

Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, December 13, 1865.

CONGRESS—THE PRESIDENT.

Editorial Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON, December 6, 1865.

Monday last was a memorable day in the history of the Nation. It resolved the painful doubts which have for months past oppressed the faithful people of the country, and set at rest, in unmistakable language and purpose, the policy of Congress touching the proposed admission of the rebellious States. It was a proud achievement for the few who bravely, at times, apparently resisted current sentiment that made half-subdued traitors insolent and confident in their demands for fellowship as law-makers in the highest legislative tribunal of the Nation; and it was decisive in its teachings as it was overwhelming in the unity of the majority, in pointing the future path of those who vainly sought by wanton war to destroy the government.

It was the crowning achievement of Thaddeus Stevens' life. He has out-lived ambition in its accepted signification. The high places of power which he has not reached, may one day have entered into his hopes; but for four years past he has devoted himself with a singleness of purpose rarely equalled and never surpassed in statesmanship, to give success to the true principles of government, and especially to make a rescued and regenerated Nation true to its own high prerogatives, so dearly won by countless sacrifice. He was of the few who in the early stage of the war realized its terrible import and plead for the only adequate remedy. He did not stop to quibble on mere abstractions, but he recognized accomplished facts. He looked the fearful peril in the face, pointed to its vital power, and plead with an unwilling people to accept their own and their country's safety. Slowly but surely, as experience and mingled success and discomfiture developed the appalling strength and purpose of treason, and the weakness that would protect its sustaining power while professing to conquer it, he has won the loyal States to his convictions, until on Monday last the Union representatives, as with one voice, declared that there is a conquered people, without government of law, demanding the protecting care of Congress.

The passage of Mr. Stevens' resolution at the time it was proposed, and without a single dissenting Union voice, is of uncommon significance. The hosts of warring politicians who have about the capital, from North and South, in search of spoils, are ready to assail the action of the House as an attempt to forestall the President. Such is not the fact. The House declared its purpose thus frankly and decisively at the very threshold of its labors, in order that loyal and disloyal alike might know at once that Congress meant to assume its conceded prerogatives touching the seceded States, and discharge its high duties without fear or favor. Whether the President should agree or disagree with Congress was not a question that entered the action of the Union majority. As the disposition of the conquered States is for Congress and for Congress alone to determine, it was obviously its first duty to meet the anxious expectations of all sections of the country by declaring its policy, particularly when that could be done with entire unanimity by the party in power. The message of the President was already printed and ready for delivery to Congress, so that no hope could have been entertained to compel its modification, had modification been deemed desirable.

The meaning of the House resolution admits of no doubtful construction. It in no sense reflects upon the efforts of the President to place the Southern States in a position to ask recognition. It does not confront his policy in any degree; but it teaches what the South would have done well to appreciate from the start—that while the President can kindly aid them to take the preliminary steps for re-admission, he does not assume, and cannot assume, to determine the conditions precedent to their success. He did his duty earnestly, hopefully, fraternely and most generously; but his magnanimity has been rewarded with sullen, reluctant submission, or open, insolent defiance of his appeals. He begged of their hesitating, obstinate conventions—"For God's sake repudiate the rebel debt," or "I trust in God that you will ratify the proposed amendment of the constitution abolishing slavery;" but his success was but partial, and then only wrung from unwilling subjects. He hoped by this pleading with them to induce them to place themselves in a position so acceptable that they could with justice and propriety be reunited with us in the present Congress; but it was all in vain. Some of the States repealed the ordinance of secession—thus declaring their right to re-enact it. Others repudiated the rebel debt by convention without a vote of the people, while the elections soon following gave signal access only to Executives and legislators who were pledged to its payment. Some adopted the proposed amendment to the constitution with conditions—Georgia and Louisiana desiring compensation, and one or two others protesting with their ratification of the same against a particular construction of it. Not one of these States has chosen a loyal Executive. Not one has failed to elect the most traitorous of the candidates presented, excepting only South Carolina, and there Wade Hampton had to decline running and exert all his power against himself to save Mr. Orr by a few hundred votes. Not one of these States has as yet conferred any rights whatever upon the emancipated negroes. They have in every instance where the question was considered, denied them the right to be parties to suits or witnesses in courts—thus refusing them all rights necessary to enforce contracts with their employers or protect themselves from violence and wrong. Nineteen of the Congressmen elected in these States are disqualified to serve by a law of the very Congress in which they

ask admission, and they were elected with a full knowledge on the part of both voters and candidates that they were ineligible by their active participation in treason's war against the Republic. In many instances true men ran, and appealed to the people to recognize the results of the war in good faith by the election of men who could be qualified; but in an overwhelming majority of instances they were defeated solely because they had not been thorough traitors.

