

The Whiskey "Coup de Main" of Secretary Bristow.

The success of Secretary Bristow in bringing to light the enormous whiskey frauds was only achieved by the most guarded steps. It was dangerous to communicate with the Internal Revenue Department itself, in fact, he had to be extremely careful to keep it in the dark. The account, which we find in the New York Tribune, of his precautions taken against the spies and agents with which the department was filled, reads almost like a romance. But he evidently knew the gigantic nature of the evil which he undertook to overthrow, and grappled with it in the spirit of a stern determination and commanding subtlety. His success has been extraordinary, and we trust that his example will have a salutary effect upon the other members of the Cabinet. There must be work of a similar kind for Mr. Attorney-General Pierpont to do. Where Williams has been, there must be foulness left. The evidences of a corrupt and rotten system of management in the encouragement, production of outrages, particularly in the South, must lie "straw thick, as leaves in Vallambrosa" in the so-called "Department of Justice." Here is a fine field for the new Attorney-General.

We copy from the Tribune editorial notice of the extraordinary whiskey ring doings, a few sentences, which will suffice to place the achievements of Secretary Bristow in exposing it in a proper light, and a very pertinent inquiry as to the value of the Revenue Bureau, which required outside influences to expose its criminal mysteries.

The ring was not only rich and powerful, it was almost ubiquitous. Its paid agents were officials in the Government employ, and corruption extended upward and downward through all branches of the internal revenue service. Every movement toward investigation was instantly telegraphed from Washington to the leaders of the ring. The Secretary found himself surrounded with spies. To get the evidence necessary to prove known frauds, new men had to be employed, who were unknown to the ring. It was not merely desirable to carry on the investigations without the aid of the machinery of the Internal Revenue Bureau, it was absolutely requisite that no knowledge of the work should reach that bureau in any form.

During one period of the undertaking, the ring actually endeavored to foist upon the Secretary one of their own agents to assist in the investigation, and this counterplot very nearly succeeded. The ramifications of this conspiracy have been very nearly traced out. Its estimated profits exceeded \$1,000,000 per year. A fixed per centage of these profits was paid to the corrupted officials. When new men were appointed to office, they were persuaded that it was necessary to defraud the Government in order to provide a fund for election purposes. The next question in order, now that by outside methods the mysteries of the whiskey ring are exposed, is, what is the use of the Internal Revenue Bureau?

The Tax Question Before the People.

It has been understood for some time that Governor Chamberlain would not approve the tax bill. It has been expected that he would, in some informal way, signify his objections to it. But a veto, which is formally the return of the bill with his objections to the house in which it originated, is, of course, not to be expected, until the Legislature shall again convene. The refusal of the Governor to approve of it, the necessity of waiting till the opening of the next session before this refusal can become a public Act, place the whole question of the taxes and incidentally the subject of salaries and offices, claims and deficiencies, fairly before the public. It is their part to give these matters thorough consideration, so that a well settled and judicious public opinion demanding what is right, refusing every excess in the matter of taxation, and insisting upon certain other reforms which will tend to reduce the levy, shall be felt as an element in the determination of the question next winter. As we have said on previous occasions, it will be of immense advantage to have the fixing of the rate of taxation a year nearer to the time of holding the elections. It will be the central subject of the next session, and those who come to its discussion in the proper spirit, no matter of what party they may be, will find themselves in a strengthened and well fortified position. We need a similar amendment to the Constitution of this State to one recently adopted in New York, which allows the Governor to veto any item or items in an appropriation bill, while approving of the bill in the main. It is a common device of shrewd and unprincipled parties, to get clauses of a swindling character incorporated in bills which in themselves have merit or are necessary to carry on the Government. The intention is to pass the bad through under cover of the good. As in the tax bill we are referring to, there are claims, deficiencies and sums for other doubtful objects; there

are appropriations for bogus schools and colleges placed, as it was thought, in good company, to have the advantage of the association, and put before the Executive at the moment of adjournment, in order to escape the veto if possible, and prevent the opportunity of revision. The congressional salary grab bill was tacked on by Butler, of Massachusetts, to an appropriation bill. But the New York amendment is likely to prove a salutary remedy for all such ingenious trickery, and is likely, as suggested by the New York Sun, to be incorporated in the Constitutions of all the States, and ultimately into that of the United States. In this age of fraudulent practice and device, legislation is compelled to pick its way with care.

Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, announces as a part of the policy of the Democrats, when they get into power, the abolition of the Internal Revenue Department. Good. It will be according to the fitness of things that this monstrous organization of corruption and oppression shall go down, with the party whose slave and facile instrument it has been.

THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION.—The 85th annual convention of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina met in St. Philip's Church, Charleston, on the 13th, the Right Rev. W. B. W. Howe, Bishop of the Diocese, presiding. Messrs. C. R. Brewster, G. L. Buis and E. Munro were appointed a committee to examine the credentials of the lay delegates. The Bishop stated that he had received an application from the congregation of St. Mark's Church, (colored,) Charleston, for union with the convention, and that, in accordance with the usual custom, he would refer it to the Committee on the Admission of New Parishes. This subject was debated until adjournment.

Mr. Edward McCrady thought that the application should be treated in a different manner. If the gentlemen would reflect, they would see that this was a proposition virtually to alter the constitution, which, when it was framed, contemplated no such union as this. The question required grave consideration, and in order that a decision should be made wisely, time would be required. The admission of this congregation into the convention was not a matter of right. There was nothing in the constitution of the church which required this convention to admit any congregation that applied for admission. The convention had the right to inquire into the means of support of every congregation that applied for admission. A union with the church was not at all a union with the convention. This was an application for admission to participate in the legislative power, not for a Christian privilege, that the congregation already enjoyed. It is not a question as to whether St. Mark's congregation should be a part of the church—the law of the church settles that. Politics, said he, have brought us in contact with a race different from ours. It is not disparaging, then, to say that the 200 years of training that they have had, does not fit them to govern themselves or other people. The white race had to undergo a training of 1,000 years. The fact that this application comes on the heels of the Civil Rights Bill would dispose him to reject it at once, but for the gravity of the case. It might have been suggested by political, and not by Christian feelings. It does not follow, that because the colored race legislate in a civil capacity, that they are fit to legislate on religious matters. Here are a race of people who, only ten years ago, were in a condition of servitude, but who now come here and ask to be allowed to legislate for the church, when, according to the statement of their own friends, they are not fit to govern the State. This particular church may be fit for admission, and yet their race may not be fit. He was not at all sure that the admission of this church would solve the question as to those of a deeper color. And, in view of the gravity of the matter, he moved that the application be referred to a special commission of five, to be appointed by the Bishop, with instructions to report to the next annual convention.

The Rev. A. T. Porter asked if the resolution could be considered except by a suspension of the rules of order, which would require a two-thirds vote. After some discussion upon this point, the Bishop decided to entertain the resolution and submit it to the vote of the convention. He would throw upon the convention the responsibility of taking the step contemplated in the resolution. The practice had always been for the Bishop, after reading the application, to refer it to the Committee on New Parishes. Such a disposition as was contemplated by the resolution of Mr. McCrady had never been made of an application from a white congregation, and he would decline the responsibility of departing from the custom in this case.

Mr. C. G. Memminger regarded the question as a very important one, and one that he was not yet prepared to decide upon. In all other denominations, the races had been kept separate, and he was not at all certain that the admission of this congregation would be the best thing for them. His object was to benefit these people. He did not want to see them used as tools, as they had been in this State. It was a question whether it was best to adopt the Methodist plan of giving them missionary bishops, or the Presbyterian plan of placing them in separate churches under white elders. He was in favor of the resolution.

The Rev. J. H. Tillingham, of Richland, was not able to see what was to be gained by putting off this question. He, for one, was ready to meet the question upon its merits now. With him, it was simply a question as to whether the convention was justified in the sight of God in making any such discrimination as was proposed by that resolution. The congregation was in good standing, was composed of intelligent people, and nothing was to be gained by delaying the consideration of the application for another year.

