

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON.

SENATOR ROBERTSON PROPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE SHIP CANAL—GRANT'S SPEECH.

WASHINGTON, February 13.—Senator Robertson proposes a constitutional amendment regulating the counting of the electoral vote.

The President has nominated Lewis Dent, the brother of General Grant's wife, as Minister to Chili, vice Kilpatrick.

Caleb Cushing telegraphs to Seward that he will be here on Monday with a satisfactory treaty in regard to the ship canal over the Isthmus.

Parvian advices state that the Pacific Republics accept the mediation of the United States in the quarrel. The plenipotentiaries will meet in Washington in the spring.

The Secretary of the Treasury reports that twenty thousand dollars have been recovered abroad on account of Confederate property, a part of which is held for court fees.

Senator Morton, chairman of the Committee appointed to pacify General Grant and inform him of his election, in his speech assured Grant that his countrymen were gratified at his election.

General Grant replied in substance that the points of his administration would be economy, retrenchment and reform, and that he would conduct revenue officers to strict accountability.

He said that he would give the names of his Cabinet until they were sent to the Senate for confirmation.

Representative Pruyn, one of the committee, assured Grant that his administration, in the respects mentioned, would meet the support of the Democratic party.

The President has pardoned Sanford Conover. The official sales of gold and silver by the treasury from January, 1863, to January, 1869, were \$388,500,000.

THE PACIFIC MAILS.—THREE BILLS PASSED ON THE NATIONAL BANKS—THE REPUBLICANS PREPARING FOR DEFEAT BEFORE THE PEOPLE—THE SENATE TO BE ABSOLUTELY CONTROLLED BY A THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY INSTEAD OF TWO-THIRDS.

WASHINGTON, February 13.—IN THE HOUSE, the Committee on Public Expenditures made a report extending both the Postoffice Department and Wells, Fargo & Co., in the matter of the Pacific mails.

The Committee on Banking and Currency reported the following bills, which were passed: A bill to prohibit national banks from certifying to checks in the absence of corresponding deposits; a bill to prohibit loans on legal tenders or national bank notes as collateral; a bill forbidding commissions for the sale of government bonds on government account, and sales of gold except after public notice. The general subject of banking was discussed until recess without action.

There will be a meeting to-night for general debate. IN THE SENATE, an additional rule was reported that debate may be closed at a specified hour by a three-fifths vote.

Spencer introduced a bill to improve the river, bay and harbor of Mobile. Several bills regarding naturalization were introduced.

THE DISCUSSION OF THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL was resumed, and an amendment to strike out the appropriation of \$500,000 for the Louisville Canal was defeated by a vote of yeas 22—nays 82. After further discussion, the bill was recommended for further consideration in committee, and the Senate adjourned.

EUROPE. OPENING OF THE SPANISH CORTES.—ADDRESS OF MARCEL SERRANO. MADRID, February 12.—The Constituent Cortes formally opened its sessions yesterday with great ceremony. The city was profusely decorated in honor of the event.

Crowds of people were in the streets, flags were flying, and the day regarded as a holiday. The president of the ministry, Marshal Serrano, delivered a congratulatory address to the deputies.

At the opening of the Cortes Serrano said: "The nations of Europe, in attaining a higher degree of civilization, throw off the traditional bonds which had fettered the public mind. Spain delayed for a long time following the example of her neighbors. She now calls on her representatives to construct a new edifice. The revolution has achieved a bloodless victory. The strength of the nation has not been impaired, but the extravagance of the former administration has disorganized and embarrassed its finances. The government relies upon the Cortes to remedy this by economical reforms and changes in the administration, by wise legislation in regard to the public debt and payment of interest thereon, and by economizing the expenses of the army and navy. The fundamental principles of radical liberalism which had been adopted in relation to religion, the press and education by the provisional government, must now be consolidated by the action of our deputies.

"Our revolution here is not responsible for the rising in Cuba. That is due to the errors of past governments."

He expressed a hope that the insurrection there would be speedily extinguished, and that tranquillity, based on reform, would be durable. He predicted that slavery would be abolished without precipitation and without compromising the prosperity of the Antilles. In conclusion, he congratulated the country on the good relations with foreign nations, now more intimate than ever before.