Such are the fruits of President Johnson's generous policy to reconstruct the rebel States, and he is sadly disappointed at the return for his faithful efforts. Two months ago he was hopeful, even confident that they would come with such evidences of sincerity and repentance as would justify him in asking and urging their admission; but now he recites his efforts, deals them some "glittering generalities," and submits their case to Congress, without even a word of endorsement. In this condition do the Southern States for the first time present themselves for the consideration of Congress, and the verdict of the popular branch on Monday last is the answer. That it is clear, positive, and conclusive, is its crowning wisdom, and there is not a traitor today who aimed to climb into Congress by half-way atonement and obedience to the government, who is not a wiser if not a sadder man. All such can go home, and learn anew that the North has won the Nation's deliverance through the blood of her noblest sons, and that its full fruition for freedom and perpetual Union cannot and shall not be arrested by restoring to power the treason that drenched a continent in fraternal blood.

The message of the President does not, in fact, antagonize the position of Congress although in theory there is an apparent want of harmony. He adopts as his theory that secession is an impossibility because forbidden by the organic law. Whether or not it is so forbidden, I do not discuss. The compact which united the States was a folly and a fraud if it did not go to the perpetual unity of the Republic. But when a body of States—one-third the number of the whole—deliberately rescinded their bonds of allegiance, with all the ceremony of law known to the people of the States, and for four years exercised all the functions of government, general and local; political, judicial and military, and devised and enforced the collection of revenues—all without the show of organized remonstrance, and in addition, waged a war unparalleled in magnitude, at times thundering at the very gates of our capital, it is to say the least, the refinement of an abstraction to deny the logic of such appalling facts. Theorize as we may, still the facts confront us, and no subtlety of reasoning will serve to dispel them. If even so abstractly, still we must deal with the facts as they present themselves with their terrible realities. The fact that secession may be accepted, as an impossibility constitutionally considered, does not take from treason one of its monstrous deformations, or restore a State to the condition in which the supremacy of treason found it. The facts, of wide spread desolation, and States wrung violently from their proper spheres into the bloody vortex of rebellion, still remain, and these facts—not the legal fiction of an unbroken Union—must be dealt with. Congress so accepted the condition of the States, and declared them beyond the pale of the Union. Their representatives were denied admission—their votes for President were, by almost unanimous vote of all parties, declared in advance to be void. The Executive has by various proclamations treated them as public enemies, and every important step taken for the suppression of the rebellion in aid of the military power of the government, discarded the idea that they were sovereign States in the Union. The Supreme Court harmonized with Congress and the Executive on this important point, and pronounced them, in its judicial decisions, to be public enemies—condemned their prizes as they would have condemned those of England or France had we been at war with them, and in all things held them—not as States and an integral part of the Union—but as public enemies by reason of the complete supremacy of the rebellion in the seceded States, and at war with the government of the United States, as a belligerent power.

Thus do stubborn facts and the no less stubborn records of the Nation, define the status of the seceded States, and ably and plausibly as President Johnson presents his theory, he fails to dispel the realities which now confront him and Congress. As a theory of government for the future guidance of the Nation, it would be well thus to define the relations of the States to the government by an amendment of our organic law; but with the present we have to deal. The President confesses this himself by every step he has taken to effect the reconstruction of the rebel States. If they are sovereign States, they have Executives, legislatures, and most other officers elected under laws which are no part of the rebellion. How are they displaced? By what authority? Are they traitors? If so, they must be tried, convicted and condemned before they can be removed, and then the laws of the State supply the vacancy. If Virginia never was out of the Union, "Extra Billy Smith" is the lawful Governor of the State, as he was chosen in conformity with the laws which existed there for half a century. So is Vance Governor of North Carolina—and McGrath is Governor of South Carolina. But President Johnson puts Gov. McGrath into Fort Pulaski and appoints Gov. Perry to govern the people of what he would regard as a State never beyond the pale of the Union. Nor does he stop there. After displacing the Governors regularly chosen under laws enacted before the rebellion, he selects their successors, directs, conventions to be called, and when called, instructs them to do thus and not to do so. He maintains in all of them martial law, and has quasi civil governments in operation subject to the will of his military commanders. If a judge decides a question in a manner unsatisfac-

torily to the military, he is assured of his State being in the Union by finding quarters in some hospitable fort, and all other ministerial officers of the civil law perform their functions as instructed by the President or the "General Commanding."

