THE SENTINEL.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

"I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT"—Henry Clay.

VOL. 1. RALEIGH, SATURDAY MARCH 24, 1866. NO. 2.

THE SENTINEL.

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JOB WORK executed with neatness at the SENTINEL OFFICE.

The Test Oath.

Our position on this subject has been made sufficiently plain to be understood. We have seen no good reason to change our opinion.

One or two papers of this State, perhaps for the lack of something else to talk about, ever and anon recur to this subject, and repeat their attacks upon the people of this State, because they failed to [illegible] men to Congress who could take the "test oath." They have reiterated the false statement, that the President had clearly intimated his displeasure at the election of those who could not take it. They have repeated the unfounded declaration, time and again, that the President considered it *essential* that the people should elect only such men, and that he telegraphed to Gov. Johnson, in November last, not to give those elected to Congress certificates, for "the reason that they could not take the oath." This is a direct perversion of the President's language. It is so palpable, that it cannot be simply a mistake, and yet it has been repeated both North and South. The following are the telegrams from which these ideas are manufactured:

TELEGRAM.

Received 2.50 P. M., November 24.

Milledgeville, Ga., Nov. 21, 1865.

ANDREW JOHNSON, President U. S.:

No members of Congress elected can take the oath. Shall I issue certificates of election? The legislature will probably be to some extent impracticable and refractory. I am inclined to think a suspension of pardons might have a salutary effect. I shall be a candidate for the senate, and of course will be defeated.

J. J. JOHNSON, Prov. Governor.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S TELEGRAM.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 26, 1865.

JAS. JOHNSON, Prov. Gov., Milledgeville, Ga.:

You will continue to act as Provisional Governor of Georgia until relieved and your successor recognized by the Government. At present, as Provisional Governor, I would issue no certificates of election to members of Congress elect.

If I understand your despatch, none of the members elect to Congress from Georgia can take the oath of office as it now stands. Please advise me of their real status as to loyalty and qualification in regard to disability under the law and Constitution. I regret to hear that you have apprehensions as to the action of your Legislature, and hope that you will come out right. You will accept the approbation of the Government for the loyal and efficient manner in which you have discharged your duty as Provisional Governor.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President of the United States.

Now mark the language of the President:—"At present, as Provisional Governor, I would issue no certificates of election to members of Congress elect." The connection in which this clause stands, shows that it has no reference whatever to the fact that the members could not take the oath.

The next sentence of the President's telegram refers directly to that fact. Now see what the President says:—"Please advise me of their real status as to loyalty and qualification in regard to disability under the law and the Constitution." From this it is plain, that the President does not consider that a man's ability to take the "test oath" fixes his "real status as to loyalty."

We have never doubted, that the President would have preferred, if it were possible, the election of men in the South who could take that oath. He, as well as every true friend of the Union, North and South, greatly preferred that no impediment whatever should have been presented to the admission of Southern members. *But was it possible that this requisition of the Congress could be complied with?* We deny its practicability or possibility. So far as the President is concerned, this would not be a barrier. When he instructed Gov. Johnson not to give certificates as *Provisional Governor*, he meant to render such an informality unnecessary, by allowing the Governor elected by the people to take his seat, whose certificate alone could have met the law in that particular. The presentation of a certificate of election from a Provisional Governor, might have been plead at once in bar of their admission.

In this State, some presses and persons are exceedingly anxious to keep up a clamor upon this point, and especially against Mr. Graham and Mr. Turner, although we have met and refuted their objections repeatedly. The fact that gentlemen were pardoned did not affect them in other States, and is not used now to their disparagement. In other States unpardoned men were candidates, were elected, and pardoned by the President. It was natural for them to expect the same treatment. Excepting this technical obstacle, does any man dare affirm that they are not loyal men—that they are not true Union men—that they are not "devoted to the Union and the Constitution," the test of loyalty which the President makes? As to Gov. Graham, is there a man in North Carolina who enjoys more fully the confidence of our whole people, as a loyal and true citizen, and as well fitted for the position of U. S. Senator, as he, who could take the test oath? Why did not those who are so clamorous for men who can take the oath, bring forward men who could take it? Why bring forward Mr. Pool, who could not take it?

Again: There is much said against Mr. Turner. Why did not his opponents bring out a man who could take the oath? Is there a man in the 4th District who can take it, that the people would trust? Until these complainers can bring forward men who can do it—men of the right stamp, who will suit the people, and suit the President and suit the Congress, they should shut their mouths. But so far as the complaints in this State are concerned, the clamor is hypocritical. Lewis Hanes, Esq., had the best Union record, as a Union man during the war, and as a reconstructionist, and yet they were anxious to defeat him, because he did not run under the patronage of Gov. Holden. No member of Congress in the State has a better Union record than Mr. Hanes, and yet he does not feel that he could take the oath, with his understanding of it. The truth is, the clamor in this State is all *bosh*. We have no idea, that the people of North Carolina could ever, were they to try till doomsday, elect an entire delegation of respectable representatives who could take that oath.

