The Press.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1863.

The Congressional Committees.

The experience and impartiality of Mr. Speaker COLFAX have had their first expression in the appointment of the standing committees of the House. This important duty has been performed in a way which should result in a hard-working and efficient session. He has retained on several important committees gentlemen whose past services have increased their ability, and the general confidence in their judgment, and the changes made by him, will, we think, prove beneficial. To the members of the Opposition he has given a full and fair representation, and no complaint can justly originate from that minority.

Mr. THADDEUS STEVENS, as a matter of course, remains chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and, with him, are associated some of the strongest members of the House. Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, could not be spared from the Committee on Elections, especially in regard to the new questions, involving important principles, which will come before Congress in the representation of Southern States. For instance, the Free State Central Committee of Louisiana has made arrangements for the holding of a State election on the 25th of January, with the consent of General SHEPLEY, military governor, upon the condition that the registration of loyal voters shall be sufficiently large. In Arkansas, also, the speedy reorganization of the State Government is resolved upon, and the delicate questions necessarily arising from these movements will require great ability in their treatment. Mr. DAWES' bill before Congress, providing for elections in Tennessee and Louisiana, in accordance with the terms of the President's proclamation, will probably be the basis of Congressional action. Mr. WASHBURNE has also been wisely kept at the head of the Committee on Commerce. Then we have the appointment of Mr. SCHENCK, a gentleman who adds to his Congressional experience that of a distinguished soldier, to the chairmanship of the Military Committee; of Mr. HENRY WINTER DAVIS to that of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; of Mr. PENDLETON to that of the Judiciary Committee, to which will probably be referred subjects of extraordinary interest. It would be hard to change these appointments for the better.

The division of appointments among the various States is as impartial as could be expected. The Western States have a large number of members on very important committees, and the claims of the Border States are properly recognized. Pennsylvania cannot particularly claim the reappointment of Mr. STEVENS, as that is a tribute to his personal ability and special fitness for the position. Mr. BROOMALL has a place on the important Committee on Public Expenditures; Mr. O'NEILL on that of Commerce; Judge KELLEY on that of Naval Affairs, in which he will have opportunity to give information important to the choice between New London and the Delaware, in the selection of a place for the new navy yard; Mr. HALE is chairman of the Committee on Claims.

The House is now perfectly organized, and can address itself energetically to the great work before it. The bills already introduced indicate the earnestness and loyalty of the support the Government will receive, and the fate of the peace-when-there-is-no-peace resolutions of Mr. FERNANDO WOOD, not only shows the determination of the Union majority, but the cheering fact that the Opposition is not unanimous in its wish to humiliate the Republic before its enemies. In his action towards the minority, Mr. Speaker COLFAX has forgotten party. We find such Democrats as Mr. ODELL, who is on the Military Committee, trusted with important duties—men who, however they may differ from us in other matters, agree with the vast majority of the people on the necessity of thoroughly supporting the war policy of the Government. There is more than generosity in the treatment of the Opposition by the new Speaker, there is justice; the old proscription of the unsuccessful party is not now the rule of the House; a larger and nobler spirit governs its policy, and will inspire its legislation. Day by day, as the cause of the Union triumphs, we are more and more convinced of the beauty and wisdom of a noble magnanimity. It is by that we shall change foes to friends. Even if we fail to conciliate our bitter enemies, we must succeed in obtaining the respect of all impartial men, and the consciousness that "because right is right, to follow right is wisdom, in the scorn of circumstance." The pardon the President has offered may be rejected, thought we doubt not that it will be gladly received, but it cannot be blotted from the history of a stainless Administration.

Memminger.

More important, more interesting than even Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS' message, is the financial report of the Confederacy by Mr. G. G. MEMMINGER, once president of a bank in Charleston, and elevated to the treasurership of the rebellion, for the same peculiar fitness that ordained Mr. DAVIS himself as the architect of colossal ruin. His report is an attempt at digestion upon nothing to eat. It is "money made easy" at terrible cost and pains, sowing wind and reaping whirlwind. Not only is the money of the Confederacy very bad, but the very paper on which it is printed is made of a very inferior quality of rags. Mr. MEMMINGER's suggestions to improve the value of either are of interest to the old-clothes man, who before long, will be ringing his bell in the streets of Richmond, and paying so many pennies a pound for ten-dollar bills.