In all this the President is right in fact, but how much it leaves of his theory of the independent sovereignty of the States, is not to my mind apparent. He finds these States in the hands of traitors—stubborn, relentless, unrepenting traitors. He has conquered them by force of arms, and has exercised the right of the conqueror to dethrone their rulers, and to govern them with the strong arm of military law, regardless of their once proud position as States in the Union, and in this he has but faithfully discharged his duty. That he hopes to restore them at an early day to full fellowship, and that he would thus restore them with less exacting conditions than Congress is not to be questioned; but he wisely and patriotically refers the subject to Congress, where it rightfully belongs, and I am strengthened in the hope that they will cordially harmonize upon just terms of admission—terms which will insure the safety of the Nation and the President says, make treason infamous. In this responsible work, he will be generously sustained by Congress and the country in every effort tending to the speedy restoration of a loyal and regenerated Union.

The message is upon the whole a State paper of rare ability. It is calm, dignified, able and in most things candid. I infer from his remarks upon the trial of traitors, that Jeff Davis will yet be tried; but I do not think him in serious danger of losing his life by capital punishment. I presume, since Congress has been so positive in its expression on the claims of traitors to civil power, that there may be a few more pardons hereafter than heretofore, and I look for Congress and the President to work harmoniously to teach the world that "mercy to traitors is cruelty to the Nation!"

I did not see the President. Severe illness prevented me from filling an appointment to meet him on Monday morning, and three days of racking fever in Washington would make any man take the first train going hence in almost any direction.

THE CASE OF GEN. KOONTZ.

The sixteenth district of Pennsylvania is without a representative in Congress. The several counties composing it have not been reduced, to a territorial condition that we know of, nor is their status as part of the United States just now questionable, however doubtful a portion of the territory has been in times past when treason plunged its armed battalions into the North; nor have the people failed to elect, for they went through the regular form of choosing a Congressman in October, 1864, after an animated struggle; nor is our failure to be represented for want of a claimant for the seat, for no less than two gentlemen are in Washington proposing to represent us—the one because he was elected, and the other because he wasn't elected. Still we have no several ways to come we shall thus be disfranchised in the popular branch of Congress.

The laws of Pennsylvania provide that the qualified electors shall vote for members of Congress and other officers on the second Tuesday of October; that each election board shall select one of its number to meet in the county town on Friday following the election to compute the votes cast in the several districts, and where two or more counties compose a district, the return judges of each county select one of their number to bear the returns to the place appointed by law to compute the returns of the counties comprising the district. The law in express terms forbids such return judges to reject any part of the vote so returned; but they are required and sworn to compute it and certify in accordance therewith. They have no judicial powers—on the contrary they are unequivocal terms denied such powers. It is their duty to compute the whole returns correctly, and leave to the tribunals appointed by law to inquire into frauds or illegal votes. In addition to this, the law providing for the vote of soldiers in the service, declares that no mere irregularity or informality shall prevent any return from being computed by return judges at home. Pennsylvania has no Board of Canvassers, or any other board but her courts, competent to inquire into the legality of a vote or a return after the vote is once in the ballot-box.

