

THE OLD U. S. SENATE CHAMBER.

On Tuesday last the Senate took possession of its new Chamber, in the North Wing of the Capitol Extension. Before leaving the old one, Mr. Crittenden spoke as follows:—

Mr. CRITTENDEN. I move you, Mr. President and Senators, that we proceed at once to the consideration of this report, and that it be adopted. That is the purpose for which I rise. Before, however, submitting that motion to the vote of the Senate, I hope that I may be indulged in a few words of parting from this Chamber. This is to be the last day of our session here; and this place, which has known us so long, is to know us no more forever as a Senate. The parting seems to me, sir, to be somewhat of a solemn one, and full of eventful recollections. I wish, however, only to say a few words.

Many associations, pleasant and proud, bind us and our hearts to this place. We cannot but feel their influence, especially I, Mr. President, whose lot it has been to serve in this body more years than any other member now present. That we should all be attached to it, that my longer association should attach me to it, is most natural. Mr. President, we cannot quit this Chamber without some feeling of sacredness. This Chamber has been the scene of great events. Here questions of American constitutions and laws have been debated; questions of peace and war have been debated and decided; questions of empire have occupied the attention of this assembly in times past; this was the grand theatre upon which these things have been enacted. They give a sort of consecrated character to this Hall.

Sir, great men have been the actors here. The illustrious dead, that have distinguished this body in times past, naturally rise to our view on such an occasion. I speak only of what I have seen, and but partially of that, when I say that here, within these walls, I have seen men whose fame is not surpassed, and whose power and ability and patriotism are not surpassed, by anything of Grecian or of Roman name. I have seen Clay and Webster, and Calhoun and Benton, and Leigh and Wright, and Clayton, (but though not least,) mingling together in this body at one time, and uniting their counsels for the benefit of their country.

They seem to our imagination and sensibilities, on such an occasion as this, to have left their impress on these very walls; and this majestic dome seems almost yet to echo with the voice of their eloquence. This Hall seems to be a local habitation for their names. This Hall is full of the pure odor of their justly-earned fame. There are others besides those I have named, of whom I will not speak, because they have not yet closed their career—not yet ended their services to the country; and they will receive their reward hereafter. There are a host of others that I might mention—that deserve to be mentioned—but it would take too long. Their names are in no danger of being forgotten, nor their services unthought of or unhonored.

Sir, we leave behind us, in going from this Hall, these associations, these proud imaginations, so well calculated to prompt to a generous emulation of their services, to their country; but we will carry along with us, to the new Chamber to which we are to go, the spirit and the memory of all these things; we will carry with us all the inspiration which our illustrious predecessors are calculated to give; and wherever we sit we shall be the Senate of the United States of America—a great, a powerful, a conservative body in the government of this country, and a body that will maintain, as I trust and believe, under all circumstances and in all times to come, the honor, the right, and the glory of this country. Because we leave this Chamber, we shall not leave behind us any sentiment of patriotism, any devotion to the country which the illustrious exemplars that have gone before us have set to us. These, like our household gods, will be carried with us; and we, the representatives of the States of this mighty Union, will be found always equal, I trust, to the exigencies of any time that may come upon our country. No matter what sky we may see; no matter what dome may cover us, the great patriotic spirit of the Senate of the United States will be there; and I have an abiding confidence that it will never fail in the performance of its duty, sit where it may, even though it were in a desert.

But it is yet, sir, not possible to leave this Hall without casting behind us many longing and lingering looks. It has been the scene of the past; the new Chamber is to be the scene of the future; and that future, I hope, will not be dishonored by any comparison to be made with the past. It too, will have its illustrations of great public services rendered by great men and great patriots; and this body, the great preservative element of the Government, will discharge all its duties, taking care to preserve the Union of the States which they represent—the source of all their honors, the source of trust which they sit here to execute, the source as it has been and as it will be of their country's greatness, happiness, and prosperity in times to come, as it has been in the time that is past.

