the hands of an assassie. The intervening time to my first inauguration was filled vening time to my first inaughration was filled up with wranglings between Congress and the new Executive as to the best mode of 'recen-struction," or to speak plainly, as to whether the control of the government should be thrown immediately into the hands of these who had so recently and persistently tried to destroy it, or whether the victors should con-tinue to have an equal voice with them in this control.

M. C. Kerr, deceased, receiving 181 voice to egity-two for James A. Garfield. The new Speaker in taking his seat paid a high compliment to his prefecessor, saying that he was a good and great man. In concluding his returned in the people lock confidently to your moderation, to your patient, calm, firm judgment and wisdom, at this time fraught with so many perils. Let us not, I beseech of you, disappoint their just expectation and their keen sense of right, but by vigilance provent even the slightest departure from toe Constitution and laws, forgetting in the moment of difficulty that we have the adherents of a party, and only rememmost heartily, urging the leg

> rebellion, and taxation was so oppressive as to discourage production.

able to all parties concerned. Taxation has been reduced, within the last seven years,

nearly \$300,000 000. THE NATIONAL DEBT

Springer (Dem.), of Illinois, offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to inquire and report at as early a day as possible, whether Colorado is a State in the Union, and directing that until such report is received no person claiming to be a Representation from Colorado shall be sworn in as a member. The Colorado shall be sworn in as a member. The question was referred to the Judiciary committee.

Mr. Hewitt (Dem.), of New York, presented a resolution report of the Judiciary companies.

ichabiting a large portion of the territory of the United States which has been humane and has substantially ended Indian hostilities in the whole land except in a portion of Nebraska, and Dakets. Wyoming and Montana Territorios, the Black Hills region and approaches thereto. Hostilities there have grown out of the averice of the white man, who has violated our treaty etipulations in his search for gold. The question might be asked, why the government has not enforced obedience to the terms of the treety probibiting the occupation of the Black Hills region by the whites? The answer is simple. The first immigrants to the Black Hills were removed by the troops, but rumors of rich discoveries of gold took into that region increased numbers. Gold has actually been found in paying quantity, and an effort to remove the miners would only result in the desertion of the bulk of the troops that might be sent there to remove them. All difficulty in this matter has, however, been removed, subject to the approval of Congress, culty in this matter has, however, been removed, subject to the approval of Congress, by a treaty ceding the Back Hills and approaches to settlement by citizens. The subject of Indian policy and treatment is so fully set forth by the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of Indian affairs, and my views so fully expressed therein, that I refer to their reports and recommendations as my own. The relations of the