FEMIAN PRISONERS. DUBLIN, February 12.—The Mayor of Dublin will take advantage of the first public levee to present to Queen Victoria a monster petition for amnesty to the Fenian prisoners, which has been so extensively signed by corporate authorities of cities and towns throughout Ireland.

There was a heavy rain in Washington yesterday. There was a heavy thunder storm at Savannah last night.

The Richmond chief of police has been suspended for interfering with a Republican meeting. Governor Eronlow, of Tennessee, has sent in his resignation to the Legislature, to take effect on the 25th inst.

One hundred and fifty removals from appointments to office were made on Saturday by General Stoneman in Virginia. Theodore Leonard, formerly Treasurer of Shelby County, Tennessee, has been arrested at New York for obtaining money on forged vouchers.

James Doyle, a well known lawyer of Philadelphia, was found dead in the streets of that city yesterday morning, having evidently been murdered.

The winter in California is very severe. The snow on the mountains is twelve to fifteen feet deep, the railroads are interrupted in every direction, and the bridges have been swept away.

Dulos has withdrawn the amnesty offered to the Cuban rebels, and re-established the censorship of the press. Political prisoners and persons violating the press law will hereafter be tried by court-martial.

OUR MINERAL WEALTH. Some Further Accounts of the Wonderful Mineral Resources of Sparta, N. C.—A Prediction by Professor Lieber—Furnaces and Rolling Mills—Water Power, &c.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.] SPARTANBURG, February 10.—Your correspondent, "Bird's-Eye," while passing "on the wing" through our county has certainly seen and well portrayed some of the strong points in our position and resources. Perhaps you may be willing to hear occasionally from one on the perch. I had not the pleasure of reading the "Pacoles" letter to which you refer, but may, perhaps, repeat some items which were in it. There is a remarkable passage in Lieber's report (1857), which shows how he was impressed by a professional survey of the mineral resources of our section:

"There is great reason to believe that, at a future day, the northeast corner of Sparta, N. C., and the northwest corner of Spartanburg and the northwest corner of York, will form a highly important mining district, in which the iron beds, to which it has hitherto been referred, are the best in the State. They will form the least important resources of wealth and prosperity. The population will be entirely changed, and the scattering shanties of iron quarries and charcoal burners will give place to the thriving villages of industrial mechanics and miners. This district would be enclosed by a semi-circle, having the point where the Broad River enters our State for its center, and the distance to King's Mountain, the Highlands, and would therefore cover about eighty square miles. Such a remark may appear to many readers to be overdone, and too highly colored. Yet it is the result of a careful inspection of our section.

"This eastern part of our country is nearly an iron bed. The iron and other minerals are found associated with the mica slate, which overlies the gneiss in this part of the country.

Lieber was struck with the iron: (flexible sandstone) formation here. Of about eighty square miles of this rock in the State, forty square miles are in Spartanburg. This rock is elsewhere (as in Brazil) found associated with diamonds. These iron regions attracted attention even in the revolution. Early in this century a furnace was in operation near the Cowpens battle ground, which is sixteen miles northeast of the courthouse. In 1838, the company selected a beautiful shoal on Pacolet, eight miles east of our town, and built the Rolling Mills. Of this company, Simpson Bobo, of our bar, was an original stockholder, and in addition, has been for many years the agent of the South Carolina Iron Manufacturing Company. The Rolling Mills are connected with the Cowpens Furnace, twelve miles distant, by a rail road with horse power, perhaps the largest road of the kind in the country. In this part of the county is the Bivingsville Cotton Factory, on Lawson's Fork, four miles east of the courthouse. It stands on the site of an old iron mill, burnt in the Revolution. It was built by a company chartered in 1837, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. The present proprietors have built since that time a magnificent brick building near the old wooden one, but higher up on the hill side, so as to be above the reach of high water.