Vice President Breckinridge followed with a long account of the different places of meeting of Congress, and closed with the following eloquent remarks:—

The Senate is assembled for the last time in this Chamber. Henceforth it will be converted to other uses; yet it must remain forever connected with great events, and sacred to the memories of the departed orators and statesmen who here engaged in high debates, and shaped the policy of their country. Hereafter the American and the stranger, as they wander through the Capitol, will turn with instinctive reverence to view the spot on which so many and great materials have accumulated for history. They will recall the images of the great and the good, whose renown is the common property of the Union; and chiefly, perhaps, they will linger around the seats once occupied by the mighty three, whose names and faces associated in life, death has not been able to sever; illustrious men, who in their generation sometimes divided, sometimes led and sometimes resisted public opinion—for they were of that higher class of statesmen who seek the right and follow their convictions.

There sat Calhoun, the Senator, inflexible, austere, oppressed, but not overwhelmed by his deep sense of the importance of his public function; seeking the truth, then fearlessly following it—a man whose unsparring intellect compelled all his emotions to harmonize with the deductions of his vigorous logic, and whose noble countenance habitually wore the expression of one engaged in the performance of high public duties.

This was Webster's seat. He too, was even such a Senator. Conscious of his own vast powers, he reposed with confidence on himself; and scorning the contrivances of smaller men, he stood among his peers all the greater for the simple dignity of his senatorial demeanor. Type of his northern home, he dwelt before the imagination, in the grand and granite outline of his form and intellect, like a great New England rock, repelling a New England wave. As a writer, his productions will be cherished by statesmen and scholars while the English tongue is spoken. As a senatorial orator, his great efforts are historically associated with this Chamber, whose very air seems yet to vibrate beneath the strokes of his deep tones and his weighty words.

On the outer circle, sat Henry Clay, with his

impetuous and ardent nature untamed by age and exhibiting in the Senate the same vehement patriotism and passionate eloquence that of yore electrified the House of Representatives and the country. His extraordinary personal endowments, his courage, all his noble qualities, invested him with an individuality and a charm of character which, in any age, would have made him a favorite of history. He loved his country above all earthly objects. He loved liberty in all countries. Illustrious man—statesman, patriot, philanthropist—his light, at its meridian, was seen and felt in the remotest parts of the civilized world; and his declining sun, as it hastened down the west, threw back its level beams, in hues of mellowed splendor, to illuminate and to cheer the land he loved and served so well.

All the States may point, with gratified pride, to the services in the Senate of their patriotic sons. Crowding the memory, come the names of Adams, Hayne, Mason, Otis, Macon, Pinckney, and the rest—I cannot number them—who, in the record of their acts and utterances, appeal to their successors to give the Union a destiny not unworthy of the past. What models were these, to awaken emulation or to plunge in despair! Fortune will be the American statesman who, in this age, or in succeeding times shall contribute to invest the new Hall to which we go with historic memories like those which cluster here.

And now, Senators, we leave this memorable Chamber, bearing with us, unimpaired, the Constitution we received from our forefathers. Let us cherish it with grateful acknowledgments to the Divine Power who controls the destinies of empires and whose goodness we adore. The structures reared by men yield to the corroding tooth of time. These marble walls must moulder in ruin; but the principles of constitutional liberty, guarded by wisdom and, unlike material elements, do not decay. Let us devoutly trust that another Senate, in another age, shall bear to a new and larger Chamber this Constitution vigorous and inviolate, and that the last generation of posterity shall witness the deliberations of the Representatives of American States still united, prosperous, and free.

The President and the Secretary on Tariffs.—A correspondent of the Alexandria Gazette furnishes that paper with the following extracts from the President's message and the report of his Secretary of the Treasury:—

PRESIDENT. "Specific duties are the best, if not the only means for securing the revenue against fraud and fraudulent invasions of the principle (ad valorem) of the present tariff act, I would recommend such changes as will produce the amount required for the public service. "By taxing articles made at home, the consumer pays the enhanced value not only on the quantity imported, but on the quantity made at home."

Our readers are very well aware, says the Richmond Whig, that the principles avowed in these two extracts formed the dividing line between the old Whig party and the modern Democracy. We find the President asserting in the broadest terms, the very doctrine for which Mr. Clay contended, during at least twenty years of his legislative life. Mr. Cobb still contends, that by taxing the article made at home, the consumer pays the enhanced value not only on the quantity imported, but on the quantity made at home. Poor Cobb! He is altogether beyond the reach of reason, and there is no good to result from arguing with him. He has a theory, and what are facts to a man who has a theory of his own?