We thought Mr. CHASE had a great labor before him at the beginning of the war, but it proves to be a mere bagatelle compared to that Mr. MEMMINGER assumed. He has a debt on his hands, which he is very anxious to get off, of one thousand millions of dollars, and is at his wit's end to know how to pay it. From January, 1863, to October, he raised four millions by a war tax, eight thousand dollars by an export duty on cotton, and manufactured four hundred millions. But a stop is now put to that easy manufacture, and financial ruin stares Mr. MEMMINGER out of countenance. Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS has got a rebellion; now the question is, "What is he to do with it?" His warmest friends won't take his money, and have none of their own to lend him. At the very mention of taxes his subjects cry out in anguish. Something must be done, everybody agrees; but the somebody to do it cannot be found. Mr. MEMMINGER, in despair, thus paints in fearful colors the spectre of approaching ruin: "Prices must advance, and the means of the Government to pay these prices must daily lose efficiency. Taxes become fruitless, by reason of the depreciation of the money. *The army can neither be paid, clothed nor fed; arms and munitions of war can no longer be supplied, the officers of the Government cannot be supported,* AND THE COUNTRY MUST SUCCUMB."

Maximilian at Home.

Notwithstanding the positive assurances, in the *Moniteur*, official organ of the French Government, that the Archduke MAXIMILIAN was making great preparations to proceed to Mexico early in February, it appears that he is devoting himself, as usual, to the performance, at Trieste, of his duties as head of the Austrian admiralty and marine. He is a good sailor, much devoted to his profession, and a hard-working man as regards all its details. Just now, when the leading naval Powers of Europe, taking alarm at the vast preparations of Russia, are increasing their naval armaments and putting their vessels of war and transports in the best condition for service, MAXIMILIAN spends most of his time in the docks and workshops of Trieste, preparing his brother's fleet for possible employment. He appears resolved, at all events, to continue a servant and subject of Austria until he formally is released from his obligations. If he holds to his word, MAXIMILIAN will not quit Austria until civil war ceases in Mexico, and the unanimous voice of the nation calls him to rule over it. He will have to "wait a little longer."

Napoleon's Invitation Rejected.

The negotiations of Vienna of fifty years ago appear to furnish the starting point whence LOUIS NAPOLEON would travel on toward the assembling of a European Congress. The diplomatic correspondence which has already taken place in regard to it are the mile-stones which mark his progress. Addressing the British Government in almost the same language in which he harangued the German Confederation, the British Government have shut the door in his face, and expressed their opinions of his proposition in the most unambiguous terms. The correspondence of NAPOLEON, Earl RUSSELL, and M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS spread the whole matter open, and the British Government, digging to the bottom of it, discover the ultimate question to be, whether a general congress of European States is likely to furnish a peaceful solution of the various matters in dispute? Her Majesty's Government do not think that the circumstances of the present time admit of such a congressional distribution of territories and definition of rights as was possible fifty or two hundred years ago. The Emperor commences by saying that the foundation of the political edifice of Europe rests upon the negotiations of Vienna in 1815, and immediately pins down this remark with the assertion that it is crumbling to pieces on all sides. Her Majesty sets out with the statement that the main provisions of the treaty of 1815 are in full force; that the greater number of those provisions have not been in any way disturbed, and that on these foundations rests the balance of power in Europe. Commencing at different ends of the long lane, they meet in the green and shady dell of diplomatic correspondence.