It happened in 1864 that the people of the 16th district were about tired of being represented by Gen. A. H. Coffroth, in his stead by a majority of some 74 votes. It also happened however that the Democrats, the friends of Gen. Coffroth, controlled the boards of return judges in four of the five counties of the district, and when the army vote returned settled his case by the election of Gen. Koontz, a systematic conspiracy was formed to defraud the people out of two Assemblymen, a President Judge and a Congressman of their choice, by rejecting a part of the soldiers' vote, in insolent violation of the law, after it had been regularly returned so that they had no choice but to compute it or reject it by perjury. They accordingly certified two defeated candidates for Assembly as elected, one President Judge and one Congressman; but when the returns came before the Governor he at once refused to recognize Gen. Coffroth's certificate, as it bore on its face a palpable disregard of the law, but as judges had the power to withhold the certificate due to Gen. Koontz, the Executive, in the exercise of purely ministerial duties, could not correct, and both were denied recognition—Gen. Coffroth because his was a manifest fraud, and Gen. Koontz because he had been defrauded. The same fraud came up before the Governor when he had to issue a commission to the President Judge, and as he was competent to decide that case prima facie, he did not hesitate to reject the fraud and commission Judge King who had been clearly elected. It is due to

Judge Kimmel, his Democratic competitor, to say that he did not ask the commission, and did not in any formal manner claim that he was elected. He had no hand in the fraud, and did not seek to take advantage of it.

In the only case, therefore, where the Governor could take cognizance of this fraud, he determined it against Coffroth and against his wrong, and no one complained that injustice was done thereby. In the case of the two members of the legislature who obtained a majority certificate by this fraud, the House summarily disposed of them by instructing the clerk to call the members who had received the highest number of votes in the district—Coffroth's friends of course were thereby left out, and instead of contesting and claiming that the majority was made up of illegal votes, they bent their steps homeward without delay, glad to escape the disgrace of an exposition of the villainy on which they founded their case. Thus was this same Coffroth fraud twice determined in Pennsylvania, and no one has had the hardihood to contest or ask any investigation.

Gen. Coffroth is alone of all those who conceived and perpetrated this fraud in now seeking to profit by it. Some allowance is to be made for him, because of the absence of ordinary moral precepts in his organization; but we insist that where everybody, on every side, but himself confesses his defeat and would shrink from the contest he invites, he ought to begin to suspect that the day may come when he should stop. We are well aware that he grounded his hope of temporary success on considerations outside of the returns, and vainly dreams that because he was anxious to dispose of his vote for the constitutional amendment, he may be able to crawl in this session long enough to draw mileage and pay. The General made one grievous mistake in that operation. There were men in Congress willing enough to have him cast one righteous vote in the course of a congressional term, but when Gen. Coffroth supposed that he could get them to a corrupt bargain to sanction a monstrous fraud upon the 16th district, he reckoned badly. When he started on that mission, he went wooming with a moral certainty of coming home shamed, as he will learn by and by. We doubt not that a few Republicans gave him indefinite promises, predicated upon his false statement of the merits of his case, but they may be regarded as selling "short" for future delivery, and as the stock can't now be had, they can only be called upon to settle the difference. They will therefore, we doubt not, qualify Gen. Koontz in a few days as having the prima facie case beyond question, and Gen. Coffroth will realize the "difference" by contesting as long as possible and getting his per diem and mileage when he gets final notice to quit. This now seems to be his chief ambition, and as it will be his last appearance upon the public stage, it will probably be a cheap delirium.

We ask the attention of Congress to this case. It is a wrong to our district to deny us representation. One of the two claimants must be entitled to be sworn as a Congressman. Gen. Koontz received a clear majority of the vote cast, and that no power but Congress, in a contest, can reject any part of the vote so returned, it is clearly the duty of the House to qualify Gen. Koontz and allow Gen. Coffroth to contest if he has a fancy that way. If something must be done for Coffroth, let it not be done by a crushing wrong upon the loyal men of the 16th district.

The unanimous re-nomination of Hon. Edward McPherson for the clerkship of the House of Representatives at Washington, is a rare compliment and as just as it was cordial. After serving two terms in Congress with much more than ordinary efficiency and ability, he was defeated in a contest for the third term; that rebel officer minding through the two leading counties of the district but two days before the election. At the close of his service, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, where he rendered most valuable aid to the Government in the inauguration of our revenue system. At the meeting of the 38th Congress he was nominated for Clerk, after an animated struggle, over Mr. Buffington, of Massachusetts, also an ex-member, and so satisfactorily has he discharged the responsible duties of the position that no one was named in competition with him. His sterling qualities were severely tested some months ago, when it was demanded of him by the entire Democratic press; by the Southerners of all shades of loyalty, and by a class claiming to be Union men in the North, that he should enter the names of the representatives from the rebel States on the roll of the House; but he never for a moment flinched in the line of his duty. He said frankly to all who interrogated him on the subject that the law of Congress would guide him in his official conduct regardless of the interests of parties; and when Congress assembled it was gratifying to find that not a single Union member dissented from his judgment in the matter. He was re-nominated because the entire Union vote of Congress cordially endorsed him and desired to seal his fidelity with the highest measure of approbation. He is pre-eminently fitted for the position, and we congratulate him and the country upon his flattering success.