What the Democracy are Doing.—The Washington Union says that the Pension Bill lately passed by the Democratic House of Representatives might properly be "denominated a bill for giving a little of the public money to everybody who will take the trouble to apply for it, and for establishing a perpetual High Tariff." "It is no other than a measure for taxing all the people for the purpose of giving some of them pensions from the public purse. It rivals in wisdom and economy the policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Old Newspapers.—The oldest regular newspaper in England is said to have been established in 1662, and the oldest in France in 1632. The oldest of the Dutch journals completed in 1856 its two hundredth anniversary, on which occasion the publisher issued to his subscribers copies of the first number as it appeared on the 6th January, 1656. It contained two small folio pages of news, and declared its purpose to be to supply the public with a digest of the most important news conveyed to the publisher either by private or by special communications. The first Russian newspaper was established in 1763. Peter the Great, it is affirmed, not only took personally in its editorial composition, but in correcting proofs, as appears from sheets still in existence, in which are marks and alterations in his own hand. There is said to be two complete copies of the first year's edition in the Imperial Library of St. Petersburg.

American Newspapers.—The first paper published in North America was the Boston News Letter, established in 1704; and the second was established in that city in 1720, about which time a paper was also started in Philadelphia, and there were four others in other parts of the American Colonies. When the Revolution began, in 1775, there were only four papers published in the United States, and the whole number in the United States was but thirty-five, viz: seven in Massachusetts, one each in New Hampshire and Georgia; two each in Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina; three in South Carolina; four each in Connecticut and New York; and nine in Pennsylvania. In 1810 the whole number in the United States was 359; in 1820 it was 852; in 1840 it had increased to 1,631, and in 1850 to 2,528. The aggregate number of copies circulated in 1850 was 426,409,978. The whole issue of the country paper would cover a surface of one hundred square miles, or constitute a belt of thirty feet wide around the earth, and weigh nearly 70,000,000 pounds. These facts I gather mainly from the census statistics of 1850. What the increase has been since 1850 I have no means of determining, but the whole number of newspapers and periodicals in the United States at this time is probably little, if any, less than four thousand.

In Europe and other parts of the world the number, in proportion to the population, is much less than in the United States, if, indeed, in all the world beside there are as many as in the United States alone; although in England and Germany, in the business of book-making, they are doubtless in advance of us.

The New Orleans True Delta says that the following verdict was rendered recently in the criminal court of that city: "We the jury find the verdict guilty." Wonder if an action could not be instituted against that "jury" for murder—of the President's English!

The above reminds us of the finding of a jury in the "third of Baker," many years ago. It was a case of forcible entry and detainer, and the verdict was, "We the jury find this case are hung." Macon Telegraph.

ASPIRATION AND GROWTH.

"Three years!" mused a young mother, as she sat one Sabbath evening at an open window, and watched the sunset light fading out of the calm September sky.

"Three years ago, I was but a school girl, my course of study just completed, my plans for life glowing with hope and aspiration. Life itself was a school, to my thinking; I would learn its lessons. I would be perfect. 'This is the will of God, even your sanctification,' I had read, and from the depths of my soul I responded, 'Thy will be done.' The only object in life was to grow, and surely the world must be so organized as to aid our growth. Whatever was great or pure, or noble or lovable, must be attainable, and I would attain it."

"Those days of aspiration, how vividly I recalled them to-day, as I opened an old book of extracts, collected them from favorite authors. Here is the last sentence: 'Great objects make great minds; hence, God, eternity, heaven, the kingdom of Christ, the perfection of the world, our highest good, these should be our objects of thought.' And the next is from Dr. Johnson: 'Whatever withdraws us from the dominion of the present, whatever makes the past, the distant, and the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.' The dignity of thinking beings; alas! I have fallen from that dignity. My thoughts are, of necessity, engrossed with the petty details of the present; and the past, the distant, and the future, are quite beyond my sphere. If only 'great objects' of thought made great minds, then mine must necessarily be cramped and diminutive. And yet it is all true; I felt that it was true, those days of freedom. But amid the worry and fret of every-day life, how can one maintain these attitudes of thought?"

"The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,' summons me only to the duties of the kitchen and the dairy; the golden hours of mid-day find me still engrossed with the exhausting routine of mechanical toil; the calm serenity of twilight scarcely brings a reprieve from the labors of the day; and when the holy hush of night would whisper to the soul, of

"The high, Mysterious things of God's immensity," the over-tasked nerves and weary brain refuse to admit the elevating influence."