The following list of a few of our shoals is from Mill's Falls Atlas, from which Lieber copied it into his report alluded to above: Cherokee Falls, Pacolet, 16 feet in 4 chains; Rolling Mills, Pacolet, 10 feet in 3 chains; Canons Mill, Pacolet, 12 feet in 10 chains; Trocig Shals, 25 feet in 60 chains; Bivingsville, Lawson's Fork, 20 feet in —; Mountaint Shoals, Ennore, 85 feet in 21 chains.

We hope a more complete list may be given at no distant day. Few portions of our widespread country are more favored in water privileges. May you and I live to see the day when all our mountain streams will leap seaward to the music of a thousand wheels on their banks. Of other points in the old Iron District, more hereafter. ENNORE.

COMPETITION BETWEEN OCEAN STEAMERS.—The City of Paris, of the Imman Line, left her dock at fifteen minutes before two o'clock yesterday afternoon, and sped her course beatifically down the bay, passing the old and the new Canal line, which had just taken on board the mails, and which followed forty-five miles afterwards. The speed of both these vessels across the Atlantic will be looked for with great interest. As most rivalry exists between the English steamship companies to secure the subsidy, which the Cunard line has hitherto obtained for transporting the English mails to this country. Should the City of Paris beat the Imman, the Cunard Company that the race was not a fair test, as the Cuba was the slowest mail steamer on the one side, while the City of Paris was the fastest on the other. But no such objection can be made now, for the Russia is considered among the "crack" vessels of the Cunard line. There is considerable betting on the result—the odds being slightly in favor of the City of Paris.—New York Herald of Thursday.

A "NEW CHAMPION."—We notice by reports of several States and County Fairs, that a new champion, though not a new machine, is becoming notorious by carrying off undue proportions of "first premiums." This machine—the Wilcox & Gibbs—appears especially well adapted for its purpose, and is a very desirable one. It is a simple and easy of action, and has been in use five years without ever getting out of complete working order.

[Christian Advocate and Journal.]

Letters received in Washington, direct from the commanders of the revolutionary army in Cuba, dated in his camp, contain assurance that even as now armed, the insurgents are bold as against the Spanish forces, and that a successful success is near, which they are hoping will be sent them by their friends outside of the island. The representatives of the revolutionists in Washington are still pressing our government for recognition as belligerents.

Major McKnight, better known in the literary world as "Asa Hartz," was on Wednesday last in New Orleans. Major McKnight was the author of several beautiful pieces of poetry, and is a man of letters. He was in Cuba, and was a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island. His letters and sketches over the pen name of "Asa Hartz," were highly popular and were extensively read and copied.

The New York World estimates that thirty thousand persons nightly attend the theatres of that city, a great part of whom come from the floating population, which numbers seventy thousand.

THE CHARLESTON ORPHAN ASYLUM. [From the Washington Chronicle.] We noticed some days ago the appeal of the Sisters of Mercy, of Charleston, South Carolina, for an appropriation wherewith to rebuild their orphan asylum, destroyed by our guns in the bombardment of that city during the war. Their petition, as we then stated, was strongly backed up by such men as Generals Sickles and Gilmore, Admiral Dahlgren, and various other officers, some of whom were wounded. They also secured the unsolicited benevolence of these sisters, who were to them in their distress veritable "ministering angels." So high are the testimonials to their good deeds, that they are not only ready to be read, but they have a peculiar claim to a favorable hearing. In addition to the testimonials, we have the following affidavit, which tells its own story: State of Connecticut, County of New Haven, ss. I hereby certify that I, F. H. Jackson, formerly a sergeant in Company F, Seventh Connecticut Volunteers, served at Fort Mifflin, James Island, South Carolina, June 16, 1862, and was then and there taken prisoner by the enemy. I was carried from the battle-field to the hospital, and placed in a building known as "Mart Hospital," on King or Building street, (an uncertain which), in which were confined all of the prisoners taken June 16, 1862, who were there under the care of our M. Xavier, accompanied by another Sister of Mercy, each bearing comforts for us, the wounded Union prisoners. Sister Xavier came to the hospital prison daily, received us, and to all of our number and gave fruit, corn bread, cake, meat, rice, arrow root, and sometimes chicken and chicken broth. She brought me daily either a bottle of wine or brandy—generally a bottle of old Malaga wine. There were eight wounded men confined in our cell, only one of whom, Captain Lawler, was a Union soldier. By another sister, some attentions at the hands of Sister M. Xavier and companion. The majority of our number were of the Protestant faith; but there was no distinction made between us on account of religion. Sister Xavier, during the night, unremitting in her attentions to us. They provided for all of our wants, and made our prison life in Charleston a perfect heaven on earth, compared to the dreary existence of our M. Xavier, who never failed to bring interesting books of all kinds. Lint, medicines and money were furnished by her to us in due and nearly all, if not all, were daily supplied with the necessities of life. This kind treatment continued without intermission during the two months we were prisoners in Charleston. I have not the command of language to describe the kindness and benevolence and kindness of the Sisters of Mercy who were in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1862, ministering to the every want of our wounded Union prisoners, nor all of whom, myself included, were Protestants.