The Bedford Gazette asks us to state that "eleven witnesses swore in open court that Crouse attacked Reed, whilst the latter was retreating from him, striking him (Reed) with a large stone, and being about to strike him again with another stone when Reed fired." We make the statement as requested, and can neither affirm nor deny it, as we did not hear and have not read the testimony. We did not question the legality of the verdict; but did deprecate the primary causes which led to the homicide, and expressed the conviction that none will mourn the cause and the result so much as John P. Reed, Jr., and the Gazette may live to re-

ject that political prejudice can be made to enter into the administration of justice. Whether it did control the verdict in this case we do not decide; but it was manifestly the purpose of the defence to have it do so as far as possible.

The "last ditch" fabled alike in rebel song and story, we think has been found at last. It evidently had no such romantic meaning as death by matter of fact bullets, shells or bayonets. The "last ditch" of the perspiring rebel is a seat in the Congress of the hated Union. Next only to the alacrity with which he went out, is the swiftness with which he proposes to return to its honors, per diem and mileage again. But there are loyal lions in his path, and the "last ditch" of rebel assaults upon the government seems just now as unattainable as the "last ditch" of battles, to which so many proposed a pilgrimage, but which few of those who announced the journey had strength and faith enough to keep from falling by the way.

The Union State Committee met recently in Philadelphia, and after adopting a memorial to Congress suggesting amendments to the constitution which should be ratified before the admission of the rebel States, and resolutions commending President Johnson and Speaker Colfax, adjourned without fixing a day for the State Convention. It is understood that the Committee will meet at Harrisburg in January, and call a Convention to meet in April or May.

Dr. S. E. DUFFIELD, of Fulton county, will continue in charge of the Document Department in Washington—a position he has filled for two years with great industry and acceptability. He is one of the most faithful and meritorious Union men in this section of the State, and we are glad to see him rewarded.

Mr. FESSENDEN has been restored to the chairmanship of Finance in the Senate, and Mr. Stevens will of course remain chairman of Ways and Means in the House.

The Philadelphia Journal for December, completes Vol. 42d., contains Lord Pemberton, Napoleon III., Washington, Czar, Hon. D. S. Dickinson, Blind Tom, with Portraits, Characters and Biographies. Also "Work for women," a new History of Civilization; "Destiny of America"; "Beauty, Vigor, and Development; Symmetry of Character; Phrenology; the Pulpit; Animal Types of Human Physiology; Gynaecology for men, Women, and Children; including Ethnology, Phrenology, Phrenology, Psychology and Psychology—only 20 cents, or \$2.00 a year. New volume begins with Jan. No. Address Fowler & Wells, 329 Broadway, New York.

We welcome F. B. Pennington, Esq., to the editorial chair again. He has become associated with the Editorial corps of the Pittsburgh Gazette, and will bring additional vigor and ability to that already influential Journal. Mr. Pennington is one of the ablest and clearest political writers we have in the State, and we are glad to see him in a position where he can be so eminently useful.

Another three hundred 2d. Lieutenants are to be immediately appointed in the regular army. The Congressional districts. All applicants must have served two years in the volunteer service and been honorably discharged therefrom. A board is in session to examine the testimonials of candidates, and select such for personal examination as may seem fitted.

The Secretary of the Treasury estimates that there will be a deficit of \$112,000,000 for the year ending 1st June, 1866, and that the fiscal year following will bring the expenditures over \$100,000,000 beyond the revenues.

McFEELE MORTON, has disposed of his interest in the M. organ, to his partner, Mr. L. H. Funk. Mr. Morton is engaged in publishing a daily at Pithole City, Venango County.

We are indebted to Hon. T. Stevens and Senator Cowan for public documents.

HON. LEONARD MYERS has our thanks for valuable documents.

HARRISBURG.

