The Press

PHILADELPHIA: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—Who has the Key of the Bastile? Personal and Political: Slavery in the Kansas Territories; A Bold Villain. FOURTH PAGE.—An Aged Citizen; "A Keerful Shepherd;" Marine Intelligence.

The Future of The Press.

We have received a number of letters, from friends in Pennsylvania and other quarters, desiring to know whether it is the intention of the Editor of this journal to retire from its columns, or to abate any of his former interest in its management, in consequence of his election to the post of the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States. In reply, he has only to say, that, although absent from Philadelphia, it is his purpose to return to his editorial post as frequently as his public duties will permit, and while absent to continue to contribute to its columns, either by way of correspondence or editorially. THE PRESS will be strengthened and improved in all its departments, and we hope the day is not far distant when we shall be enabled to increase its dimensions without increasing the rates of subscription. Our friends may rest assured that the Editor of THE PRESS regards his journal as far more important than any public position, and that he will look to it at all times as the main object of his personal and political ambition.

European Politics.

The foreign news is important. First, with respect to English affairs, the Queen's speech at the commencement of the Parliamentary session, on the 24th ult., tells much more than such manifestos usually do. Though called a Speech, it is nothing but a carefully-composed bundle of generalities, hashed up into set and usual form by the Cabinet, and, as their exposition of the condition of the British Empire and their future legislative and fiscal intentions, placed in the hands of the Queen, who reads it, as her "Speech from the Throne." But it is acknowledged, universally, to be simply the Ministerial programme. Be it remembered that, if any thing go wrong in the Government, it is not the Queen, but her Ministers, whom the British Constitution holds responsible.

The British Ministry, therefore, have made Queen VICTORIA proclaim to the world that England had accepted the joint invitation of the Emperors of Austria and the French to join the Congress for the adjustment of the Italian question—strongly declaring that in such Congress England should "steadfastly maintain the principle that no external force should be employed to impose upon the people of Italy any particular Government or Constitution." There has been delay in the meeting of Congress, but PALMERSTON, to prevent all mistake, makes Queen VICTORIA repeat this declaration, saying, "whether in the Congress or in a separate negotiation, I shall endeavor to obtain for the people of Italy freedom from foreign interference by force of arms in their internal concerns, and I trust that the affairs of the Italian Peninsula may be peacefully and satisfactorily settled." This means that England will not aid the Austrian Grand Dukes to be thrust back upon Tuscany, Modena, and Parma, by foreign bayonets. This, if boldly acted upon, insures the liberty of Italy—for all that the Italians desire is to be allowed to hold to the independence which they have won.

The Anglo-French expedition against China, (condemned in Parliament, by several speakers, as too hastily entered upon,) is mentioned as "intended to compel redress and the fulfilment of the stipulations of the treaty;" but if the Emperor of China promptly acquiesces in certain "moderate demands which will be made by the plenipotentiaries," French and English, the necessity for the employment of force will thereby be obviated. What may be the *moderate* demands of two such filibusters as England and France, each anxious to obtain Chinese territory, is left to conjecture.

No anxiety is expressed upon the San Juan difficulty to the two countries, and as defined by the first article of the treaty of 1846."

The fourth and last great point in the Queen's speech (for the promise, for the twentieth time, of a Reform Bill, is almost *matter of form*), is contained in the following brief announcement: "I am in communication with the Emperor of the French with a view to extend the commercial intercourse between the two countries, and thus draw closer the bonds of friendly alliance between them."

This refers to a Treaty, between England and France, signed since the Speech was delivered, whereby, to a certain extent, the Emperor NAPOLEON, some eighteen months from this time (August, 1861), will introduce Free Trade, to a limited extent, into his dominions. This Treaty, it has transpired, has been in course of negotiation since last August—during the angry period, indeed, when stupid John Bull had the notion that NAPOLEON was meditating by day and dreaming by night of nothing less than invading England, taking London by storm, plundering the Bank of England, establishing a Provisional Government in Whitehall, converting Buckingham Palace into a barrick, turning the Lord Mayor out of Guildhall, and placing the Protect of the Seine at the head of the turtle-fed Corporation, and making a bonfire of Windsor Castle. On the contrary, NAPOLEON was quietly engaged, with RICHARD COBDEN and MICHAEL CHEVALIER, in perfecting a plan which, if carried out, will bind France and England closer, in the relations of mutual interest, than they ever yet have been. Well might the poet say:

"Peace hath her victories no less than War,"

and this is of them.