Before proceeding to respectfully decline the proposition of the Emperor, her Majesty's Secretary of State collects a bundle of reasons for NAPOLEON to carry away with him, and toward the conclusion concentrates all his arguments into one telling argumentative gist. He reviews the several questions which may disturb Europe, such as the prolongation of the conflict in Poland, the relations of Denmark to Germany, anarchy in the Danubian Principalities, the hostile attitude of Italy and Austria, the indefinite occupation of Rome by the French troops, and the renunciation, without having made new attempts at conciliation, of the hope of lightening the burdens imposed by the nations of Europe by excessive armaments, kept up by a feeling of mutual distrust. The questions regarding Poland and Italy are the most disquieting in regard to Europe. It is not probable that a European Congress could secure better terms for Poland than those hitherto obtained by the friendly representations, during several months, of France, Austria, and Great Britain. With respect to Italy, "is it intended to sanction, by a new treaty, the present state of possession in Italy? The Pope, and the sovereigns related to the dispossessed princes, might, on the one side, object to give a title they have hitherto refused to the King of Italy; and the King of Italy, on the other, would probably object to a settlement which would appear to exclude him, by inference at least, from the acquisition of Rome and Venetia. But is it intended to ask Austria in Congress to renounce the possession of Venetia? Her Majesty's Government have good grounds to believe that no Austrian representative would attend a Congress where such a proposition was to be discussed." The result of the deliberations of a Congress is in both of these instances utter nullity or war. This is the sum and substance of what the British Government think and say at they give LOUIS NAPOLEON the cold shoulder. They take time to review the whole subject, dovetailing argument with argument, and clinching the whole with the unanswerable sorites that they are not able to discover the likelihood of those beneficial consequences which the Emperor of the French promised himself when proposing a Congress.

IT WILL be remembered that the Rev. F. E. BOYLE, of Washington, lectures to-morrow evening at the Academy of Music. The subject of the lecture is "The Monks," and the object of it is to aid the New Charity Hospital at Washington city. We are sure that both the subject and the object will be more than sufficient to attract a thronged audience, especially when the peculiar gifts of the lecturer are taken into consideration. At the present day, when the aspect of affairs wins the almost exclusive attention not only of the demagogue, but of the chaste and ornate orator likewise, the subject which Mr. BOYLE has selected for his lecture is as new to the majority of lecture-lovers as the field is rich and prolific. To use an old comparison, it is the soft green tint among the panoramic colors of the lecture season, which will please the eye that has been dazzled by less unostentatious hues. It is hazarding nothing to predict for Mr. BOYLE a crowded and gratified audience.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.

Executive Session of the Senate.

The Senate had a short executive session to-day, but did nothing besides referring a number of appointments to the proper committees, principally promotions in the navy.

The Bill to Punish Treason.

The bill of Senator LANE, of Indiana, relative to the law of July, 1861, to define and punish treason, and the 29th section of the act of March, 1863, for enrolling the militia, proposes to punish the offences named as the court may determine, not exceeding a fine of $5,000, or by imprisonment, with or without hard labor, or by both fine and imprisonment.

The Relief of our Prisoners.

Though General BUTLER and a member of the Sanitary Commission, at Fortress Monroe, have telegraphed to the Government here that the rebel authorities have stopped the distribution of supplies sent from the loyal States to the Union prisoners in their hands, we are notified that up to this time no information has reached Washington indicating that anything like an official rebel notice of the fact has been communicated either to Major General BUTLER or Brigadier General MEREDITH. The fact that ROBERT OULD, the rebel Commissioner of Exchange, promptly replied, yesterday or the day before, to General BUTLER's tender of vaccine to be used among the Union prisoners confined at Richmond, Lynchburg, and other points in rebeldom, that it would be promptly disposed of as requested, leads us to hope that there may be a mistake in attributing to the rebel authorities the atrocious purposes of denying to the Union prisoners in their hands the articles, necessary to their proper sustenance, forwarded from the North.

Flax and Hemp.

The commissioners appointed by the Department of Agriculture, for investigations to test the practicability of cultivating and preparing flax and hemp as a substitute for cotton, will hold their adjourned meeting on the 24th of February.

In the meantime, all persons who are anxious to develop this subject are requested to forward samples of hemp and flax in the different stages of preparation, of the fibres and fabrics prepared by them, accompanied by statements of the various processes used, and the cost of production in each case. Also, descriptions of the kinds and cost of machinery used, where made, &c., together with any and all information which may be useful to the commission.

Repentant Deserters.

It has recently come to the knowledge of the Government that there are along the frontier of the Canadas upward of 10,000 deserters, most of them in a suffering condition, and anxious to return to the United States and join their regiments. It is probable that a proclamation will shortly be issued by the President, offering a pardon to all who will return to their regiments within thirty days. The Government has assurance that such an amnesty will gladly be accepted by deserters.

A Rectification from Admiral Wilkes.

Admiral WILKES feels very much aggrieved at the censure cast upon him by the Secretary of the Navy, in which it is averred that, by his detention of the Vanderbilt in the West Indies, the capture of the Alabama was prevented. He is preparing a letter to Secretary WELLES, which will completely vindicate himself from all blame in the matter, and show that the responsibility of the failure lies with the Navy Department.