A slight rustling, in the cradle by her side, interrupted the soliloquy. "This would be quite like one of those thoughtful hours in the olden time, were it not for this little interruption," said the mother, as she quieted the little sleeper, and resumed her place by the window. This time there was a smile of quiet happiness upon her face, and the shade of melancholy had disappeared. "After all, is not my life richer and nobler for this small responsibility, with all its cares and vexations? Could all the delight of calm, untroubled thought compensate for the want of this self-spring of joy; this deeper, purer fountain of happiness than ever earth bestowed before?"

Just then the words echoed in her mind, as if a voice had fallen through the clear air: "So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground, and should sleep and rise, night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how." And a voice in her inmost soul echoed the interpretation: "The kingdom of God is within you; the seed is the truth, the soil is the hard and cold surroundings of thy earthly life; the growth is not for thee to measure. God's grandest processes of nature and of grace are beneath the surface of our observation. How canst thou number the million processes of growth that are going on in the vast laboratory beneath the ground? How canst thou know the deep design of God in the education of thy soul, through suffering, through care, through labor, through the necessary trials and vexations of thy daily life? And those aspirations and longings for a noble life, which thou recallest with regret, may be included in the general law: 'Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.' If there were vitality enough in the seed to survive planting, it will develop by the means to a larger life, and a nobler growth. If it were only a sickly fancy, it was not worth nursing—let it die. Burial is the condition of resurrection; death, of life. Take heart, then! It is not essential that thou shouldst watch the gradual growth of God's design in thee. Whilst thou art concerned only in the faithful, humble performance of common duties, the good seed may be springing and growing up, thou knowest not how."

In the calmer flow of thought which followed a little legend of the olden time recurred to memory, and shall be repeated here, if haply it may vibrate with peace and consolation in some other heart. A holy monk of old—for such there occasionally were—was surprised one day, during his hour of secret prayer by the personal appearance of the Lord Jesus in his cell. Filled with rapture at the gracious condescension, his whole soul overflowed in love and gratitude, and he exclaimed, "Here let me breathe out my life; let me die at thy feet, if only I may continue to behold thy gracious countenance, my Lord and my God!" At that moment the convent bell broke rudely in upon his trance of worship, summoning him to his routine of daily duty. Must he go? Was there not sufficient cause for one day's absence from his post? No, those clear yet loving eyes that penetrated the depths of his soul, and beheld the secret inquiry, offered no encouragement to prolonging happiness at the expense of his fidelity. They seemed rather to say: "Now the labor, the self-denial, hereafter the glory, the reward. Fulfill thy round of duty as a good soldier, it shall not subtract from the eternal gains of communion with thy Lord." With tearful eyes, and slow reluctant steps the monk withdrew, casting a last look upon the heavenly vision. Longer than ever before seemed the hours of dull observance, and often the question forced itself upon him; "Is this the way of holiness? Surely it is bearing the cross, but it is following the Master?" And as often spake the answer of faith in his inmost heart; "The duty now, the joy hereafter." At length the monk's task was ended, and with beating heart, the monk hastened to his desolate cell. Lo! it was brighter than ever with the pure radiance of that countenance which is altogether lovely. Words of gracious approval rewarded his self-denial, and the joy of that hour shed its light on all the remaining steps of his hard and lonely pathway, until the gates of the heavenly city opened upon him, and earthly joy was swallowed up in the exceeding weight of glory.

How much more may we aspire to the same blessedness, when it is not a routine of dry and useful observances, but the active service of a self-sacrificing life, that robs us of our quiet hours of thought and communion. Nay, it is not alone when we are privileged to enter into our closet and shut the door, that we may enjoy the real presence of our Lord. Even in the midst of common daily toil, does there not often fall upon our path a brightness as it were a light from heaven—a glow of quiet joy, a peace which passeth understanding—whose presence we could not explain, did we not know that

All unseen the Master walketh, By the tolling seraph's side." In these hours, mechanical toil is no longer exhausting, or petty details too contracting in their influence. The path where Christ can lead is not too narrow for his disciples to follow. And we are satisfied to labor on, in faith and patience, saying to ourselves, as did the monk of old: "Courage, courage, O weary heart; the duty now; the rest, the joy, the perfectness hereafter!" Advocate and Guardian.