Protection, abolished in England by Sir ROBERT PEEL in 1846, has long been a drawback upon the productive industry of France. In a new country, Protection may be an advantage, if not a necessity—but there was no need of it in France. NAPOLEON'S plan embraces the following points: Raw materials, such as cotton and wool, are to be relieved from all duty, a step which will inevitably lead to the abolition or material reduction of the duty on iron and coal. The tax on sugar and coffee is to be gradually reduced; the means of convoyance and transit are to be improved and cheapened; agriculture and industry will be encouraged by Government loans; works of public utility are to be promoted, and prohibitive duties suppressed. In short, it is the design of the Emperor to stimulate the utmost productive power of France, and to establish such relations with other countries as will open their markets on terms of mutual advantage to the products of French industry.

There will be an increased demand for raw cotton, of course, but France will be supplied from England, most probably, unless a new commercial treaty with this country be also concluded.

Although this be only the commencement of the Free Trade system in France, it may be taken as the wedge very fairly driven in. In time, no doubt, British and French manufactures will be exchanged on fair terms. French fashion will patronize the muslins of Lancashire, and English women will gladly accept of the silks of Lyons at a reasonable price. Above all, Free Trade between France and England will do a great deal to substitute the light wines of Bordeaux and Lette for the highly-brandied ports and sherries of Portugal and Spain.

Lastly, on the twentieth of this month, Lord JOHN RUSSELL is to introduce the new Reform Bill into the House of Commons. The Session promises to be a busy one.

THE OPPOSITION NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR.—A few days since we published the opinions of the Harrisburg correspondent of the *Sunday Dispatch*, as to the prospects of the candidates of the Opposition for the nomination for Governor. The correspondent of the Pennsylvania *Inquirer* seems to take a different view. In his letter of the 6th inst., he says:

"It is, now, well ascertained in political circles that the contest for Governor has narrowed down to Guthrie and Taggart, who are, beyond all question, the leading candidates.

"The following will probably be the result of the first ballot. If all the gentlemen enumerated remain in the field: Curtin, 36; Taggart, 32; Covode, 32; Ziegle, 13; Kline, 10; Reeder, 9; Haines, 5; Calvin, 7; Todd, 3. Whole number, 185. Necessary to a choice, 97.

Church's "Heart of the Andes."

Mr. Church is an artist of whom the Americans may be proud, not only because he has great talent, but because that talent has been cultivated and brought to its present perfection without the usual finish of the Italian school. Mr. Church's manner is, therefore, all his own. He possesses wonderful neatness and finish; his coloring is utterly free from exaggeration; he draws well. All these excellencies are to be found in "The Heart of the Andes;" but these qualities constitute not a great painter—consequently, can never suffice for a great picture. Mr. Church's compositions are deficient in grandeur. Take any portion of this picture, and consider it in detail, whether it be the foliage of the trees or the luxuriant under-brush, or the clear, heaven-reflecting waters, each and all separately are admirable. The way in which the light is thrown on the foreground is original and happy; yet, as a whole, the picture is rather a disappointment. As we gaze, the gigantic Andes dwindle in one's imagination. Can *this* be the luxuriant nature of which we hear such wonders? Is *this* the glowing landscape brightened by the hot sun above warmed by volcanoes beneath?

The picture tells nothing. Instead of the Andes, it might represent, with equal fidelity, the heart of Tyrol, or the heart of the Swiss Alps. The picture is cold, wanting in elevation and character. Strange to say, it is wanting in the Ideal, proving that the transcendental school, to which Mr. Church eminently belongs, has but the semblance of poetry and imagination. If transcendentalism tends to make small things and small people great, it certainly, per contra, makes great things small. Mr. Church's painting is an illustration of the tendency of this school.

In order to help the *judgment* of those who view the picture, a neat little pamphlet, in vesture of brown and gold, is (for the sum of fifteen cents) furnished the visitor. Certainly, if hard words constitute criticism, and phrases in which there is not a glimmering of meaning, represent taste and art, this brown and gold production, by Rev. L. L. Noble, is the very some of perfection—but for ourselves, being "of the earth earthy," we prosaically consider such passages as the following, nonsense: "There, overlooking both a continent and the Pacific, pouring her floods into the one, and rolling them across the other, she sees silvas and pampas alternately welter in the rains and pant in the blaze of endless summer. Around these, in extents that imitate the expanses of the sea, rivers wind their glittering coils. Fit foreground for these vast Cordilleras, whose sovereign height, gleaming forever with Arctic ice, repeat the dome of the sky into which Omnipotence has built them."

If a book was to be written about this picture, we should like to have been told something about the artist's journey to the Andes. Some account would have been pleasant of his adventures in this artistic exception. But here, in twenty-four pages, we have one page and a half about the picture—nothing about its history; in fact, all we have is high-flown, insipid, meaningless bombast. To the thinking, common-sense portion of the public, such an introduction can but prejudice them against the picture—one of great merit, but not in one single point bearing the stamp of highest genius and "imagination all compact."