Personal.

It is certain that Gen. SCHOFIELD is ordered to Washington.

Senator SAULSBURY, of Delaware, refuses to take the loyalty oath prescribed by law, and it is likely to lead to trouble in the Senate.

The President will soon issue a proclamation of pardon to all deserters who will return to the army.

The New England Sanitary Commission.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The New England Sanitary Commission was initiated last evening. The doors of the Music Hall was thrown open for a grand entertainment with the new organ, and the display of contributions for the fair. The Governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and a brilliant audience were present. The receipts were about six thousand dollars. The fair promises to be a great success.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

BRILLIANT AFFAIR.

Capture of Charles City Court House.

ENTIRE REBEL FORCE TAKEN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The following despatch was received here to-day:

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Dec. 14.—General Wistar, with my approbation, sent out an expedition to Charles City Court House, on the James river, to capture the enemy's force stationed there, and I have the pleasure to forward his report of its complete success. What adds to the brilliancy of the achievement is that it has been accomplished during a terrible storm. B. F. BUTLER, Major Gen'l.

YORKTOWN, VA., Dec. 14, 1863.

TO MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER: I have the satisfaction to announce the complete success of the expedition sent out under Colonel West. All worked in successful combination. Our cavalry carried the enemy's camp, at Charles City C. H., after sharp fighting, the enemy firing from the houses. We captured eight officers and eighty-two enlisted men, being the whole command of three companies, fifty-five horses and three mules, besides many that were shot and left on the ground. The enemy's camp, with equipments, arms, ammunition, and provisions, all thoroughly destroyed.

Our loss is Capt. Gregory, severely wounded, one sergeant and one corporal killed, and four men wounded. The New York Mounted Rifles, in forty-four hours, marched seventy-six miles. The 139th New York infantry, in fifty-four hours, marched sixty-one miles, mostly in a severe storm, moving day and night, and walking their shoes off, which should be made good by the Government. All are entitled to high commendation for gallantry and unflinching endurance, Col. West especially, for his precise execution of a difficult combination, which alone could have accomplished my object.

I. J. WISTAR, Brigadier General.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Visit of the Russian Officers to the 6th Corps—Soldiers' Subscription to the Richmond Prisoners.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 15.—The Russian naval officers arrived here this afternoon. During their brief visit they witnessed a review of the 6th Army Corps and the artillery attached to it. They return to the fleet to-night by special train.

The 1st Maryland Cavalry have subscribed and handed over to Surgeon Dodson $600 for the relief of the suffering prisoners in the South. The money will be sent to the Baltimore *American* Relief Fund.

DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

ALL QUIET IN KNOXVILLE.

GEN. FOSTER IN COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

Rumored Repulse of General Sheridan.

THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The following despatch was received here to-day:

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Dec. 14.—General Wistar, with my approbation, sent out an expedition to Charles City Court House, on the James river, to capture the enemy's force stationed there, and I have the pleasure to forward his report of its complete success. What adds to the brilliancy of the achievement is that it has been accomplished during a terrible storm. B. F. BUTLER, Major Gen'l.

YORKTOWN, VA., Dec. 14, 1863.

TO MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER: I have the satisfaction to announce the complete success of the expedition sent out under Colonel West. All worked in successful combination. Our cavalry carried the enemy's camp, at Charles City C. H., after sharp fighting, the enemy firing from the houses. We captured eight officers and eighty-two enlisted men, being the whole command of three companies, fifty-five horses and three mules, besides many that were shot and left on the ground. The enemy's camp, with equipments, arms, ammunition, and provisions, all thoroughly destroyed.

Our loss is Capt. Gregory, severely wounded, one sergeant and one corporal killed, and four men wounded. The New York Mounted Rifles, in forty-four hours, marched seventy-six miles. The 139th New York infantry, in fifty-four hours, marched sixty-one miles, mostly in a severe storm, moving day and night, and walking their shoes off, which should be made good by the Government. All are entitled to high commendation for gallantry and unflinching endurance, Col. West especially, for his precise execution of a difficult combination, which alone could have accomplished my object.