F. R. JACKSON, Formerly Sergeant Co. F, 7th Conn. Vols. State of Connecticut, County of New Haven, ss. On this sixth day of February, 1869, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for the County of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, personally appeared CHARLES C. BUSH, a Notary Public.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL. [From the Round Table, February 13.] Jonbert said that there are heads that have no windows, and that daylight cannot strike them. He said that he had seen some of these heads, and that they were the heads of the journalists who are only just beginning to discover that important truth about General Grant's future political relations which was clearly set forth by the Round Table in an article published in the issue of the 11th inst. The Presidential election was shown in these columns that the situation of the successful candidate relative to the extremists of the dominant party was such that he must be either controlled or controlled by them or set them at defiance, and inasmuch as at the time of the convention, they needed him very much more than he needed them, he must be controlled by them. It is not that they could control his policy as President; and that, as he is by no means a plastic man, the contrary alternative might be regarded as a certainty. We have no objection to Jonbert's article, and we think the public will bear witness how regularly the seeds have been sown by the Round Table in the past, and how abundantly they are now springing up in the fertile soil of the daily press. We really think their windows might have been sufficiently open to admit so obvious and necessary a truth. In the absence of General Grant, without being obliged to take it from second hands; more especially after so long a time that, through its dissemination among the masses, the insidious influence has come from the press, and from above. General Grant's visit to the metropolis, at a moment just before his inauguration, seems to have been instrumental in producing this sudden enlightenment, and the result, as we have seen, has been the strengthening of the Radical and conservative Republicans, and giving the Radicals of both parties an impartial and unbiassed view of the situation. The means well understood by the initiated, but only dimly appreciated, through results, by the general public. Floating in the atmosphere everywhere—whenever one looks up, the conviction that between Grant and the ultra Radical party there was to be a deathless feud. But with the General's visit to New York this has taken a more palpable form. It has been the result of the dissemination of the great bones of contention, and in the matter of their distribution, those unerring indices of policy, the Cabinet offices, the foreign missions, and the State Department, have been the means of their dissemination. It is not that the Radicals will be such as to constitute a gratuitous defiance thrown down at the feet of the Radical party. It is known that the Treasury has been ordered to Mr. A. T. Stewart, and that he has declined it. He has been ordered to Mr. Charles Francis Adams—and he has taken the proposal into serious consideration. Should he refuse, Mr. Motley is the next choice. The War Department has been ordered to Mr. John W. Foster, and he has accepted it. The State Department has been ordered to Mr. Charles Francis Adams—and he has taken the proposal into serious consideration. Should he refuse, Mr. Motley is the next choice. The War Department has been ordered to Mr. John W. Foster, and he has accepted it. The State Department has been ordered to Mr. Charles Francis Adams—and he has taken the proposal into serious consideration. Should he refuse, Mr. Motley is the next choice. The War Department has been ordered to Mr. John W. Foster, and he has accepted it. The State Department has been ordered to Mr. Charles Francis Adams—and he has taken the proposal into serious consideration. Should he refuse, Mr. Motley is the next choice. The War Department has been ordered to Mr. John W. Foster, and he has accepted it. The State Department has been ordered to Mr. Charles Francis Adams—and he has taken the proposal into serious consideration. 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