Public Amusements.

CONCERT OF MONSIEUR AND MADAME BAUCARDE.—Both these artists are great celebrities in Europe, but they have come so rately before the American public that few among the audience of last evening were prepared for the artistic excellence and admirable voices they found. Signor Baucarde was, we believe, the original Manrico in "Trovatore," and was, for four or five years, prime tenor at the Grand Opera in Paris. He possesses a lovely tenor voice; none we have heard here exceed it in sweetness, (not even Brignoli's); and it has, besides, a sympathetic, touching quality, which is the great charm of a tenor. Baucarde sings with great feeling and expression. His method is pure and in simple good taste. He was *encored* in "Spirto gentil," from "La Favorita," most deservedly, for it has never been better sung in this country. Mme. Baucarde possesses a mezzo-soprano voice, fresh, powerful, and expressive. She is full of dramatic power and feeling, and left on the public a regret that she could not be heard in opera. She is essentially a dramatic singer—a GRZZANIGA, *with* a voice, and *knowing how to sing*. We are persuaded that she would, in opera, become a great favorite with the Philadelphia public. Signor Arditi, whose smooth, even voice and artistic style have before been appreciated here, joined Mons. and Mme. Baucarde in the glorious trio of "I Lombardi," which was given with soul-stirring effect. Signor Maccaferri, a boisterous tenor, who sang here with the Misses Heron, was not more agreeable to hear last night than when he first *displeased* the public here. Mr. M. H. Cross gave us musical *transcriptions* of cascades and fountains, which, from the cold brilliancy with which he played them, must have been flowing in the Arctic regions. Mr. Cross is an excellent musician—but very bad at an accompaniment. It may be beneath a great pianist to play for vocal music, but to the uninitiated, the blunders and bungles appear like ignorance, rather than like absences of condescending genius. Mr. and Mme. Baucarde will give another concert on Saturday, which will, no doubt, after the success of Wednesday evening, were well attended. At Walnut-street Theatre Mrs. Thayer had a very crowded house. At the Arch Miss Jane Coombs also had a very numerous audience. She has left a favorable impression by her youth and intelligence.

Two benefits take place this evening—Mrs. John Drew's, at Arch-street Theatre, and Mr. Joseph D. Murphy's, at Walnut-street.

Mrs. John Drew is the most useful and popular stock-actress now in America—we do not except even charming Mrs. Hoey of Wallack's Theatre, New York, because Mrs. Hoey is not tasked to perform numerous characters out of her own line, whereas Mrs. John Drew frequently is. Her good nature, in this respect, is only surpassed by her talent. The pieces she has selected for her evening are "Everybody's Friend," the farce of "One Coat for Two Suits," and the everlasting drama of "Robinson Crusoe." What a crowded house she will have, to be sure!

Mr. Murphy, who was John Drew's agent for a long time and is now the business-man Inst-street Theatre, takes a benefit, this evenin, for the first time during many years. His principal attraction will be Mrs. Cecil Rush, after a long absence, as *Bianca*, in Milman's "Fazio." His whole programme is attractive. Mr. Murphy has a great number of friends, who ought to stand by him on this occasion, and they will do so, no doubt.

NATIONAL CIRCUS.—An extraordinary performance was introduced at Dan Rice's Great Show on Wednesday evening, and is announced for repetition to-night, called "L' Echelle Perilleuse." The performer, Mr. Penney, ascends to an iron frame, which is suspended immediately under the arch of the proscenium, and there goes through a variety of difficult gymnastic feats and postures, after which he flings himself from his elevated position across the stage to a single rope, suspended at the opposite side of the arch, which he catches, and by which he descends to the ground. The fearful height at which these feats are executed renders the effect really thrilling, and the performer must possess remarkable nerve to attempt them. To-morrow afternoon will be the last day performance of the "Magic Ring," which is to be withdrawn to make room for other novelties.

Freemasonry in New Jersey.

The Grand Commandery of the Knights Templars for the State of New Jersey will be constituted at Burlington on Tuesday evening next, 14th instant. The Grand Master of the United States has appointed Sir Knight J. L. Hutchinson, of Philadelphia, his proxy to dedicate the commandery and instal the officers. A large number of knights from Philadelphia and New York will be present to assist in the solemn and imposing ceremonies.

PORTRAIT OF MR. GUINNESS.—The people in this community who have listened to the stirring eloquence of this gifted young pulpit orator will be glad to learn that a splendid photographic likeness of him has been obtained, of which copies are now being furnished to many of his admirers. The picture referred to—the only one for which he has sat in Philadelphia—was executed at the gallery of Mr. F. Gutekunst, No. 706 Arch street—where duplicates are now to be had—whose pictures, we may add, have attained a wide celebrity for their fidelity and general artistic effect.