Significant Facts.

The great body of the American people, though slow sometimes in reaching conclusions, seldom err in making an ultimate judgment.—We have observed, that if they err in their selections of men to fill important stations in the first instance, they seldom repeat it.

There is another fact equally significant. The charges of disloyalty against the Southern people, we have observed, proceed entirely from three sources: First, from Northern men whose intercourse with Southern people has been almost entirely confined to business, speculators and traders, or whose official positions are unfavorable to arriving at an impartial judgment. Secondly, from Southerners who have little principle, and who wish to make the impression that they, themselves, are superlatively loyal.—Thirdly, from Southerners, who have been disappointed in their aims—mere politicians, who care little who lose, so *they* win.

It will be recollected, that the *Standard*, some time ago, gloated over the testimony of J. J. Johnson, late Provisional Governor of Georgia, in which he represented the people of that State as disloyal. We could not exactly account for [illegible], but we were sure there was a cause for it. Gov. Perry, whose loyalty and integrity no one can call in question, endorsed the loyalty of South Carolina. At one time Gov. Johnson endorsed the loyalty of Georgia, as Gov. Holden did the loyalty of North Carolina. Why is it, that the loyalty of the people of these two States is not now endorsed by them? Gov. Johnson, of Georgia, and Gov. Holden, of North Carolina, so far as we now know, are the only two men who have occupied prominent positions in the work of reconstruction who do not now endorse the loyalty of their people. Why is it? Gov. Johnson was a candidate for the U. S. Senate, *and failed*.—Gov. Holden was a candidate for civil Governor, *and failed*. Is *that* the reason?

Decision of the Supreme Court.

It is currently rumored, in the latest papers received by mail, that the unconstitutionality of the test oath has been declared by the Supreme Court of the United States, and that the decision will soon be officially announced to the public. Our advices from Washington, for some time past, have led us very strongly to hope that such would be the decision of the Court, despite the acrimonious opposition of the Attorney General. If the rumor prove to be true, one would suppose that the greatest barrier to the admission of the Southern members to their seats in Congress would be removed; but the radical, revolutionary body, who framed the test, are daily enacting laws and assuming powers just as unconstitutional. So that the decisions of the Supreme Court, however legal and just, will have but little effect with this factious and arbitrary clique.

Council of State.

Governor WORTH has summoned the Council of State to meet in this city, on Saturday, the 14th day of April next. The following gentlemen constitute the Council:

Mr. WM. A. WRIGHT, President,	New Hanover.
" JESSE J. YEATES,	Hertford,
" WM. EATON, JR.,	Warren,
" DANL. L. RUSSELL, SR.,	Brunswick,
" H. A. LEMLY,	Forsythe,
" CALVIN J. COWLES,	Wilkes,
" B. F. SIMONTON,	Iredell.

The *New York Herald*, in the article which we give in another column, takes a hopeful view of the political situation. There are many expressions in the article, which might have been well omitted, but the tenor of the whole is good and cheering.

GOLD closed in New York on the 20th, at 128¼. Sales of 900 bales of cotton at 40 a 41 cents. Sugar, Coffee and Naval Stores dull.

THE ASHEVILLE *News* says that that town has recently received several valuable accessions of citizens. Among the number it mentions Col. W. M. Cocke, an ex-member of Congress from East Tennessee.

A cargo of fine Sea Island cotton, raised in the Sandwich Islands, has reached Honolulu.

Gov. Graham's Letter.

It will be seen, by reference to the proceedings of Congress, on our first page, that the recent letter of Gov. Graham, exposing the course of the "Central Directory" with reference to North Carolina created, quite a fluttering in the Radical Camp. Its plain statement of the gross injustice practiced by the Committee in ignoring all but the most prejudiced evidence as to the sentiment of our people, has doubtless excited the apprehensions of the Chairman as to the impression upon the public mind.

The statement of the Chairman that the testimony had not closed, in the case of this State, because of the ordering of the evidence to be printed, appears very much like an after thought. At all events, the reverse was the popular opinion, in accordance with precedent in all cases at all similar. Still, we are gratified at the assurance that the doors are yet open, and we indulge the hope that the exposition of Gov. Graham will compel the examination of such witnesses, suggested by our members of Congress, as are qualified to bear proper testimony as to the status of our people. We re-assert, what we have again and again declared, that no man, at all conversant with the public sentiment of North Carolina, who is a fair-minded and unbiased man, can impeach her loyalty to the Government.