Burnt Offerings to the Moloch of Fashion.—

When the poet made one of his ideal characters declare that—

"Golden lads and lasses must, As chimney-sweepers, come to dust,"

it is not supposable that he meant ashes and cinders. Yet do the golden lasses of our own day seem to be too often courting such a fate. The last English mail brings the sad intelligence that Lady Lucy Bridgeman has followed her sister, Lady Charlotte, to a premature grave, victims both to the habitual carelessness with which a costume, dangerous in itself, is worn by the fashionably clad. Great must have been the gloom fallen upon Western Hall, in Staffordshire, the seat of the Earl of Bradford, since the night when these two daughters were suddenly transferred from the gay insouciance of a drawing-room to beds of agony, thence to be moved only to the family mausoleum! Is it not also a strange coincidence that the grand-mother of these young ladies, the late Lady Elizabeth Mowbray, lost her life by a similar catastrophe not many years ago? and that this sad tale may still be added another, drawn from the same walk in life? A few weeks ago at Brighton the Hon. Miss Plunkett, daughter of Lady Louth, ignited her dress while standing by the fire. She was dreadfully burnt. Terrible suffering in such cases is certain; recovery is very rare. Hers is considered doubtful. When Clara Webster on the English stage, and Caroline Lehman, of Niblo's, in this city, perished by accidents of this distressing nature, the peril was perhaps thought to be incidental to the profession. Can there be the same delusion now? What follows? After the storm of ridicule which the vortices of fashion have braved in defence of the "troublesome disguises that they wear," it is altogether hopeless to expect that they will throw aside their crinoline merely because the prevalent style costs now and then a few valuable lives. But we men can't afford to let our mothers, our wives, our daughters sacrifice themselves thus recklessly. A remedy must be found. The fire-giner in his safety-lamp; we must have safety fire-grates in our houses. Guards and fenders need not now be invented; but it behooves housekeepers to have them fitted.—Athlon.

Blaze-Proof Dresses.—The Medical Times says: "The melancholy accident by which the ladies Lucy and Charlotte Bridgeman and Miss Plunkett have been such fearful sufferers teaches a lesson which must not be neglected. The light fabrics manufactured for ladies' dresses must be made blaze-proof. Nothing can be more simple. The most delicate white cambric handkerchief or fleecy gauze for the finest lace may, by simply soaking in a weak solution of chloride of zinc, be so protected from the blaze that if held in the flames of a candle they may be reduced to tinder without blazing. Dresses so prepared might be burnt by accident without the other garments worn by the lady being injured. When poor Clara Webster was burnt we inculcated the same moral, and now the dresses of stage dancers prepared in the way we recommended. Why are dancing ladies not to be exposed to danger from which their dancing sisters by profession are protected? The hint may be put to a profitable use by some enterprising manufacturer."

How Coffee Came to be Used.—It is somewhat singular to trace the manner in which arose the use of the common beverage, coffee, without which few persons, in any half or wholly civilized country in the world, would seem hardly able to exist. At the time Columbus discovered America, it had never been known or used. It only grew in Arabia and upper Ethiopia. The discovery of its use as a beverage is ascribed to the Superior of a monastery, in Arabia, who, desirous of preventing the monks from sleeping at their nocturnal services, made them drink the infusion of coffee upon the report of some shepherds, who observed that their flocks were more lively after browsing on the fruit of that plant. Its reputation spread through the adjacent countries and in about two hundred years it reached Paris. A single plant brought there in sixteen hundred and fourteen became the parent stock of all the coffee plantations in the West Indies. The extent of consumption can now hardly be realized. The United States alone annually consume at the cost of its landing, from fifteen to sixteen million of dollars. You may know the Arabia or Mocha, the best coffee, by its small bean of a dark color. The Java and East Indian, the next in quality, a larger and paler yellow. The West Indian Rio has a bluish greenish grey tint.