I. J. WISTAR, Brigadier General.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Visit of the Russian Officers to the 6th Corps—Soldiers' Subscription to the Richmond Prisoners.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 15.—The Russian naval officers arrived here this afternoon. During their brief visit they witnessed a review of the 6th Army Corps and the artillery attached to it. They return to the fleet to-night by special train.

The 1st Maryland Cavalry have subscribed and handed over to Surgeon Dodson $600 for the relief of the suffering prisoners in the South. The money will be sent to the Baltimore *American* Relief Fund.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—1st SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1863.

SENATE.

Mr. WILSON (U.), of Massachusetts presented memorials asking for increased pay from the Paymasters' clerks, hospital stewards, and inspectors of customs at Boston.

New York and Washington Railroad.

Mr. HENDERSON (U.), of Missouri, presented a memorial relative to a new railway line between Washington and New York.

Bill to Prevent Speculation in Gold.

Mr. LANE (U.), of Kansas, introduced, on leave, a bill providing that all traffic in gold, silver, and foreign exchange, for speculative purposes, or the purchase through a broker by depositing less than the full amount of the purchase, or on what is known as a margin, is expressly prohibited.

Section third of the bill prohibits sales of gold, silver, or foreign exchange, by any bankor or bank, directly or indirectly, at any place except at the regular banking houses or banks.

Section third prohibits the sale of gold, silver, or foreign exchange, unless actually delivered and paid for on delivery.

Section fourth provides the penalty for violating any provision of the act, on conviction before the United States District Court in the district where the offence is committed, to be a fine of not less than $1,000 nor more than $10,000 and an imprisonment of not less than one month, nor more than twelve months, for each offence.

Section fifth gives informers one-half of the fine.

Mr. FOOT (U.), of Vermont, introduced a bill granting public lands to the Peoria Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Line by the Northern route, and asked that it may be referred to a special committee.

Revision of United States Statutes.

Mr. SUMNER (U.), of Massachusetts, submitted the following resolution, with the remark that he had been endeavoring to obtain the action of the Senate upon it for twelve years:

Resolved: That the Committee on the Judiciary be directed to consider the expediency of providing by law for the appointment of Commissioners to revise the public statutes of the United States, simplify their language, correct their incongruities, supply their deficiencies, arrange them in order, reduce them to one connected text, and to report them thus improved to Congress for its final action—to the end that the public statutes, which all are presumed to know, may be in such a form as to be more within the apprehension of all.

The resolution was laid over.

Naval Appointments.

On motion of Mr. HALE (U.), of New Hampshire, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of providing by law that appointments in the naval service (commonly called acting appointments), be submitted to the Senate for confirmation in all cases where similar appointments in the regular army are required to be submitted to the Senate.

Thanks to General Burnside.

Mr. ANTHONY (U.), of Rhode Island, submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs:

Resolved, That the thanks of Congress be, and they hereby are, presented to Major General Ambrose E. Burnside, and through him to the officers and men who have fought under his command, for their gallantry, good conduct, and soldierlike endurance.

The motions to refer the subjects embraced in the President's message were entertained, and the matters referred to their appropriate committees.

Mr. LANE (U.), of Indiana, introduced a bill to amend the act entitled "An act to define and punish conspiracies," passed July 31st, 1861, and the twenty-fourth section of the act "for enrolling and calling out the National forces," passed March 3d, 1863.

Mr. HENDRICKS (U.), of Indiana, introduced a bill to extend the time in which the States may avail themselves of the grant of land for agricultural and industrial colleges.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Mr. DAVIS (Opp.), of Kentucky, called up a resolution in relation to the exchange of prisoners, and proceeded to arraign severely against the policy of refusing to exchange our suffering white soldiers—the languishing, starving, diseased white men—because the rebels refused to exchange the negro captives. He denounced the policy of the Administration at length, upon the ground that it was a policy that was deeply affected, characterizing its position as monstrous and referring to the present era as "the reign of Abraham the first." He averred that he was proud to be reported that he hated with undying vigor the crime of secession, and that he should never be a backing to a traitor while of the rebellion. use constant vigilance not to fall into the Charybdis of Abolitionism. It was evident that this policy was not the result of that desire for the success of the party form of the Administration. He closed with an indignant protest against the refusal of the Administration to liberate thousands of dying white men for the sake of a few negroes.