ILLUSTRATED NEWS OF THE WORLD.—We have received the number for January 21, from Messrs. Henry A. Brown & Co., Hanover street, Boston, the principal agents in America. In addition to the supplement portrait on steel, with memoir, of that eminent British preacher, the Rev. John Angell James, it has portraits of the Rev. David Thomas, editor of *The Homilist*, and originator of *The Dial*, just commenced as a London weekly journal, and soon to be issued as a daily;—of Macaulay, the historian, and of General Prim, the Spanish commander in Morocco. A very capital number this is.

ELEGANT FURNITURE, PIANO FORTE, &c.—This morning, at 10 o'clock, at the auction store, No. 914 Chestnut street, Messrs. Birch & Son will sell a large assortment of new and second-hand household furniture, elegant piano forte, stereoscopic slides, &c.

SALE OF WATCHES, JEWELRY, AND FANCY DEAD GOODS.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell this morning, at 10 o'clock, an assortment of fine jewelry, watches, head goods, &c., &c., to which the attention of the trade is invited.

A LUCKY CONVICT.—The Montreal *Pilot* says that a Mr. Thomas Stephens, formerly a clerk in the City Bank, in that place, convicted eighteen months ago, on his own confession, of forgery, and sentenced to imprisonment for five years in the penitentiary, has just come into a fortune of $400,000.

☞ The Warren (N. J.) *Journal* notices the death of a cow, caused by a snake two feet long, and an inch in diameter, dying inside of her. The snake was of the water species, and it is supposed the cow swallowed it when small, in drinking from a brook.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1860.

The confirmation of Francis J. Grund, in place of Mr. Vesey, as the American consul at Havre, France, was effected by one of those peculiar combinations, not uncommon in Senatorial management. It is now nearly seventeen years since precisely a similar feat was performed in regard to Mr. Grund. He was nominated by acting President John Tyler as American consul to Antwerp, Belgium, and was rejected because of his tergiversations in politics, during the Harrison and Tyler campaign, in 1840-'41. James Buchanan was then a Senator from Pennsylvania, and although strongly indisposed to take any part in regard to the Administration then in existence, he allowed Grund to importune him, went into secret session one day and had him confirmed amid a roar of laughter. From that day to this, Mr. Grund has acted many parts. The service conferred upon him by Mr. Buchanan was forgotten at once, and when he was subsequently recalled by President Polk, (Mr. Buchanan being at that time at the head of the State Department, he embarked in the most offensive crusade against the Secretary of State, and from that time up to 1856, has been his consistent opponent. General Cass, the venerable premier, did not forget that Grund was his foe while opposing and forgetting Buchanan, and accordingly he has pressed him before, and presented him to the President for consul to Havre, with the utmost perseverance. Let me do General Cass the justice to say that he holds on to his old friends with a fidelity which seems to increase with his years. Grund won the heart of Cass in the campaigns of 1848 and 1852, when he opposed Buchanan. When the old hero of the Northern frontier was called into the chief office of the Cabinet he resolved to take care of Francis J. Grund—and he did.

There was some difficulty in inducing Mr. Buchanan to agree to his appointment to so important a position as consul to Havre, because, whatever may be said to the contrary, it was no easy thing to convince the President that he could sustain himself before the country by appointing a man who had been so conscientious and so courageous in his antagonism to him; but when the argument was suggested that he had deserted and betrayed Judge Douglas, he agreed to send his name into the Senate. A virtual rejection followed. Mr. Grund was greatly displirited at the result. He called upon Senators at their rooms, and, after a great deal of persuasion, induced Senator Cameron to take an interest in his behalf, and to lead in the movement for reconsideration, and in the final vote which led to his confirmation. I am told that Mr. Cameron justifies his course in regard to Grund upon the ground that he owed him such service because they had worked together against Buchanan. I have no doubt that if the Republican party should succeed in the coming Presidential election, Grund will be found among the most importunate to insist that General Cameron, to be consistent with himself, should demand his retention in the highly lucrative position to which he has just been elevated. I am sorry to hear that Grund, who has now grown to be an old man, is "unlearning contempt," and is laying down his porcupine quills, and takes every occasion to advertise his purpose to be reconciled with those who have heretofore denounced him. He has extraordinary intellectual powers; but if he desires to prove that he falls in moral qualities, it is not too late, at his time of life, to reform this defect.

It is high time to revive in the recollections of the American public the following letter of Stephen A. Douglas, on the subject of the Presidency, written from Washington nearly a year ago. In the subsequent complications, growing out of the various aspirants for the Presidential prize, this missive cannot fail to be read and considered by the masses of the American Democracy:

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your letter, inquiring whether my friends are at liberty to present my name to the Charleston Convention for the Presidential nomination.