The Rev. John D. McCollough, of Spartanburg, said that this question had been under consideration for five or six years, and there was no reason for putting it off another year. He was not prepared to exclude any man from any position in the church on account of his color. Suppose, said he, an Ethiopian Eunuch had gone to the Council at Jerusalem, would he have been excluded? Then, too, he would remind the Convention that this was a case sui generis. It involved no principle. This was a congregation of intelligent, respectable colored people. Should a congregation of ignorant black people apply for admission, he would be prepared to exclude them; not on account of their color, but on account of their unfitness. In this case, however, the people were intelligent, educated and able to maintain themselves. He could see no reason for denying them admission.

Mr. Thomas M. Hanckel concurred entirely in the resolution. There ought to be time for careful deliberation. The Convention ought to feel its way, and, in his opinion, the relations of the white with the colored race were not sufficiently defined to enable the Convention as yet to feel its way to a conclusion.

Mr. W. F. Colcock thought the question a very grave one, and it was the bounden duty of the Convention to take time and reflect upon it. They should remember that once they opened the door they would never be able to close it.

The Rev. C. C. Pinckney was prepared to vote on the question of admitting St. Mark's congregation, because he believed the case to be sui generis. Still, he believed that the mature judgment of such a commission as was contemplated under the resolution would have great influence on the action of the General Convention and of the Board of Missions.

The Rev. J. H. Elliott didn't like the postponement from year to year; it looked like trying to evade the issue. The question had been decided in Georgia, where colored congregations were admitted to the Convention. He appealed to the Bishop to say if his statement was correct.

The Bishop stated that in Georgia the colored clergymen were admitted to the Convention. In North Carolina both colored clergymen and colored laymen were admitted, and in one instance in Mississippi he remembered that a colored delegate had been admitted to represent a white congregation.

The Rev. A. T. Porter—We are talking as if it was an open question whether colored men can be admitted. When the Church of England consecrated a black bishop, the question was settled as to whether black people should be admitted as legislators in the councils of the church. This question cannot be staved off. This is a remarkable case and does not involve any difficulty. Gentlemen seem to think that a great avalanche is about to pour down upon us. Let me ask—does anybody believe in the next fifty years there will be any danger of this avalanche? I wish the day was near when the colored people could be educated and induced to connect themselves with the church in such great numbers. It does very well for the older gentlemen of this Convention, (and I mean no disrespect,) those gentlemen who, in the course of nature have only a few more years of life, to endeavor to put off this question, but they will pardon me for saying that the younger men who will have to solve this problem in the end have to meet the question right here now. The question is simply whether St. Mark's Church has complied with the canons and ought to be admitted. Remember that South Carolina has no Chinese wall around her. There are others outside who will regard our action as an attempt to dodge the question.

Mr. G. A. Trenholm—I was ready to concur in the appointment of a special commission, in the hope that it would conduce to that harmony which is essential to the deliberations of this body. But as the discussion has drifted into the merits of the question, I hope I may be indulged in the few suggestions which I shall make. While I shall vote for the appointment of the commission, it is due to myself to state that, in casting that vote, I do not wish it to be understood that I am not now prepared to cast my vote on the question at issue. I regard the emancipation of the black race as the emancipation of the white race, because while the blacks were in a condition of servitude I always considered that they were a trust committed to us by the Almighty. Have they abused the political power confided to them since their emancipation? If so, how shall we stimulate them to efforts of virtue, if, in these assemblies, where we have the majority, we refuse to those who it is acknowledged are qualified in every other respect, except this one of color, if we refuse to let them mingle and learn from us how to legislate with wisdom? Let us not commit the error of waiting until public opinion forces us to this. I care nothing for the example of the Methodists, the Baptists or Presbyterians in this matter, because I desire this church to be in advance of them. We can admit these people upon their merits, and having done that we shall be in a position to deny admittance to any others who are not as well qualified, and not have it charged that we refused them on account of their color.

The body of an unknown infant was found in an open lot on East Bay, Charleston, a few days ago.

ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENTAL THREAT.—Much apprehension has been expressed by some English civilians as to the safety of their little island, in view of the threatening aspect of affairs on the continent. The principal reliance of England against foreign invasion, has always been her navy, but the question is now started, what might happen if, in consequence of some untoward event, the navy should fail to disperse a hostile fleet of transports and the enemy obtain a foothold? We have not yet seen the "untoward event" definitely described, so as to understand what it was likely to be. If the British fleets were to be dispersed by a great storm, it would seem probable that the enemy would suffer correspondingly from the same cause. Or if they were able to make a landing before the British squadron could be got together, and could then effect the oft-times threatened "sack of London," it is reasonable to suppose that the British fleets could not be concentrated soon enough to prevent them ever getting out again? However, it appears that the apprehensions on this subject are not confined to civilians, but even military men profess to be disturbed on the subject. A prize has been offered by the Royal United Service Institute for the best essay on "Recruitment of the Army." The successful competitor for this reward is Captain Hime, R. A., whose treatment of the subject attracts some attention in recent English journals. This writer considers what means England has at hand to prevent a march into the interior, provided an enemy could land upon the coast. He finds that the defence must rest upon the two arms of the land service—the regular army and the volunteers. As to the volunteers, Capt. Hime makes no effort to conceal his contempt for them. "All we gain by supporting them," he exclaims, "is gratification of our national vanity." He is inclined to agree with an Austrian military critic, that they are "a harmless joke."

Such was the opinion that many regular officers of the United States entertained of American volunteers before the late civil war. We have not heard of one of them who held on to that self-complacent notion after the first battle that occurred. From Manassas to Appomattox the long and fierce struggle was mainly fought by volunteers, acquiring from practice the discipline of veterans, as volunteers of any other country would do under like circumstances. Not satisfied with giving utterances to his professional prejudices against amateur fighters, Captain Hime seems to be almost equally dissatisfied with the regular army. Numerous medical authorities are cited to prove this, and he gives as a reason for it that recruits are now drawn from the unemployed hands of the larger towns, not from the hardy peasant class. Capt. Hime reviews the various devices resorted to by the Government to induce men to become soldiers. Notwithstanding the offer of better pay and food, bounties and pensions, the result has not been what is desired. But, unsatisfactory as it is, the author reaches the "stern fact" that the safety of the British Isles at this time is staked upon this standing army of less than 60,000 men.

How, then, is England to be saved? To this momentous question, the critic answers, "by universal conscription." The method of warfare has been changed. The struggle has been transferred from standing armies to armed populations. Germany is a camp. England must be, in a modified sense, perhaps, a camp. The author quotes from Professor Cairns the remark, that "until we recognize this fact, our position cannot be otherwise than precarious." Voluntary enlistments in England have never been effectual, and are now breaking down. Whenever the country has been engaged in a war of any magnitude, compulsion under one form or another has been resorted to. "Sacked out," adds Captain Hime, "by pot-house frauds, to which the wily rustic is now proof, and by bounties which to-day would be impracticable."

If a resort to the Prussian military system of forced service is the only hope of England for defence against foreign invasion, it is a poor dependence. It is contrary to the genius and spirit of a free people, and would justly be regarded by them as at best a choice of evils, by putting domestic masters over them to save them from foreign ones. The navy of England is organized on a scale which is expressly intended to make it adequate to encounter for defensive purposes, not the naval power of one country only, but of the combined world. It has always been in the days of Bismarck as it was in the days of the Spanish Armada and of the first Napoleon, and as it always will be the main dependence of the empire. Even as to the army, when Captain Hime makes the startling assertion that "the physical stamina of the British soldier is no longer what it was," he must expect the world to forget what was accomplished by British soldiers in the Indian mutiny, in Abyssinia, and the wonderful spectacle of self-devotion which was exhibited by mere recruits on the British steamer Birkenhead, when she was wrecked off the coast of Africa, and when, after the women and children were put in the boats, these raw soldiers sunk themselves with the vessel, firing a feu de joie as they went down. Military men are naturally fond of large standing armies, and readily become alarmists to obtain their ends; but a free country would better run the risk of invasion, especially when there are other means of defence which may be reasonably relied on, than to establish such engines of oppression and despotism.—Baltimore Sun.