The Finance of Pennsylvania—Balance of Nearly \$5,000,000 in the Treasury—Character of Our Revenue—Taxes on National Banks—Problema Tax on National Banks—Over \$1,500,000 Due the Treasury—Philadelphia Largely in Arrears—Tax on State Loans—Gov. Curtin—Attorney General Meredith.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, December 11th, 1865.

I mentioned in one of my former letters that the exhibition of the finances of the State, soon to be made officially to the legislature, will present a most gratifying exhibition of our credit. A table has now been given to the press in advance of the reports, and it shows an aggregate of receipts in the treasury during the last year, ending 30th November 1865, of \$6,219,959.67 which with the balance, or surplus, in the treasury makes a total of \$8,203,225.30 of available funds for the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of last year. Of these receipts, the sum of \$2,951,911.39 was received as tax on bank dividends—the only item in the list of revenues that is likely to diminish hereafter, as the State Banks have all about disappeared. But it is not improbable that a new source of revenue will be supplied by the coming legislature, by taxing the stock of the National Banks as personal property in the hands of the holders. It seems settled that in this way the new Banks can be taxed without contravening the act of Congress, and it will most likely be done, in imitation of New York. If so, the loss of revenue on Bank dividends will be partially replaced. It is unfortunate for the National Banks that the State laws regulating their taxes are to be enacted at a time when an inflated currency, large lines of deposits, gold interest on their hypothecated bonds, and freedom from the necessity of redeeming their paper, combine to give them a high tide of prosperity. Their dividends and surplus funds are large, and the danger is that they will be taxed far beyond what they will be able to bear when they are brought down to approximate a specie standard. But sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. The tonnage bill yielded last year nearly \$750,000, and the tax on corporation stocks yielded \$1,237,233.18. Among the novelties of the statement is the following item: "Cases of conscience, \$800." It is something to know that at least one thing has repeated since the emancipation.

The total expenditures for the year reach \$7,785,525.16 and the table is worthy of study. It shows the great liberality of Pennsylvania. The expenditures of the government reach but \$616,274.650, while nearly half a million has gone in various military expenses under the several acts of assembly; ever three hundred thousand has gone to charitable and other institutions, and three hundred and forty thousand to common

schools. Nearly two millions were paid as interest on the debt, and the debt itself was reduced \$1,903,342.88, and still an available balance remains in the treasury of \$2,373,668.14—the largest balance, I believe, that has ever been in the treasury at the close of any fiscal year. In addition to this, the State has just obtained a judgment against the city of Philadelphia for some \$150,000 of unpaid taxes, and the National government is bound in all good faith to repay the \$200,000 paid to the militia called out by an order from the President in 1863. If the money due the treasury and likely to be collected was on hands, the balance would now be but little less than three millions and a half. Considering that our debt is really not more than twenty-eight millions, after deducting the bonds in the sinking fund, the credit of Pennsylvania is in a better condition than it has been for half a century. Soon our heavy expenses arising from the war will be at an end, while our revenue will not sensibly diminish, so that the liquidation of the debt will go on more rapidly each succeeding year.

There is one item in our revenue that should cease to appear there. The State imposes interest upon a portion of its own loans, and thus to that extent depreciates its own credit. It certainly was not contemplated that such tax should be imposed, and it is discreditable to the Commonwealth and a stain upon its fame that it should be persisted in. Various State Treasurers, looking solely to the interest and credit of the State, have recommended that the policy should cease, but as yet it has not been done.

Gov. Curtin sailed for Cuba on Saturday week in the Revenue Cutter "M'Clulloch," and no word has been received from him since his departure. At the time he sailed his health was in a very critical condition; but it is hoped that the sea voyage will restore him. He will not be home until after the meeting of the legislature if his health improves in the tropics.

Mr. Meredith, the Attorney General, has been in ill-health for several weeks, but is better. He was not able to be in his office for some days before he left for Philadelphia. He is now at his home in that city. During his illness here, Mr. Eiler, the Deputy Attorney General, conducted some of the heaviest suits on behalf of the Commonwealth successfully. Defaulters and all classes of debtors to the State, for the first time in many years, have to settle with the Commonwealth with the same promptness they would expect to be required by individual creditors, since Mr. Meredith has been Attorney General.

WASHINGTON.