A Romance in Politics.—One of Texas's distinguished citizens, name not given, who has figured largely in public life, first as a lawyer, then as a soldier in the Mexican and Indian wars, and then as a leading politician, has the following related in a sketch of his life by the New Orleans Christian Advocate. He had been put up by his party in 1857 to succeed General Houston in the United States Senate; but, feeling called to the ministry, and distrusting his own ability to resist the temptations of Washington life, was unwilling to accept the nomination. He laid the case before his wife, leaving to her the choice between the United States Senate and destruction to his morals, and the pulpit and salvation:

"Taking the letters and papers from all parts of the State, giving him assurance of election, he went to his wife and said: 'I can go to the United States Senate. Here are the evidences. If you wish it, I will go. But if I go, hell is my doom. I shall die a drunkard as certain as I go to Washington. I can get escape. If I pass this point, I never can. I can enter the ministry, which I ought to have done long ago, and save myself from a drunkard's grave, and my soul from hell. But you shall decide.' His poor wife, unwilling to relinquish the glittering prize in view, could not be a great man and a Christian too. But, after prayerful reflection, she would not incur the fearful responsibility of deciding against his conscience, and told him to go into the titanic effort of the whole State. To the astonishment of the Legislature, a letter from him appeared in the papers, just before the meeting of the Legislature, declining the office and announcing his retirement from political life. The next thing that was heard of him was that he was preaching."

Law out West.—A former member of the New Haven County Bar, now resident in Iowa, in a letter to a Waterbury friend, gives the following piquant portrait of the legal profession and other operators in that State—and as it is rather rich, we give it publicity. The writer says:—"There are but three classes of people here, let and the most numerous, the bankrupts; 2d, the cut-throats, common, and 3d, the refined cut-throats. The courts here are got up on the Mock Auction principle, to save the time and trouble of legal investigation, and their judgments are knocked off to the highest bidder. The Supreme Court here reversed its own decisions once a quarter, at least; sometimes oftener. It is said that the only briefs used before them, are negotiable paper, and the 'authorities' are—responsible endorsers."

The Japanese have a very excellent clause in the obligation which is assumed by the husband at the marriage ceremony. Among other vows, he agrees to "find plenty of tea and rice for his wife during life." The Japanese are not confirmed heathens, after all.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF N. CAROLINA.

We condense from the Standard some items of interest not embraced in our Reporter's letters in the last Observer:—

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Worth presented a memorial from Ephraim Maury, on the subject of leasing the North Carolina Central Railroad for five years, at \$125,000 per year. Referred. A long discussion took place on the management of the State Roads, as heretofore noticed, and then the Senate took up the special order.

THE COAL FIELDS RAILROAD.

Mr. Bledsoe offered the following amendment to the 2d section: "And for the better security of the payment of the interest upon said bonds until the completion of said road, the company shall deposit with the public treasurer good and sufficient bond made by individual stockholders or persons interested in said road, amounting to \$50,000, to secure the payment of interest as aforesaid, which said bond shall be payable to the public treasurer, and shall be deemed due and payable at any time prior to the completion of said road, if the said company shall fail to pay the interest on the bonds given in exchange for the bonds of the State, which bonds shall, upon the payment of the interest to the completion of said road, be surrendered by the public treasurer to the said company."

Mr. Gilmore said the friends of the bill desired the State to be fully secured in her aid to the work. They therefore cheerfully accept the amendment. The amendment was then adopted.

Mr. Bledsoe desired to explain his present position on the question. He had formerly regarded the bill as calling for a virtual increase of the State's liabilities, and was therefore opposed to it. Such was not the case now, however. The public treasurer could not now be called on to pay either the principal or the interest. The principal was secured by the provisions of the bill, and the interest was equally secured by his amendment, as it called for the forfeiture of \$50,000 to be due and payable on the first failure of the company to pay the interest on the bonds. He would vote for the bill.

Mr. Walkup had voted for the bill because he believed it dead. He would now vote for it under its altered circumstances, because he believed it would develop a great source of wealth for the State. Mr. Guyther felt bound to go for the bill; the interests of this vast coal region should be developed. Every thing tended to call for the passage of the bill, and the letter of Com. Wilkes should settle the question in the minds of all. Mr. Leach said the question was to extend a friendly hand to a praiseworthy company who had already done all in their power to help themselves. He did not know what his constituents would think of it, but he was willing to go down as an individual to raise up the State.

Mr. Miller had voted against the bill, but it was not because of a fear of his constituents. If they send him here he would do what he thought right. He would now vote for the bill.

[The bill passed, as stated in the last Observer.] On Wednesday, Mr. Walkup offered a resolution to loan \$12,000 out of the literary fund to Carolina Female College, Anson county. Referred to the committee on education and literary fund.