Before this question can be finally determined, it will be necessary to understand distinctly upon what issues the canvass is to be conducted. If (as I have full faith they will) the Democratic party shall determine in the Presidential election of 1860 to adhere to the principles embodied in the Compromise measures of 1850, and ratified by the people in the Presidential election of 1852, and reaffirmed in the Kansas-Nebraska act of 1854, and incorporated into the Cincinnati platform of 1856—as expounded by Mr. Buchanan in his letter accepting the nomination, and approved by the people in his election—in that event, my friends will be at liberty to present my name to the Convention, if they think proper to do so.

If, on the contrary, it shall become the policy of the Democratic party (which I cannot anticipate) to repudiate these time-honored principles, on which we have always stood in the past, and which have led us and them the Convention shall interpolate into the creed of the party such new issues as the revival of the African slave trade, or a Congressional slave code for the Territories, or the doctrine that the Constitution of the United States of itself establishes or prohibits slavery in the Territories, beyond the power of the people legally to control it as other property—it is due to candor to say that, in such an event, I could not accept the nomination at the hands of the Democracy.

Trusting that this answer will be deemed sufficiently explicit, I am, very respectfully, your friend,

S. A. DOUGLAS.

TO J. B. DOBE, Esq., Dubuque, Iowa.

The Republicans have taken time by the forelock in regard to the distribution of the printing fund of the House of Representatives, and, instead of allowing it to be absorbed by two or three prominent newspapers, have adopted the wise policy of making it of American politics. This is what Mr. Buchanan should have done when he came into the Presidency in 1857, and if he had done it he would at once have ridden himself of all the troubles, annoyances, and complications which are now harassing him. The truth is, the public printing has become a vast gambling machine, and has heretofore been used by a few speculators for their own personal purposes. Now, if the Republican leaders, impressed by recent admonitions, and keeping John Brown constantly before their eyes, will create a great newspaper *dedicated to national* politics, and, inspired by the spirit of chivalry, they will do more, I will not say to help their party, but to set an example to journalism in this quarter, than all the jobs they could vote for.

OCCASIONAL.

Letter from "Ezek Richards."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, February 9, 1860.

After a controversy between Stanton, of Ohio, and Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, about the action of the latter in the election of a printer to the *Thirty-fifth Congress*, and an *ineffectual attempt* to enter upon the election of a similar officer to this Congress, the standing committees were announced amid a great hush of expectation. As was expected, Corwin is chairman of Foreign Affairs; Sherman, chairman of Ways and Means; and Grow, manager-in-chief of the Territories. Hickman has got the Judiciary; Haskin, Public Expenditures; and Stanton, of Ohio, Military Affairs. After the reading of the names, Farnsworth, of Illinois, and Reagan and Hamilton, of Texas, begged to be excused from the places assigned them. The Texans gave their reasons, and were indignant.

The President's annual message was then read, and the House adjourned.

Our Art Association opens to-night, when an address will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Samson, president of Columbian College. How much better would it have been to have had an artist on the occasion! It seems that here everything must be under the guidance of a clerical professor of some church. The exhibition promises well. Among the New York artists who have contributed are: Hicks, Fenchsel, Alanson Fisher, S. Coleman, Charles Elliot, D. M. Carter, Mrs. Eliza Greatorex, Jerome Thompson, Oertel, Edwin White, C. T. Dix, McRae, (the engraver,) and others. Philadelphia is excellently represented by Schussin in a splendid picture, Franklin before the Privy Council at Whitehall, in 1774; Rothermel, W. T. Richards, Ed. Moran, Winner, and others, about whom you shall hear more. EZEK RICHARDS.

CURIOUS CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.—It will be recollected that some time since Mr. Henry Williams was arrested and held to bail in five thousand dollars by the United States Commissioner and Justice Connolly, on charges of taking a letter from the post-office addressed to Mr. Williams, and forging the name of F. A. Williams, by which operation he defrauded the Norwalk (Conn.) Bank of three thousand dollars. The accused strenuously protested his innocence, but as he was positively identified by the clerk of the post-office as the man who received the letter, and by the clerk at Adams' Express office as the person who received the three thousand dollars brought by them from Norwalk, for Mr. F. A. Williams, his protestations obtained no credence.

Two days ago a new development was made in the case. A second Williams was arrested by Officer McDougal, of the detective police. Curiously the fact came out that the latter Williams from poverty, had risen suddenly to apparent affluence and to driving his fast team on the Bloomingdale road. In the mind of the sharp detective, it was a matter worth investigating. He did investigate. He became familiar with the second Williams, drank wine with him, told stories, and rode with him in his dashing buggy. Williams No. 2 is of a communicative disposition. He told the officer that "Williams of the bank" had given him a lucky dog; and in one of his wild revels drank mysteriously to the brightness of bank cashiers.