Mr. JOHNSON (U.), of Maryland, then addressed the Senate. He deemed it perfectly clear that humanity, which is the highest policy, demanded the continuance of the exchange of prisoners. As the negroes were but few, he would suggest that as equal number of rebel prisoners should be held as hostages for the colored soldiers. He proceeded to combat the opinion of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Davis), that these men should not be protected, and corrected his views of the power of the President, by quoting from the Constitution relative to the executive and legislative power. Even supposing there was no army or navy to put down the rebellion, it was utterly illegal for the President to execute the laws and provide the means therefor. If a foreign foe has put his foot upon these shores has not the President right to call upon all the facilities which the power of the Government can supply to repel the invader? Has he no right to use the aid of volunteers. And has not Congress the power to call upon the entire population to the defence of the country? Though we may not call property for the purpose of taxation, they are still persons. It is not essential that they should be called into the field of battle. Place on them as they are men; but being property, they must be paid for, if they called out to perform the duties of soldiers to the President. In conclusion, he said the Constitution will be returned to us in its original excellence, and the men who have volunteered to defend it will be paid, and that day comes we should with one heart and one voice exert all our influence to liberate Europe from the Government in putting an end, now and forever, to an ambitious, unprovoked, and treasonable attempt to destroy a Government that ever vouchsafed to mankind for, by destroying it, would be to destroy constitutional liberty itself.

Mr. DAVIS, in reply, argued that the preamble of the Constitution of the United States confers no power on the Government. The question was raised in the Supreme Court, and the interpretation there given was that the preamble of the Constitution did not give to the Government or any of the Departments any power whatever, but only points to the ends for which the power is conferred in the Constitution. It was the business of every intelligent man in America to know the principles of Government, and how its powers and principles are divided among the different departments. The President has no right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. He was convinced that there was no executive faction. He altogether dissented from the positions and principles avowed by the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Johnson). All the powers to be exercised are conferred by the Constitution alone, and there are no powers vested in the Government of its departments which are not conferred by the Constitution. Hence, the President cannot make a proclamation of emancipation, nor has he power to originate any measure to put down insurrection without the assent of Congress. The positions of his Secretary from Maryland were contrary to the decisions of the Supreme Court, and his doctrine was heretical in its tendency, and in opposition to the principles of the Constitution are disregarded the Government of the weakest and the strongest. The Executive Department has been governed by the principle heretofore announced as the true intent of the war, the rebellion would long ago have been put down, and the only way to regain what has been lost, is to return to the proper basis on which to prosecute the war. It was the determination of the party in power that the war shall continue till the next Presidential election. The war would have been brought to a close long ago, if the Administration had singly and in good faith devoted itself to the principle announced in the Crittenden resolution, and the commanders of the armies had not been selected, not because of their hostility to rebels, but because of their opposition to slavery.

Mr. HALE (U.), of New Hampshire, said that nothing was further from his intention. He rose to indignantly deny that it was the desire of gentlemen on this floor to prolong the war in order to influence the next Presidential election. A more atrocious allegation against patriotic men was never utterred to from the parapiting of time to the present moment.

Mr. DAVIS, in explanation, interrupting, said the Senator himself had heretofore remarked that the army of plunderers exceeded the number of soldiers in the field.

Mr. HALE replied that he never made such a remark, nor anything like it. He had said: "If the liberties of this country were more in danger from the military in the treasury than the rebels in the field," If the allegations of the Senator were true, he would sooner take into his arms the head of a man from the charnel house, reeking with pestilence, than the hands of those around him. If the allegations were true, they were stained with the foulest treason and perjury. The country is at war. The tremendous energies of national life are called into the battle-field, the sinews, with his red hand, aims a blow at the nation's life. The destitutes of the country have been submitted to the gentlemen around him, who are bound by the sanctity of their oaths to sustain the country and the Constitution, and to defend the President and homes threatened by invasion, while the Senator from Kentucky says that they are a portion of that destroyer of that Constitution they are sworn to support. He (Hale) had not referred to those in power.

Mr. DAVIS explained that he had reference to those in power.