On Sunday, a large number of the pulpits in Baltimore were filled by ladies, who are said to have expounded divine truth with great acceptance on the part of the congregation. The Baltimore Sun says: "In several instances, the sermons were equal to any pulpit efforts in the ordinary run of churches." The female preachers were not Baltimoreans, however. The city was inundated with women from the North and West, who had come to attend the meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Some of the Cleveland crusaders were there, and delivered themselves of scorching temperance lectures, and advised the Baltimore ladies to organize "praying bands." The female orators produced quite a sensation in quiet old Baltimore.

Reading matter on every page.

CITY MATTERS.—If you are asked to lend your PRINX, suggest to the would-be borrower that he had better subscribe. "Spellingbook," or "spellingphobia," which do you prefer? Where, oh where, is the diamond breast-pin? Judge Carpenter despatches business with rapidity. He will not need to have night sessions of his court. The strawberry festival came to a successful termination, last night. It was a profitable affair. The City Council of Augusta has taken action in the matter of the diamond breast-pin. They had a quorum. While the ice-dealer rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race, the fat man mourneth and will not be comforted. Capt. Jack Little, with his Phoenix Hook and Ladder Company—truck and all—have made arrangements to go to Charlotte, next week. You can get all styles of job printing, from a visiting card to a four-sheet poster, at the PRINX office. Prices satisfactory. Who were the members of the City Council whose absence from the diamond meeting on Thursday prevented a quorum? The State House is in order again—ready for the tornado, prophesied by the St. Louis weather-ometer, to come off positively this day. As the "land distribution" scheme has been indefinitely postponed, agents throughout the country are requested to refund whatever subscriptions have been made, and make returns to the manager. Another of the City Hall stores has been occupied.—Mr. W. B. Burke, who is known in this community, has gone into the commission business, and proposes to sell at such prices as will induce consumers to give him a call. A card from the Alabama Gold Insurance Company will be found in this day's PRINX. The assets are sufficient to prove its reliability. General Stephen D. Lee is the general agent, and Major W. H. Gibbs agent for this city. It has been suggested that Lady Washington give another "tea party." The great injury to the Presbyterian Church, caused by the late storm, would be a good and sufficient reason. Think of the matter, Lady W.—we are satisfied the General is willing. The Charlotte Centennial is the topic of discussion now. Delegations from the different fire companies expect to be on hand, and a number of citizens will likely follow suit. By means of excursion trains, the trip can be made in one day. The following is a list of the officers elected at a recent meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association: W. A. Clark, President; W. H. Lyles, Vice-President; G. E. C. Johnston, Recording Secretary; D. Cardwell, Corresponding Secretary; J. E. Gyles, Treasurer.

THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.—The Court met yesterday, at 10 A. M. In the case of the State against James Bailey, indictment grand larceny, the defendant pleaded guilty. Wm. Goodwin, indictment bastardy. Verdict not guilty. Washington Doherty, indictment larceny. Verdict guilty. Robert Johnston, indictment larceny. Verdict guilty. Aaron Galloway, indictment grand larceny and receiving stolen goods. Verdict guilty of receiving stolen goods. W. B. Nash, Jr., et al., indictment riotous conduct, was continued. The case of W. B. Lowrance was continued; also, the case of S. J. Harris, indicted for assault with intent to kill and assault and battery. Jane Smith, indicted for grand larceny, was discharged on her own recognizance. In the case of Wm. Quash, the Solicitor said he was unable to go to trial, and on motion of Mr. Northrop, the prisoner was discharged on his own recognizance. A rule against the Sheriff of Orangeburg County, returnable at the next term of this Court, requiring him to show cause why he should not be attached for contempt in not serving the processes of the Court, was made. The Solicitor stated that he did not expect to try any of the cases now on the docket against the County Commissioners. Mr. Lyles moved that a new trial be granted Emma Brown and Solomon Gadsden, because of the insufficiency of the testimony on which they were convicted. Granted, and a nolle prosequi entered by the Solicitor. The grand jury returned the following true bills: Robert Johnston, larceny; Washington Doherty, larceny; Robert Smalls, indictment for counseling a breach of trust. The Court adjourned until 9 o'clock, this morning.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Ditson & Co.—Music Books. Stanley—Seasonable Goods. W. B. Burke—Oranges, Apples, &c. Alabama Life Insurance Company. HOTEL ARRIVALS, May 14.—Mansion House—Dr. Booser, city; C. C. Montgomery, Richland; W. Stevens, Ridge Spring; W. A. Sanders, Edgefield; Mrs. F. E. Archie, Abbeville; W. H. McLaughlin, U. S. A.; J. M. Walsh, city. Hendrix House—Miss M. Lyles, Fairfield; L. R. Ridgely, Baltimore; J. Kaughman, New York; S. R. Chinnis, N. C.; S. J. Gaillard, Winnsboro. Columbia Hotel—B. E. Dickson, city; J. F. Newman, S. C.; Joseph Price, Jr., E. G. Nye, J. G. Long, N. Y.; M. Goldsmith, Charleston; D. M. Renno, W. & W. R. R.; W. J. McDowell, S. & U. R.