At the right moment Officer McDougal arrested the criminal and liberated Williams. He was charged outright with having obtained Mr. F. A. Williams' note and the money upon it. He denied it, of course. His trunks, at his residence in Twelfth street, near Fourth avenue, were searched, and specimens of his handwriting obtained. A positive resemblance was found to exist between the same and the note to the cashier. He was taken before the post-office clerk, and the clerks at Adams & Co.'s Express. *They all identified him at once as the man.*

James S. Williams, for this is the name of the latter Williams, is now locked up in Eldridge-street jail, awaiting a full examination in the case.—*New York Express, last evening.*

THE LAW'S DELAY is not always as disadvantageous as might be supposed. The case of Mary Beck is an instance in point. Not long since she was tried in the Quarter Sessions on a charge of infanticide. Her friends strong efforts were made in her behalf, and the jury, *while forced to convict, recommended her to mercy.* The sympathy of the judge was naturally enlisted in behalf of the girl, and she was allowed to go upon bail without being sentenced. Since then it has been discovered that the "sweet innocent" is a second edition of the famous Lizzie Primrose, who is now in the penitentiary on the charge of robbing numberless houses wherein she was employed as a domestic. And she been sent to prison last week, the term of imprisonment would have been very slight. Now there is a probability that she will receive the penalty due to an almost unprecedented violation of law in one so young.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVIth CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 1 o'clock.

Mr. LANE, of Oregon, presented a petition in favor of the homestead bill.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of further legislation for preventing violence and crime on board of the merchant marine.

Mr. THOMPSON, of New Jersey, presented a petition in favor of the freedom of the public lands.

Mr. Fitch, of Indiana, resolution to print fifteen thousand extra copies of the agricultural portion of the Patent Office Report was taken up and adopted.

The resolution by Mr. Fitch to print ten thousand extra copies of the Report of the Patent Office on the arts and Manufactures occasioned debate, and was voted down.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, moved to reconsider; which being carried, he offered an amendment to print two thousand extra copies.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, offered an amendment that a sufficient number be printed to furnish one copy to each extensive family.

Mr. SIMMONS, of Rhode Island, moved to refer to the Committee on Patents.

Mr. CLAY, of Alabama, said the gentlemen on the other side keep up this discussion in order to prevent the passage of the resolution till the election of printer by the House, so that the work can be done by him. He hoped that the Senators on his side would act them out.

Mr. SIMMONS said that the senator from Alabama had no right to impute motives. The votes and opinions of the Senators on the other side were alike.

Mr. FITCH wished to make a statement. Important documents had been in the hands of the printing committee a long time, but not reported. It was possibly intended to occupy time so as to allow the Senators' friends to settle their quarrels among themselves. It now appears as if they intended to keep it up till the end of the session. The Senators on that side contradict their speeches by their votes, and seem determined to defer the publication till the election of printer. The Senator from Alabama had well said what the motives were and the Senator does not deny it.

Mr. SIMMONS said he had not alluded to the printing committee. When they brought a man for the job, it will be time enough to impute motives. He insisted on his motion.

The motion to refer to the Committee on Patents was lost.

The subject was debated at length by Messrs. Hamlin, Collamer, Davis, Fitch, and others.

The amendment to furnish one copy to each patentee was agreed to.

Mr. Davis' amendment to print 2,000 extra copies was agreed to, and the resolution was adopted by a vote of 34 yeas to 24 nays.

THE POST OFFICE BILL PASSED.

The Post Office deficiency bill was then taken up and reported to the Senate.

Mr. GREEN, of Missouri, proposed the amendment that six per cent. interest should be received by the contractors in full of all claim for damages, and that the contractors only should receive the interest. Six per cent. is not sufficient to pay the damages the contractors sustained by the failure of the Government to pay its debts. Injustice was also done to the sureties by excluding them from receiving interest because they had bought certificates with the expectation that they should get the interest. This business was too small for the Senate to attend to.

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, said the contractors could decline to receive interest, and file a claim for damages.

Mr. MALLORY, of Florida, moved to strike out the clause giving interest to contractors only.

Some debate ensued.

Mr. HALE, of California, hoped that the Government would not violate its engagements with the contractors. The conduct of the Senators will be remembered in the Presidential election.

Mr. FUGH, of Ohio, said that the whole case was the regular interest on debts, and a correct measure for damages. We do not know the meanings in the matter. The Postmaster General had no right to issue new certificates. The contractors had advanced money on these certificates, and needed funds to take them up to prevent their sacrificing them.