Mr. Leach, a bill to increase the revenue of railroads. He moved the bill be printed and made the special order for Monday next. [The bill proposes to kill the dead-head system, and includes in its operation even the officers of the work.] Referred to the committee on internal improvements—the proposition to print being rejected.

WILMINGTON AND RUTHERFORD RAILROAD.

The bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company, being the special order of the day, was now taken up on its second reading. The committee reported a substitute for the bill. This proposed to issue State bonds in lieu of the bonds of the company indorsed by the State, to an amount of \$8000 per mile, as pledged in the charter, secured by a lien on all the works; and also empowered the State to sequester the receipts of the road to pay the interest, and gave the State the further power of making a purchase in the event of the company failing to meet the interest for two consecutive years.

Mr. Steele said the substitute had been drawn up by himself, and as a friend of the road he was satisfied with it. He then proceeded to explain the charter and its provisions and pointed out the parts amended by the present bill. He alluded to the difference between State bonds and bonds of private corporations endorsed by the State—giving the reasons for the difference in their value in the money market of the world. And in this connection he read a letter from John Potts Brown, Esq., of the firm of DeRosset & Brown, New York, in which the question of the difference in these bonds and the effect of endorsed bonds on State bonds was clearly and ably discussed. Mr. Steele also alluded to the loss on the endorsed bonds of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company—amounting to some thirty per cent., while at that very time our State bonds were selling at 98 cents. It was not proposed to add one cent to the State's indebtedness nor to affect her interests in any way, save in one, which was to her advantage.

An irregular discussion followed which elicited nothing of importance, but in which Mr. Steele stated, in answer to a question, that the Finance committee were providing in the revenue bill for the interest on \$800,000—the sum likely to be called for within the next twelve months.

Mr. Bledsoe offered an amendment providing that the public treasurer should not be required to issue bonds unless he had money to pay the interest without borrowing. Adopted—22 to 18. The bill was then made the special order for Monday.

Supreme Court.—The following gentlemen have been admitted to the practice of the law in the Superior Courts of this State:

Jas. B. Averett, Craven; L. W. Humphrey and J. F. Murrill, Onslow; G. W. Whitfield, Edgecombe; Thos. W. Brown, New Hanover; J. W. Roberts, Gates; Asa Ross, Brunswick; E. J. Gaines, and A. B. McEchin, Montgomery; J. W. Ellis, Columbus; J. T. Foote, Warren; J. A. Hampton, Yadkin; A. G. Waters, Cleveland; John Anthony, Halifax; J. W. Stevenson, Craven; Josiah Collins, jr., Washington.—Ral. Standard.

Council of State.—We learn that Gov. Ellis has notified the council of State to meet in this City on the 15th instant.—Ral. Standard.

A Bad Business.—On Saturday last an affray occurred in our midst, which came very near bringing to a sudden and bloody termination the life of Mr. Henry May. We know not the origin of the fracas, but the result was the stabbing of Mr. May, in the right breast, by a young man named C. Kirby. He was arrested and taken before S. W. Neal, Esq., who caused him to enter into bonds for his appearance at the next Superior Court. At night, however, Mr. May's wound appearing more dangerous than was at first supposed Mr. Kirby was again arrested and committed to jail, to await the further progress of the wound. We are happy to say that the wounded man is now doing well.—Wadesboro Argus.

The population of San Francisco is estimated at seventy-five thousand or eighty thousand.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

HALIFAX, Jan. 5.

The North American, from Liverpool on the 22d ult., put in here to-day.

The President's message had been received in England, was printed in full in the English newspapers, and has been very severely criticised. The Cuban, Mexican and Central American questions are unpalatable.

It is also stated that the French foreign bureau had heard with some surprise Mr. Buchmann's recommendation to purchase Cuba, France having already notified the American Minister that she, in conjunction with England, had entered into a determination not to tolerate the secession of Cuba, even with the sanction of Spain!

Commercial.—LIVERPOOL, Dec. 22.—Sales of cotton for three days, 22,000 bales—speculators, 2000 bales; export 2000. Closed at a slight decline, some say of a sixteenth, others say easier, but unchanged. Manchester quotations make it firmer, with an advancing tendency. Breadstuffs, dull. Wheat firm. Provisions dull.