Mr. HALE replied that the Senator had made an allegation which embraced every Senator. It was an allegation which, if true, would disgrace the vilest inmates of the penitentiary. The country is at stake. God is trying the great question of free government before the world, and in the course of his providence has entrusted the destinies of the country in their hands. Were they to have a place here, and before the world, before heaven and earth, and bring the allegation against them which, if true, would justly every inmate in the penitentiary to refuse to give them a friendly hand? The character of the President was also impugned in this allegation. He believed there was one thing that met everybody's assent—namely, that President Lincoln is eminently an honest man. To-day, for the first time, he had heard the honesty and patriotism of the Executive questioned. He apprehended the Senator did not appreciate the character of his accusation. None strikes a harder blow than he who loses confidence in the patriotism and integrity of those to whom are confided our destinies. The Government has called for black soldiers to take up arms, and called them out of the battles of the country. It is bound to protect them, at all hazards, by every agency it can put forth. The Government has used them, and their lives become prisoners; and if they are abandoned to their fate, the guilty of baseness unparalleled in history. The party in power has one aim, and that aim is the country—but one purpose, and is the salvation of the country. He believed that those who support the President are in full sympathy and sympathy with him. The idea that the Administration and its supporters desire the continuation of the war, in order to control the next Presidential election, is a base and damnable calumny, of anxious, loss of household, shall be continued for such purpose, and that the widow and orphan are given to mourning, and our kindred to destruction—is an insinuation so base that he wondered it found its way over his pen. The question was raised in the Kentucky. Applause in the galleries, which was promptly suppressed by the presiding officer). He (Hale) is desired to prolong the war for a political object. If this were true, he would spurn the Administration as he would spurn the leprosy of a man from the charnel house, reeking with pestilence, that as the hands of those around him. If the allegations were true, every Senator was stamped with the foulest treason and perjury. The country is at war. The tremendous energies of national life are called into the battle-field, the sinews, with his red hand, aims a blow at the nation's life. The destitutes of the country have been submitted to the gentlemen around him, who are bound by the sanctity of their oaths to sustain the country and the Constitution, and to defend the President and homes threatened by invasion, while the Senator from Kentucky says that they are a portion of that destroyer of that Constitution they are sworn to support. He (Hale) had not referred to those in power.

Mr. HALE replied that the Senator had made an allegation which embraced every Senator. It was an allegation which, if true, would disgrace the vilest inmates of the penitentiary. The country is at stake. God is trying the great question of free government before the world, and in the course of his providence has entrusted the destinies of the country in their hands. Were they to have a place here, and before the world, before heaven and earth, and bring the allegation against them which, if true, would justly every inmate in the penitentiary to refuse to give them a friendly hand? The character of the President was also impugned in this allegation. He believed there was one thing that met everybody's assent—namely, that President Lincoln is eminently an honest man. To-day, for the first time, he had heard the honesty and patriotism of the Executive questioned. He apprehended the Senator did not appreciate the character of his accusation. None strikes a harder blow than he who loses confidence in the patriotism and integrity of those to whom are confided our destinies. The Government has called for black soldiers to take up arms, and called them out of the battles of the country. It is bound to protect them, at all hazards, by every agency it can put forth. The Government has used them, and their lives become prisoners; and if they are abandoned to their fate, it is guilty of baseness unparalleled in history. The party in power has one aim, and that aim is the country—but one purpose, and is the salvation of the country. He believed that those who support the President are in full sympathy and sympathy with him. The idea that the Administration and its supporters desire the continuation of the war, in order to control the next Presidential election, is a base and damnable calumny. Loss of anxious, loss of household, shall be continued for such purpose, and that the widow and orphan are given to mourning, and our kindred to destruction—is an insinuation so base that he wondered it found its way over his pen. The question was raised in the Kentucky. (Applause in the galleries, which was promptly suppressed by the presiding officer). He (Hale) is desired to prolong the war for a political object. If this were true, he would spurn the Administration as he would spurn the leprosy of a man from the charnel house, reeking with pestilence, that as the hands of those around him. If the allegations were true, every Senator was stamped with the foulest treason and perjury. The country is at war. The tremendous energies of national life are called into the battle-field, the sinews, with his red hand, aims a blow at the nation's life. The destitutes of the country have been submitted to the gentlemen around him, who are bound by the sanctity of their oaths to sustain the country and the Constitution, and to defend the President and homes threatened by invasion, while the Senator from Kentucky says that they are a portion of that destroyer of that Constitution they are sworn to support. He (Hale) had not referred to those in power.

Mr. DAVIS explained that he had reference