Meeting of Congress and the Hotels—Hon. Thaddeus Stevens—Cowan—Arrest of Beggars—Collisions—A Wedding.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, December 10, 1865.

Although Congress has met almost a week ago, yet strange to say, there are but few visitors here. Three weeks ago there was hardly room in any of the hotels to breathe in. Now there are dozens of rooms in every hotel empty. The fact is, people have determined not to stand the swindling operations entered into by Hotel proprietors and Boarding House Keepers to charge one-third more per day as soon as Congress met. Willard's went up half a dollar a day. Consequently he has appeared, they have got to come down a dollar or have an empty house. Served them right. Things are no dearer now, and if anything cheaper than they were a month ago. People seem suddenly to have all taken up their beds and walked off leaving here the Congressmen to fight out their own salvation.

There will be very little congress and fashion here until after the holidays. Congress will probably at least a week before Christmas adjourn to a week after New Year's. Until then there will be nothing of importance doing.

This week Mr. Colfax is engaged in arranging among our members it is hardly likely that any changes of importance will be made from the positions they held in the last Congress.

A few months ago Hon. Thaddeus Stevens made a speech in Lancaster, after which he was almost considered insane. He was condemned by the press generally all over the country. Yet strange to say, he is today a leader in the House with the appearance of being able to carry through almost any bill he may offer. The noble resolution he offered, I said and adopted by the House the meeting; Congress, which was one of the largest caucuses ever held by the members of any previous Congress, will, it is said, be opposed by Senator Cowan when brought up in the Senate. Cowan was always, at home in Greensburg, while practicing law, noted for his love of "being contrary." In the Senate he is the same, and for this alone, and not from the conviction of his own heart, he opposes resolutions which at the same time his conscience tells him is just and for the good of the country. The resolution will pass both House and Senate by a large majority, and perhaps without amendment.

An order has been issued to the police to arrest all beggars found in the streets. This order is gotten up expressly to harass the poor colored people living here. The feeling of hatred against the colored population existing in the hearts of the city officials and old residents of this city is most bitter and daily growing worse. They take every occasion to crush them into the mire instead of trying to ameliorate their condition. It will be no better until some other mode of governing the city is authorized by Congress. The President here will undoubtedly be endowed with the elective franchise at an early day.

Lately there has been a collision or two between the steam cars and horse cars at crossings in this city. A bitter feeling seems to exist among the employees of the horse railroad of the Washington and Georgetown company against the men of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. We have often noticed the cars at these crossings and have shuddered at the narrow escapes we have seen. Sometimes the drivers of the horse cars whip up their horses and cross before an approaching engine when they know they have but a few feet to spare, and once or twice before the late collision I have jumped from the platform to avoid danger.

Miss Cora L. V. Scott, (formerly Mrs. Hatch), the spiritualist, was married on last Friday evening in this city, to Col. N. W. Daniels, of Louisiana. Rev. John Pierpont, the poet, aged upwards of 80 years and a believer in spiritualism, tied the knot. The audience was very select and mainly composed of "believers."

The recommendations made by Comptroller Clark, relative to increasing the national revenue seems to meet with general approval of members of Congress.

PERSONAL.

General Thomas is urged for Quartermaster General in place of Gen. Meigs.

Lieut. Henry Baker, formerly of Bedford, was murdered in South Carolina a few weeks ago.

The ex-rebel General William Mahone has been elected President of the Southside, Va., Railroad.

James Stephens, the Head-centre of the Fenian Brotherhood in Ireland, has escaped from his prison.

John Thompson, alias Tobacco Jack, the old dog "professional" thief in Philadelphia, fell dead on Thursday.

Ex-President Pierce was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church at Concord, N. H., on Sunday week.

Gen. W. Gale, who offered \$100,000 for the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, has given bonds at Montgomery to appear when called for.

—Rev. Wm. H. Milburn, familiarly known as the "Blind Preacher and Lecturer," was ordained by Bishop Hopkins, at Burlington, Vt., on Monday last.

—Lieutenant Moffat, formerly of the Alabama, and Jefferson Davis Howell, arrived at Portland in the Hibernian, and were arrested as they were leaving for Canada.

—John H. Hill, Esq., of Newton, N. J., formerly Clerk of Sussex county, and for more than fifty years publisher of the Sussex Register, died at Newton last week, aged 75 years.