CONSIGNEES.—Per South Carolina Railroad, May 14, 1875: J. A. Hendrix & Bro., C. L. Koenig, J. Witcofsky, S. W. Taylor, W. B. Burke, W. B. Brooks, D. C. Peixotto & Son, State Orphan Asylum, C. Harberg, W. Green, J. H. Doughty, Kingsland & Heath, H. Solomons, E. H. Heinisch, M. H. Berry, Jno. Alexander.

How NOT to DIE.—Thousands fall a prey to disease, not because the maladies that affect them are necessarily fatal, but because they lack the requisite amount of active vitality to make a valiant resistance to the enemy. It is a wise precaution to keep the body always in a state of defence—always prepared to "fend off" the germs of epidemic and other disorders, and to baffle the evil influence of damp miasma and sudden thermometrical changes. There is no difficulty in doing this. It is a fact as well authenticated as that two and two make four, that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is specially adapted to this purpose, and for the simple reason that its invigorating and regulating properties are superior to those of any other medicine in the world. During the twenty years that it has been in general use, ample opportunities have been afforded to compare its medicinal properties with those of other preparations claiming to be of a similar class, and the result has been its adoption by the American people as the standard tonic of the age, its introduction into every civilized portion of the Western hemisphere, and an annual sale which dwarfs into insignificance the demand for all its would-be competitors. The record upon which its popularity rests is a curiosity in medical literature, for it includes an almost unlimited variety of human ailments and disabilities. In fact, no other remedy possesses such a variety of hygienic virtues, and it is to these characteristics that it owes its prestige as a household medicine. M14371

There appears at last to be substantial proof of a revival of business in New York. The New York Post, in its financial article, says that "merchants report collections as exceptionally good, and while trade is not as active as it might be, the volume, nevertheless, is generally above last season, notwithstanding the backward weather. The prospect now is that we shall break abruptly from winter to summer. If we have good crops the coming season, there is no reason apparent, assuming that we have a comfortable money market, why next autumn's business should not be large and satisfactory. So far as soundness is concerned, business could never be more satisfactory than this season, for it is conspicuously the rule, that no more goods are bought than can be paid for; and, as noted, collections were never better."

It is truly wonderful, the variety and ingenuity of the conveniences for the desk and office—pens of varied patterns, inkstands possessing numberless advantages, letter files, each one the best, envelopes of size and qualities infinite. It is almost bewildering to enter the large Broad street store of Walker, Evans & Cogswell, in Charleston, and see the number of these attractions. Here you find the largest stationery stock South of Baltimore, and you only have two troubles—first, sufficient cash; and, second, the difficulty in deciding among the many things offered, each equally suitable to your wants. M17

There have been more American than English flags displayed on the Nile boats for travellers the past winter, and a little steam yacht, owned by two New Yorkers, was the first steam vessel carrying a foreign flag that has ever had permission from the Khedive to go up the Nile.