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WILMINGTON, N. C.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1871.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 10, 1871.

The San Domingo scheme was the star piece set forth to be performed by the House yesterday.

The only wonder is, that the piece was not a complete success, as there was a corps of prompters on hand, they being detailed from the White House and the Cabinet for this special occasion.

The President's man, and so-called Secretary, General Horace Porter, Senators Chandler, Morton and Conkling, Secretaries Boutwell, Robeson and Creswell, were prominent, coaxing, buying, wheedling and threatening members in the interest of their master's grand speculation, the San Domingo annexation scheme.

Mr. Sheldon, of New York, whose term of congressional honors expires this Congress, who was opposed to San Domingo, was called upon by Grant's friends, as he flopped over, and this, in the absence of Mr. Wilkinson, gave the San Domingos a majority of the Committee on Foreign Relations; this gave them five to four a favorable report.

Mr. Orth, who desires to be one of the commissioners, led the forces of Grant and San Domingo, while Mr. Fernando Wood, of New York, led the forlorn hope of opposition, and made a strong, forcible and logical speech against the job.

After considerable debate and voting on different propositions and dilatory motions on the part of the Democrats and the small body of Republicans who cannot go the bare-headed scheme, it was proposed to allow debate until 2 o'clock to-morrow, when a vote will be taken, and the resolution as it came from the Senate will pass; but upon the question of annexation, should that question be brought before Congress this session, it is most doubtful if it could pass.

The disgraceful behavior of those who were on the floor, lobbying for the passage of the resolution never was equalled in any legislative body before.

The rivalry which was beginning to spring up between the East and the West, in regard to the next Presidential candidate of the Democracy has been entirely dissipated. The East having had the last two Presidential candidates—General McClellan and ex-Gov. Seymour—the West very naturally claims the right to the next one.

The glorious success in New York in the late election, gave Governor Hoffman great prominence, and his claims were freely canvassed, but his friends, with a correct sense of justice, have ended the rivalry between the East and the West by withdrawing his name from the contest.

This action is sustained by the whole Democratic press of New York, including the New York World, New York Tribune and the organ of Tammany, the New York Leader. They all agree in desiring the next candidate of our party to come from the West, and the Leader names ex-Senator Hendricks, of Indiana, whose State achieved a signal victory over Radicalism in the recent elections, as their choice, as he was the choice of New York in 1858, in the canvass in New York City.

The Senate remained in executive session only a short time yesterday. Admiral Foster's nomination came up, when a motion was made to postpone it till the House bill abolishing the grade of Admiral could be voted on. The question was not decided. The chances are very much against Admiral Foster's occupying the position which was so creditably and honorably filled by the Old Sea Viking Farragut.

It is rumored that Secretary Belknap will shortly resign and accept the position of a Western railroad company.

The House will see how uncertain the tenure of office is under the great Congress, and how long it will last.

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ing of the correspondence to detect it, so covered up as it is by Mr. Fish, who naturally kept the real motive out of sight as much as possible. Those who will recall to their mind the appointment of Mr. Motley, and by whose influence he was appointed, and the date of Mr. Sumner's opposition to Grant's big job—San Domingo—and the time when Mr. Motley gave objections to the Administration, taken in connection with the letters of Fish and Motley, just recalled, there will be no trouble in coming to a conclusion as to the ineffable smallness and meanness of Grant's behavior, and the subserviency of his tool, Secretary Fish.

We are having a foretaste of the great Carnival which is to be held here on Washington's birthday and the day succeeding, February 22 and 23, by having all Washington runners, and all crowded into Pennsylvania avenue. The snow, which fell to the depth of several inches, has furnished excellent sleighing, and the broad and magnificent avenue, which has just been paved with wood, is a scene worthy of being seen. Sleights of all kinds are flying past to the merry jingle of the bells. Pennsylvania avenue during the Carnival will present one of the most brilliant sights ever witnessed in America, and probably exceeding the gayest carnival ever held in Italy. The hotels are all prepared to receive the great influx of visitors expected, having been greatly improved during the recess of Congress.