From Japan.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the London News, writing on the 29th of October, says:—

"The news of the death of the Emperor of Japan is confirmed. He died of cholera, which disease was carrying off great numbers. The United States Minister had returned to Shanghai, but some apprehensions are entertained for the French Plenipotentiary, nothing having been heard of the chartered steamer Remi, on board of which vessel his Excellency had embarked from Japan for Shanghai."

The Emperor of Japan being childless, before his death adopted Foer-tsig, Prince of Kuwin, aged sixteen years, as his child and successor.

Washington Items.—The New Senate Hall.—The new hall allows seats for a hundred Senators—two-thirds of the space in the hall is appropriated for the public, which is a remarkable exemplification of the progress of popularization which the Senate has undergone since it was first organized. At first, the Senate held its session in secret, and for a long time the public were excluded from its chamber. Its proceedings were those of an Executive Council, rather than of a legislative body. Speeches were not addressed then to the public, neither were they reported.

Wash. Cor. N. Y. Courier.

The Iron Interest.—The iron interest is about to make a strong demonstration upon Congress in favor of specific duties. If it be cordially supported by the cotton, woolen and other interests, the movement, strongly aided as it is by the President's influence, will come to something. The Pennsylvaniaians say that they will be satisfied with a specific duty of ten dollars a ton on iron. This is actually a less degree of protection than the present tariff affords when iron is high. Political interest are to be combined with this movement in a greater degree than has been supposed. The Republicans find it their interest to go with it, because it may fall in effecting any legislation, and leave the iron interest in opposition to Democratic ascendancy, at the next Presidential election. The iron interest has undoubtedly the political control of Pennsylvania and of New Jersey.—J. B.

Tariff.—We are to have no difficulty on the score of our foreign relations, but it is undoubtedly true that we are in some financial trouble. The present Tariff will afford revenue enough, after a while, but the question is how means are to be supplied for the present. Another loan, if it be necessary, would be the proper resort, but both the Administration and Congress are reluctant to adopt it. The Tariff question is, therefore, to be a more serious one, even at this session, than has been supposed. Arrangements of a political character are forming which may ensure the passage of a bill for the increase of duties in the House, but the friends of this incipient measure say they have but little hope of passing it in the Senate.

The House Committee of Finance will cut down the appropriations called for by the different departments, and propose such an increase of the Tariff as will afford some addition to the revenue. But it is quite as likely that the appropriations will, in the aggregate, exceed the estimates, as fall short of them.—Jour. Com.

A New Territory in Prospective.—Calhoun's bill for the organization of the new Territory of Colona, embraces in its provisions all the recently discovered Gold Regions of Pike's Peak, Cherry Creek, etc., extending from the parallel of longitude 130 deg., to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, being four to five degrees in width; and from the 37th to the 42d parallel of latitude, including parts of the Territories of Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, and New Mexico—the larger part of which lies in the present limits.

New York Items.—The expenses of the public schools of the State for the last year were \$7,792,949, teaching 842,137 children of all sizes by 31,747 teachers. The State militia embodies 367,613 officers and men; of which 17,618 are organized, uniformed, and equipped, and are divided into eight divisions, twenty-six brigades, and sixty-two regiments, all in an efficient condition.

The number of convicts in the several State prisons on the 30th September, 1858, was as follows: Auburn 747, Sing-Sing 1,110, Clinton 358, total 2,215. Of which were insane: Auburn 13, Sing-Sing 21, Clinton 3. The expenses thereof for the year ending 30th September, 1858, were Auburn \$77,674, earnings \$59,840; Sing-Sing \$119,900, earnings \$75,916; Clinton \$55,781, earnings \$21,420.

Eclipses in 1859.—There will be four eclipses of the sun in 1859, viz: a partial eclipse on the 2d of February, invisible here; a partial one on the 4th of March, invisible here; another on the 29th of July, partial and very small—it will end at 41 minutes past six in the evening; another on August 28, visible only in the Great Southern Ocean.

There will be two eclipses of the moon; the first on the 27th of February will be total. It will commence at 13 minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning—middle 6 o'clock—end quarter before 8. The other one, Aug. 13, will not be visible. All eclipses of the moon are eclipses of the sun, when seen from the moon, and a total eclipse of the moon is a total eclipse of the sun when seen from the moon, and the difference of the duration of the solar eclipse of the earth and moon is the difference of the magnitude of the earth and moon.