It is, *to our* mind, a most disingenuous assumption, that, because the late insurgent States are not regarded in the light of criminals on trial, therefore the privilege, for which Gov. Graham contends, of cross-examining witnesses is inadmissible. The premises, themselves, are as false as the deduction. The Southern States, as before this committee, have heretofore occupied exactly the attitude of criminals. The purpose for which it was instituted was to elicit one-sided information that would prejudice their claims to restoration, and justify the Radical majority in Congress in their pre-determined course of injustice and oppression. They have not only been debarred the very commonest right of criminals to have the best evidence in their favor adduced and given its proper and full weight, but they have been so far placed beneath the level of ordinary criminals as to have their [illegible]. We must estimate the motives of men by their actions; and we do not hesitate to express the opinion, that evidence of the most conclusive character, cumulating mountain high, as to the loyal conduct and intentions of our people, would not weigh a feather against the opposing scale of Radical malignity and vindictiveness.

Be that as it may, let the inquisition at Washington but accord Gov. Graham, and other members of Congress from the Southern States, the fair and reasonable privilege, which, in the name of their injured people, they seek, of cross-examining witnesses, and there will be such a sifting of testimony as was never seen in any Court House in the land. Perhaps, too, in that way, we may get at the meaning of Col. Clapp, of the Freedmen's Bureau, in his mysterious but oracular allusions to the repudiation of the "rebel" debt?

Fanny Downing.

The late notices of our native poets by Drs. Craven and Deems have been read with much pleasure and some pride by all who delight in this department of our literature. We have poets and poetesses among us who would shine anywhere. Among these stands eminent Mrs. Downing, whose "orient pearls" have been heretofore *flung* somewhat "at random." We have heard that she had a design of collecting them together again and presenting them to the public in more durable form. We know that she has some exquisite pieces which have never seen the light. One of these of considerable length, suggested by one of the metamorphoses of Ovid, is full of the happiest classical allusions, and for playful waggery and rollicking humor is scarcely inferior to the wittiest works of Saxe or Holmes. This poem is worthy of elaborate illustrations—and we hope we shall see them in her forthcoming book.

Mrs. D. can never be idle, and is now engaged energetically on a work of prose fiction, which will be completed by the autumnal months; and with the great care and thought, which she is known to be bestowing on the work, it may well be predicted that it will be a great improvement on her first essay in this line, the sprightly and sparkling "Nameless."

For the Sentinel.

A Grievance.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Will you do your subscribers the justice to give *free* newspaper readers the benefit of a prominent editorial, in which take the hide off without mercy. I am bored, beyond endurance, by those who can't "find anything worth reading in papers," when asked to subscribe, and yet make a regular business of coming and inquiring for my papers, as though they subscribed and paid for them. It is such a nuisance to me, that, unless it can be stopped, I shall have to stop taking papers myself.

Any body who takes papers himself is welcome to read mine, but when a man is too stingy to take a paper himself, I think he ought to have decency enough to let other people read their's before they call for them. G.

[We cheerfully give place to the complaint of our correspondent. If we could say anything to give force to his very proper indignation, we would do so. We have no doubt we have many of the class of readers he describes, and to all such we commend the strictures of G.]

[From the New York Herald.]

The Political Condition of the Country—The Great Issues.

When the great topic before the country was the war, no man could doubt which side he was on. There was but one possible side for every patriot, and all the copperhead inventions and arguments, all the finely effected indignation against arbitrary power, military rule, and all that, did not for an instant confuse the people. But when the country was saved, when the armies went home—when all that the soldiers could do was done—then the politicians came forward again, and there were parties once more. Men who had just stood shoulder to shoulder, who seemed to have no other thought or purpose in life than the good of the country and how best to secure the national welfare, now began to take the most diverse views of the necessities of the case, and to advocate measures so widely different that they could not possibly both have the same happy result of securing peace and prosperity. How should the people choose between such parties, when both claimed to do all for the good of the country, and when, a few months ago, all were equally urgent in the common cause?—How should they discriminate between parts of the organization that had certainly saved the country, when the parts were now equally loud in claiming to be animated by the same good purpose? The difficulty that surrounds such a discrimination has been the life of the radical faction. That faction has been able to keep together only because it has been able to conceal its purposes from the people. It has escaped the storm of popular indignation in its many disguises, and has found safety in the constant declaration that its grand object was reconstruction.