—Morgan Jones, of New York, and D. A. Voorhees, of Indiana, are the only members of the House of Representatives from the loyal States who have not taken the oath.

—The Charleston Courier states that, unless sooner recalled by orders from Washington, General Grant will extend his trip to the Rio Grande, Texas, and return by way of St. Louis, Mo.

—Gen. Logan, recently appointed by President Johnson Minister to the Mexican Republic, has arrived in Washington but his decision in reference to the acceptance of the position has not yet been made public.

—Governor Orr, of South Carolina, was inaugurated at Columbia, on the 29th ult. The brilliant assemblage of ladies of former years was reduced "to a thin attendance clothed in the garb of mourning."

—It was decided in the Republican Senatorial caucus not to place the names of Senators M'Dougall, of California, and Saulsbury, of Delaware, on any Senatorial committee. Their names, therefore, do not appear in the official list.

—Charles Conby, alias Mercier, arrested in Carlisle, Pa., by the New York authorities, on suspicion of having been concerned in the murder of the Cuban theatrical manager, Mr. Otero, is entirely innocent, and has been discharged from custody.

—The Governor has signed the death warrants of Marshall and Frecke, the Boyd's hill murderers, at Pittsburg. They are to be hanged on the 12th of January. The death warrant of Mrs. Martha Grider, the Pittsburg poisoner, has also received the signature of the Governor, and Mrs. G. will be executed on the 10th of January.

—In General Grant's report he does full justice to Gen. Meade. He says: "I may here state that, commanding all the armies as I did, I tried as far as possible to leave General Meade in independent command of the Army of the Potomac. My instructions for that army were all through him, and were general in their nature, leaving all the details of execution to him. The campaigns that followed proved him to be the right man in the right place. His commanding always in the presence of an officer superior to him in rank has drawn from him much of that public attention which his zest and ability entitled him to, and which he would otherwise have received."

—The recent assault of General S. Meredith upon the Hon. G. W. Julian, at Richmond, Ind., appears to have been a very cowardly affair. Mr. Julian, who had for some time been in very feeble health, and was quite lame in the knee, had a sharp wrangled around him and a cumbersome bundle under one arm, when Meredith struck him heavily over the head with an iron bludgeon, threw him to the floor, his head bleeding profusely all the time, and then belabored him with a heavy whip. A number of Meredith's confederates surrounded them, exclaiming, "Fly the damned abolitionist!" and preventing all interference with Meredith's brutality. The ruffian has been arrested. Mr. Julian's condition is critical.

—The resignation of Major-General Butler, sent in some months ago, was finally accepted on Friday. It is known that for some months past General Butler has, at the request of the War Department, been thoroughly examining the laws of the States.

—The final decision of the President has not to allow a military commission for the trial of Davis for his participation in the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln, and various raids in Northern States during the war. On the appearance of General Grant's report General Butler again asked for the acceptance of his resignation, which request has at last been granted.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The full vote for Governor in North Carolina was as follows:—James L. Orr, 9770; Wade Hampton, 9109. Majority for Orr, 667.

—The Louisiana House of Representatives has passed the Senate resolution against the recognition of Hahn and Cutler as United States Senators.

—The Alabama Legislature has passed the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, but entered a proviso against the radical interpretation of the same.

—Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, editor of the Hartford Press, is likely to be the Union candidate for Governor in the State of Connecticut. The Hon. H. B. Harrison has declined to run.

—Wm. H. Graham, an unpardoned Rebel, has been elected a United States Senator, for the long term, by the Legislature of North Carolina, and John Pool, said to be a Union man, for the short term.

—The Senate Judiciary Committee will take up the case of Senator Stockton, of New Jersey, on an early day. The protest against the legality of his election is being urged by some members of the New Jersey Legislature.

—An organized movement in favor of the immediate admission of the Tennessee Delegation now gives the claimants a good deal of hope. It is backed up by prominent Republicans in both Houses, and the Presidential influence outside.

—It is stated that the Democratic candidate for State Senator in New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the late election was a negro, "a black as night's black curtain." The Republicans nominated a white man, and in order to catch the votes of black men, the Democracy put up a negro. But the colored voters could not be deluded, and the Republican white man was elected.