Mr. GREEN asked who ever heard of the person who violated a contract affixing the measure of damages.

The amendment was rejected by yeas 19, nays 30.

The question was then put whether the interest be paid to the contractors themselves, and was lost, all of claims for damages and be receipted for accordingly, was then adopted by a vote of 36 yeas to 18 nays.

All the amendments made yesterday in committee were agreed to.

An amendment was offered by Mr. TOOMBS, of Georgia, totally abolishing the franking privilege.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, moved to fix the time for the 10th of April.

Mr. TOOMBS accepted the amendment.

The amendment was then agreed to by yeas 31, nays 21.

And the bill, as amended, was then passed.

The Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, moved that the House proceed to the election of a Printer, and demanded the previous question.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, moved that there be a call of the House, which was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. HOARD, of New York, it was resolved that the Committee on Public Expenditures inquire into the expediency of the printing of the House, and report at the earliest day a bill fixing the price of extra paid, as public justice and a due regard to rigid economy in expenditure shall require, and that they have power to examine witnesses, and report at any time.

The House refused to second the previous question by a vote of yeas 74, nays 85.

Mr. STANTON, of Ohio, moved that the rules of this subject should be passed over for the present. He did not think any good could come out of electing a printer at this time. He wished to state the reason why they should not proceed to this business.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, gave a reason for his motion, said he desired to complete the organization of the House. We have been now a week elected. Whoever should receive that office would not be selected by any one more closely than by himself. Let the printer be elected, and then we can go on. We know certain gentlemen were not provided for was no reason why they should be allowed to elect a printer for a majority of the House elect somebody. He renewed the demand for the previous question.

Mr. STANTON replied that the postponement of the election of a printer would not delay the legislative business of the House. The postponement of the Republican party, sharing as it does largely in the responsibility of legislation, before they elect a printer, to prevent a monopoly of the business at rates which will afford no such spoils.

Mr. SHERMAN replied that the language of the fact that, at the beginning of the last Congress, a provision was attached to the motion to proceed to the election of a printer, that Congress or the Government should be reducing the rates and regulating the mode and manner of executing the public printing. He now added this to the motion.

Mr. STANTON replied that at the last Congress the gentleman elected was a man of the highest rank of the city, and, having no facilities to execute the work, he made an arrangement for one of the best houses in the country to execute it. He (Mr. Stanton) had talked on the storms and elsewhere, and attributed to his political friends some of the noble patriotic sentiments on their behalf of political corruption, which the Republicans condemned. He would say to the gentlemen on his side not to have these things hurled back on him when he went to the stump.

He was proposed to an election under such circumstances. He resented his desire to prevent the plundering of the public treasury, and he would do it. He (Mr. Stanton) had his support. In 1850 the Republican first ballot voted for Cullom, including Mr. Colfax. In the time on the Indiana delegation, Mr. Colfax had nominated Cullom for speaker, and he was elected. He (Mr. Stanton) wished to see by a mechanic or a carpenter, he would employ one who was here. He would never hire him from Philadelphia or from the Northern States. It is a tint knowledge that the work was to be farmed out and used for political and party purposes. They proposed to put in nomination a gentleman who is not a printer and who has no means under his control for executing the work. He believed the time for an election had not yet come. He had a curiosity to see the standing committees. He believed an election was premature. He did not know how they were constituted, and was aware of no reason why they should not be announced in advance of the election. He hoped not be considered in favor of a postponement, so that they might all see where this thing is to end.

Mr. COLFAX, of Indiana, said no person could have felt more reluctant to place himself in the uncalled for and unprovoked attack of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Stanton.) Nothing that he had done to that gentleman, either in his personal or political relations, could have justified him in his allusions. But as the gentleman had seen fit to refer to what he (Mr. Colfax) did in previous Congresses, in justification of his course (Mr. Stanton) intended to do now, he wished all the facts to be laid before the House. He (Mr. Colfax) returned to the record of the XXXIVth Congress, to show that he repeatedly voted for Mr. Forney. Finding that it was morally and politically impossible, he (Mr. Colfax) the votes for Mr. Defrees, after he had learned that Mr. Forney's friends had declined being a candidate, he mentioned other circumstances in the connection in justification of his course. He asked Mr. Stanton whether, if his favorite had been nominated, he would not have voted here as he had to day?

Mr. STANTON replied that he candidate had made arrangements to do the work himself, on his own accounts and responsibility.

Mr. COLFAX was understood to say that Mr. Stanton's friend owned no office here.

Mr. STANTON replied that he had contracted to have his work done on his own presses.

Mr. COLFAX resumed, and said that Mr. Defrees had been a practical printer for thirty years, as well as a publisher and editor, and is as well calculated to superintend the execution of any work as any man who lives on this continent. The gentleman from Ohio had said he was much surprised at the conduct of his political associates, but he (Mr. Colfax) would be the last to make a charge against the facts to prove it.