Among the most noticeable improvements in our hotels, is the beautiful freecolony of the magnificent Arlington hotel, situated at the west end, the fashionable part of the city. Messrs. T. Roese & Son, who are also proprietors of the Fort William Henry hotel, Lake George, New York, opened the Arlington last winter, and in the fulfillment of their design of making it the hotel of the country, spared no expense in fitting it up in the most comfortable, luxurious and beautiful manner. Determined to exceed their first efforts, the Messrs. Roese had a corps of artists engaged, during the recess of Congress, in painting and frescoing the walls and ceilings throughout the house. An allegorical representation of the four seasons on the ceiling of the capacious dining hall, attracts a great deal of attention, being a work of rare artistic merit. This work is by the celebrated Brumidi, whose decorations on the walls of the Capitol are well known. The cost of the frescoing was over \$30,000. Previous to the recent decorations, the Arlington was pronounced the finest hotel in the country; its claim to that position now is far beyond question. General Pleasanton, the new Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has introduced a sort of military discipline in his Bureau, which is in accordance with the spirit of the Administration, but which is very distasteful to those who are not military men, and as this is the last chance for the military to take the precedence, they may as well revel in their power. Under the next Administration, which will be Democratic, the military will find their proper position, and as in times past, they will be, as was intended by the founders of the Government, under the control and not the control of those who are not military men. A military Government is well nigh "played out."

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.—Action of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the Association of the Officers of Northern Virginia met last night, Gen. Bradley T. Johnson in the chair; Sergeant J. V. L. McCreery, secretary.

The committee discussed at length the plan of organization, and adopted the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the chairman be directed to take steps to procure reports of the management and operations of the Confederate quartermaster, commissary and ordnance departments during the war, and to request the heads of those departments of the Confederate government to prepare memoirs of their respective operations for presentation and publication by the Association.

2. That all persons having reports of battles, general orders, adjutant and inspector general's orders or army headquarters, muster rolls, company and regimental orders or statistics of the Confederate States, or other materials, either manuscript or printed, be requested to forward them by express or mail to General Bradley T. Johnson, chairman Committee Army of Northern Virginia, Richmond, or Colonel C. S. Venable, the secretary of the Association, Charlottesville.

3. That Major Robert Stiles be requested to collect the evidence and prepare a memoir relative to the Dahlgren-Kilpatrick raid on Richmond in the spring of 1864.

4. That the different companies, battalions, batteries and troops belonging to the Army of Northern Virginia be requested at once to form sub-associations in this general association.

5. That the senior surviving officer of each company be charged with the duty of organizing his company into such an association, and in event of his delaying to do so no member of it who approves of our object is requested to take charge of it.

6. That the vice-president and assistants for each State are specially charged with the duty of organizing the association and sub-associations in their respective States.

7. All persons desiring to form sub-associations may obtain printed copies of the plan of organization by applying to Sergeant J. V. L. McCreery, Richmond, Va.

8. That Colonel Robert E. Withers is charged with the duty of assisting in organizing State and sub-associations.

An address of General Early to the survivors of the Army of Northern Virginia, and of General Taliaferro, organizing the Virginia division, will be published tomorrow.—Richmond Whig.

The Loss of the Saguinaw.

The loss of the United States steamer Saguinaw, in the Pacific Ocean, and the uncertain fate of her officers and crew on a desert island, has caused a universal sensation. For some weeks, we are assured, the exact whereabouts have been ascertained by the whereabouts of the vessel, as she had been ordered to San Francisco early in November, but did not put in an appearance. Two weeks ago it was regarded as almost certain as the Navy Department that she had met with some accident, and steps were taken to ascertain the truth.

Admiral Winslow, at San Francisco, acting under instructions from Washington, effected an arrangement whereby one of the steamers belonging to the Pacific Mail Steamship Line, running between San Francisco and Japan, was to take a supply of provisions and despatch from her harbor to search for the Saguinaw.

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San Francisco more than a week ago, and has before this reached the place where the Saguinaw was wrecked, and been able, no doubt, to aid the shipwrecked crew in case any should be found alive.

The Saguinaw was ordered to San Francisco preparatory to going to the isthmus of Darien, to aid in the survey for the ship canal. It is now very probable that Commander Selfridge will not be able to complete the survey during the present season, as he can do nothing until a vessel arrive on the Pacific side, where the survey is to begin.

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