But the game is pretty well done with now. The disguise is torn away effectually. For the first time since the politicians succeeded to the soldiers in the arrangement of our national affairs, the issues and the position of parties are so clear that partisans cannot confuse the vision of the people. Standing forward in his high position the President has appealed to the people against the fanatics who, pretending to be friendly to his popular policy of reconstruction, were doing their utmost to defeat it. He has denounced boldly and openly the traitors that, like our former foes in the field, only assumed the garb of Union men in order to get close enough to give a treacherous fire into the ranks of men really fighting for the Union.—His bold declarations have exposed the whole insidious game. He has recalled the popular recollection to the fact that these men sustained the cause of the country only because it happened to [illegible] their own, and has properly put them in the category of traitors, because they have always been and are now as ready as the rebels to destroy the government, when they could not accomplish their objects in any other way. The speech in which Mr. Johnson laid before the country on Washington's birthday the true position of the great issues of the day is the finest thing in his history. Its truth, its magnificent force, may be seen by the terrible writhings it causes among the radical vipers everywhere. As a piece of unpremeditated, energetic, earnest eloquence it is without an equal. It has all the fire, all the fervid denunciation that is so splendid in Demosthenes, with more directness, distinctness and point than is found in any effort of the great Athenian.

The people from Maine to California will respond to this bold appeal. Its simple view of the political situation is the people's view, and it will become the platform of a new party.—That new party, made from the conservative republicans and from what is left of the rank and file of the democracy, has already had the breath of life breathed into it by the President's words. That new party will carry the country in the next elections, or, if it do not quite that, it will open the way so well that it will sweep all before it in 1868. Its simple idea will be, the good of the country before everything. It will at once rebuke and crush out both extremes with the grand thought quoted by the President from Mr. Lincoln, that so far from keeping the Southern States out of Congress, we ought rather to force them to come in, if that should prove necessary. This party will class Garrison and Vallandigham together; it will put Stevens and Yancey side by side as enemies of the government, making no choice whatever between men who prefer their own notion to the common good. Mr. Johnson has laid down the platform of this party, and its growth, its triumph over all the factious elements will be an inevitable part of the progress of events. The eyes of the people are open, and all the radical jugglery cannot close them.

It is gratifying to note that, ever since Henry Ward Beecher made a study of the doctrine of eternal punishment, his views on national affairs have become more conservative. In his "green and salad days" before his judgment ripened, he was a red-hot Radical, and given to very eccentric notions on morals and theology. But when the subject of hell fire was presented to him, although he expressed some doubts as to its literalness, yet it effected a happy change in his politics. He evidently made up his mind that, although there might be no such place as hell, he had better shape his conduct that he would never go there if he was mistaken. We commend this idea to Stevens, Sumner, and Greeley. When they feel uncharitable and malignant towards their neighbors, let them consult Beecher on hell fire, and govern themselves accordingly.—*World.*

Governor Wells of Louisiana has refused to issue a certificate of election to Mr. Monroe, who claims to be the newly chosen incumbent of the Mayoralty of New Orleans. In this dilemma, Mr. Monroe has telegraphed to President Johnson, declaring his loyalty and the regularity of his election, and requesting Executive interference in his behalf. The President replied that he had no evidence of any irregularity in the election, but declined, in the absence of a full understanding of the case, to take direct action in the matter. It is expected that General Canby will issue an order declaring Mr. Monroe and the other New Orleans officials duly elected.

A desperate conflict occurred in Stewart county, Ga., last week, between planters and outlaws, and some negroes. Three whites and seven negroes were killed.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEW ORLEANS, March 20.

All the newly elected city officers have been duly installed, with the exception of Mr. Monroe, mayor, and Mr. Nixon, alderman, whose functions have been temporarily suspended, as coming within the exception made by the President's proclamation. Mr. Rosseau has been installed mayor *pro tem*, by order of General Canby.

John Van Buren is in Charleston, South Carolina. Rumor says his presence there has some political significance.

The Richmond city police are rejoicing in new uniforms. The *Examiner* says they eclipse the army field officers in gorgeousness of apparel.

Major General Chilton, late of the Confederate army, was recently arrested at Tyler, Texas, where he has been residing since the termination of the war.

Harriet Pinckney, aged ninety years, a daughter of General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, of Revolutionary fame, died in Charleston, at 7 o'clock, last Thursday evening.

A contemporary says that the probable reason why the President withdrew the Government advertising from Forney's *Chronicle* was, that Forney being a "dead duck," should not be allowed to insert his "bill" into the Treasury.