Mr. SHERMAN moved the previous question to read as follows: "That the House now proceed to the election of the printer of the XXXVIth Congress, and that it be the sense of the House retain the right to modify the existing law as they may see proper; the printer receiving the appointment to be subject to the action of the House, and that a committee be appointed to examine the law in relation to printing, and the prices specified therein, and that they report thereon with the least practicable delay, suggesting such changes or improvements as they may deem desirable."

The House again refused a second demand for the previous question—yeas 67, nays 77.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, the election of a printer was then postponed till next Monday—ayes 103, nes not counted.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Speaker then announced the standing committees.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS—Messrs. Sherman, Davis of Maryland, Phelps, Stevens, Washburne of Maine, Millson, Morrill, Crawford, and Spaulding.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE—Messrs. Washburne of Illinois, Wade, John Cochrane, Eliot, Smith of North Carolina, Morehead, Lamar, Nixon, and Stevenson.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS—Messrs. Stanton, Curtis, Robinson, Buffinton, Olin, McRae, Pendleton, Lonergan, and Boteler.

COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS—Messrs. Morse of Maine, Bocock, Pottle, Washburn of Massachusetts, Curry, Sedgwick, Harris of Maryland, and Schwartz.

COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES—Messrs. Grow, Perry, Smith of Virginia, Goode, Vallandigham, Hickman, Case, Vallandigham, and Ashley.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY—Messrs. Hickman, Bingham, Houston, Taylor, Nelson, Kellogg of Illinois, Reynolds, Robinson of Rhode Island, and Porter.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES—Messrs. Dawes, Campbell, Boyce, Maston, Stevenson, Garrett, Stratton, and McKnight.

COMMITTEE OF CLAIMS—Messrs. Tappan, Hoard, McClernand, Ely, Moore of Alabama, Walton, Maynard, Hale, and Robinson.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS—Messrs Thayer, Lovejoy, Cobb, Cocode, Davis of Indiana, Dunlap, Venable, Vorster, Windom, and Barrett.

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICES AND POST ROADS—Messrs. Colfax, Woodruff, English, Adams of Kentucky, Alley, Davis of Mississippi, Craig of Missouri, Helmick, and Lee.

COMMITTEE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Messrs. Curtis, Kilgore, Hamilton of Texas, Garnett, Conkling, Tyror, Edgerton, and Anderson of Kentucky.

COMMITTEE ON REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS—Messrs. Briggs, Perry, Cox, Vance, Davis of Indiana, Dejarnette, Holman, and Fenton.

COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES—Messrs. Haskin, Palmer, Edmundson, Killinger, Somers, Hindman, Wood, Clopton, and Fouke.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE AND CLAIMS—Messrs. Washburn of Wisconsin, Clark B. Cochrane, Avery, Kenyon, Hawkins, Hamilton, Anderson of Missouri, Bouligny, and Blair.

COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES—Messrs. Adams of Massachusetts, Scranton, McQueen, Leake, Moore of Kentucky, French, Dunn, Texas, and McKean.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE—Messrs. Butterfield, Curtis, Whiteley, Stewart of Pennsylvania, Wright, Bristow, Aldrich, Burch, and Grow.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS—Messrs. Ethbridge, Burroughs, Woodson, Farnsworth, Clark of New York, Scott, Leach of Michigan, Edwards, and Aldrich.

COMMITTEE ON THE MILITIA—Messrs. Tompkins, Irvine, Jenkins, Webster, Quarles, Ruffin, Wells, Packer, and Simms.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS—Messrs Corwin, Burlingame, Barksdale, Grow, Stokes of Pennsylvania, Branch, Royce, Miles, Hill, and Humphrey.

COMMITTEE ON REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONS—Messrs. Potter, Verree, Craig of North Carolina, Adrain, Junkin, Reagan, Babbitt, Delano, and Leach of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON INVALID PENSIONS—Messrs. Fenton, Foster, Sickles, Florence, Stokes, Kellogg of Michigan, Hall, Hanson, and Marvin of Ohio.

COMMITTEE ON ROADS AND CANALS—Messrs. Malloy, Morris of Illinois, Dunn, Singleton, Burroughs, Gurley, Montgomery, Rust, and Perry.

COMMITTEE ON PATENTS—Messrs. Millward, Stewart of Maryland, Burnham, Niblack, and Frank.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS—Messrs. Train, Benis, Keitt, McPherson, and Peyton.

COMMITTEE ON REVISAL AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS—Messrs. Logan, Jones, Howard, Bubbitt, and Foster

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