

It is intimated in Treasury circles at Washington that the Government will realize a profit of \$12,000,000, on the fractional currency issued, that amount, it is now believed, having been lost or destroyed.

We have often wondered where the "Know-nothing party" originated. But since Pettin, Tilden, and Moses testified, they never "knew any thing." If we are to take their word for it.

With all his addresses, the chairman of the committee investigating the alleged "frauds" in the electoral vote of 1876 has not been able to rebut the testimony so clearly and directly given, that the only efforts made to buy votes were by Democrats. If this could have been done, Mr. Potter's report would have been made weeks ago.

The present Congress, it was announced in advance, was to be a Congress of economy and reform, and yet it will cease to exist within a week, and leave a deficiency for this fiscal year of \$27,000,000. It has saved at the pigst, and wasted at the bung, and goes out of power, leaving the financial affairs of the Government embarrassed by its inefficiency.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun (Democratic) does not regard the future of the Democratic party in the Senate hopefully. He says: "After the 4th of March the well-disciplined and able hand of Republicans in the Senate, veterans in legislative training and in parliamentary knowledge, led by such masters as Edmunds, Conkling, Blaine, and others, will be absolved of all responsibility for legislation. They become the fault-finders, as the Democrats have been for so many years, and that they will make it warm for the Democratic majority, none can doubt."

Four hundred and thirty-six bills have so far been introduced in the House at Harrisburg, of which over two hundred and fifty have been reported from committees. Every member appears to have put in an appearance with his grip-sack full of bills, emanating from the wisdom, or embracing the local wants of his constituents. These are emptied into the House, referred to, and reported back by committees, and then such as can, by bargaining, log-rolling and combining, command a majority vote, are enacted into laws. And this is styled legislation, and these are laws made for a great Commonwealth.

The basis of Congressional representation is fixed and ascertained by the National census taken every ten years, and it is very evident that the Democrats in the present Congress realize the importance of the census to be taken next year. It has hitherto been managed by officials appointed by National authority, but the Democrats of this house have determined that it shall be taken by officers they can control, and hence they have determined that the officials shall be selected by the Governors of the respective States. They are in need of all the Congressmen and votes they can possibly obtain, and if they can force through a bill placing the selection of census officials in the hands of the Governors of the States, the Southern States and the city of New York can be expected to show up a startling population.

The lower House of Congress ceased from its pressing duties last week to cast from his seat, Mr. Bisbee, the Republican member from Florida, and induct the Democratic contestant. The object, of course, was to give the Democratic brother full pay for both sessions, although he will occupy the seat but ten days, and to benefit by his vote in the attempt to repeal the Federal laws regarding the purity of the ballot box.

Notice has also been given Norcross, Small, Rainey and Cain, Republican members from South Carolina, that they will also be unseated. The titles of all four gentlemen are so indisputable that no action was taken until this late day, when their displacement to make way for Democrats is absolutely necessary to enable their party friends to carry out their schemes, among which is the forcing of an extra session of Congress.

The Democrats have determined to take from the General Government the power to protect the ballot-box from fraud at the elections of its own officers and legislators, by the appointment of proper supervisors. They have therefore attached to an appropriation bill, a clause repealing the present law for the protection of the ballot, and expect to compel the Republicans to assent to this outrage, or to leave the Government without the necessary funds to defray the current expenses, or else to force an extra session. This attempt to deprive the Government of the power to protect the ballot-box, is in perfect harmony with the doctrines enunciated by the South, that shall not be permitted to try offenses against its own law, in its own courts, and is but another evidence of the studied determination to make the General Government subservient to State Sovereignty, or in other words to obtain by legislation what they failed to secure by the rebellion. To the observer of current events there is nothing plainer than this.

The right of the Federal Government to enforce the punishment of illicit distillers, ballot-box stuffers, and frauds at elections through its own courts is steadily denied, on the ground that this is an interference

with the rights of "Sovereign States." What is this but the old issue that was the pretext for the rebellion, and which it was supposed the war had settled? That the late elections in the South were carried by intimidation and fraud, has been abundantly and indisputably proven, and there being a number of Democratic election officers, and some Democratic members of Congress elect, liable to judgment for violating the election laws of the United States, the present defiant effort to wipe out the law under which these scoundrels will be punished is made. It is the urgent necessity to save these guilty scoundrels from punishment, that induces the present attempt to overthrow the machinery of the Federal Government. But with the ballot-boxes unprotected, the United States Courts deprived of their power, the army depleted by extravagant appropriations and the reduction of the sources of revenue, to all of which ends the Democratic party, under the dictation of its old Southern masters, has unhesitatingly submitted, what better preparations could be made to again repeat the experiment of secession and the dissolution of the Union? It is, under this state of affairs, well worth while that the people of the North come to some determination how to proceed in the premises.

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It is said a bill will be passed this session for the free interchange of gold, silver, and legal tenders, at the request of the holder by the Treasury Department in New York.

The examination by the Senate Committee on agriculture show by the evidence of a large number of buyers of cattle for exportation, among whom have testified is Samuel Brown, of Pittsburgh, that there is no cattle disease in this country, it is being stamped out.

The large "Centennial safe" on exhibition at the late Centennial Exhibition, at Philadelphia, containing autographs, photographs, &c., of the distinguished men of the country in 1876, was closed on Saturday.

It was closed on Saturday, and we would feel dreadfully inclined to give the bellicose citizens of Pittsburgh an opportunity of venting the constitutionality of a law requiring them to pay the whole, instead of one-fourth of the damages incurred.

It would cost no more to fight the whole than the one-fourth, you know, and it would be such a relief to tender consciences, if there be any, among the Solons at Harrisburg. But as this is really a bill for the relief of the Pennsylvania Railroad company—and not for the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny county, from whom the money claimed could not at present be squeezed by any known legal process—we presume it will be amended as desired, and passed.

History will repeat itself, and we have not an indistinct recollection of how the State Treasury was depleted by the bill commencing the tonnage tax, for the benefit of this same railroad company.

It may be well enough however for our legislators to remember how many wrecks strew the political way-side, victims of the blameworthy and our great railroad corporation. We most sincerely sympathize with the law abiding citizens of Pittsburgh, and more particularly with the innocent and blameless property holders of Allegheny county, and we would ungrudgingly see them saved harmless through the assumption of the losses by the State, if it were not for the damnable precedent they are seeking to establish.

The Senate of the United States has agreed to the House bill reducing the tax on tobacco from twenty-four to sixteen cents per pound, whereby the revenue will be reduced about thirteen millions of dollars per year. The legislation of this Congress has been the most perfect baroque on plain business principles, and should teach the people that common sense and business acumen, is not a liability for windy declamation, and what is needed in their representatives in Congress. What would be thought of a man who, perfectly aware that his income for the year could not meet his expenses, would nevertheless deliberately saddle himself with additional debt, and just as deliberately destroy the sources from which his income was received? "Fool," would be the plain, if not complimentary epithet bestowed upon him. And yet this is precisely what our National Congress has been doing. By its passage of bills for the payment of pension arrears, steam ship subsidies and similar measures, it has added largely to the expenditures of the Government, while it cuts down our receipts by lowering taxes that the consumer neither felt, nor complained of. The tax on tobacco, of all things, should have been let stand. Tobacco is a luxury, its consumers are nearly as numerous as the adult population, and who among them all ever felt the tax or asked to have it reduced? Suppose it was struck off one-half, who but the dealer would be benefited? The tax on the consumer's dime or half dime

plag is so small that at the end of the year he