THE WAY ELECTIONS ARE CARRIED.—A clerk in the Paymaster General's Department at Washington, a discharged soldier, refused to pay the assessment for election purposes in New Hampshire, and was about to be dismissed therefor. The President, learning the facts, directed his retention, and that he be placed in the way of promotion.

THE MIRAGE.—The phenomenon known as the "mirage" was witnessed at Fortress Monroe on Thursday. The Eastern Shore of Virginia and all the country bordering on the James and Nansemond rivers were mirrored in the water of Hampton Roads.

Twenty-three young men have made "a revolutionary outbreak" in Cuba, and twelve of them have been captured by Government troops.

Judge Patterson, son-in-law of President Johnson, recently made a speech at a Democratic meeting in Berks county, Pa.

The directors of the Southern Pacific Railroad have concluded a contract with a French company to extend the road west of Marshall, Texas.

Faustine Simon was assassinated in Mobile on Monday night by Emanuel English. The latter waylaid and stabbed him. Cause, jealousy about an abandoned woman.

Congress has appropriated fifteen thousand dollars to Miss Barton, who recently visited Andersonville, Ga.

The St. Louis *Dispatch* says that the Mississippi has swollen to such an extent, that the channel depth of water to Cairo is sufficient to float a man-of war.

(Correspondence Richmond Examiner.)

How the Civil Rights Bill will Affect the South—Doubt About the Probable Veto of it—Senator Stewart's Compromise—Its Accompanying Declaration.

WASHINGTON, March 18.

The civil rights bill, now before the President, deeply concerns the Southern States. As modified, it does not regulate the right of suffrage, but it proceeds upon the assumption that Congress can enact civil and penal codes for the States. The bill applies to all States, but will never probably be enforced anywhere but in the South; and then it will fall into desuetude if the South should be represented in Congress.—Some say that if the President signs this bill it should be with the understanding that Congress, having received all that they have claimed, should admit the Southern representatives. But the only effect upon Congress will be to encourage further exactions.

The conservative republican senators who opposed this and the Freedmen's Bureau bill are in doubt whether the President will feel it his duty to veto this bill or not. But they will sustain him in the veto, and will not blame him if he do not. The democratic senators fiercely denounce the measure; but they, too, are in doubt whether the President will veto it.

The new proposition for a compromise between Congress and the Southern States, as offered by Senator Stewart, of Nevada, is destined to become a subject of grave discussion.—You will notice that democratic senators denounced it, and the radicals sustained it. The radicals demanded equal suffrage in all the States—equal, if not universal. The President's telegraphic letter to Judge Sharkey, of Mississippi, will be considered as, in some sense, committing him to the proposition of Mr. Stewart. But, if the Reconstruction Committee adopt and report Mr. Stewart's resolutions, and if it should pass, the President will no doubt approve it, because it only offers a plan of reconstruction to the Southern States for their acceptance or rejection. It is accompanied, however, with a declaration that Congress demand all those guarantees before a general amnesty will be declared, and all the representatives from the eleven States be admitted. Congress, it is averred, will do nothing better than this for the South. At the next session they will be equally or more exacting. Now, it is said, the States concerned can voluntarily accept these terms through their State Legislatures, and be brought back at once to their former relations with the Union. The offer by Mr. Stewart is a sort of *sine qua non*. The eleven States are allowed to punish themselves for rebellion. The measure disclaims any attempt at coercion.

HAPPY.

HON. C. C. CLAY.—We are pleased to see that two republican papers are demanding that Mr. Clay shall be immediately released or put upon his trial. These papers are the *Tribune* and the *Commercial Advertiser*, both of New York city. They both declare that "by the Constitution, by the laws, by public opinion, by safe precedent, by the claims of justice, he is entitled to a speedy trial or to an immediate release. A great wrong, and one that ought to be remedied, is done."

Proceedings of Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—SENATE.—Mr. Sumner presented the petition of citizens of New York, earnestly asking that no State that rebelled should be admitted, as a governing partner into the Union without adequate security for the future. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. Wilson presented the petition of several colored men, who represent that they were formerly the slaves of George W. P. Custis, who in his will freed them and provided for their support from the property left by him. They ask that a portion of the Arlington estate be set aside for their benefit. The petition was referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Fessenden rose to a personal explanation. He found in the *National Intelligencer*, of the 17th inst., a letter from William A. Graham, a claimant for a seat in the Senate from North Carolina, in reply to his (Fessenden's) remarks a few days ago concerning the nature of the investigations carried on by the Committee of Fifteen. This letter of Mr. Graham's was intended to convey the impression that the investigations of the committee were not impartial. Mr. Graham had written to him (Fessenden) making two requests—one that witnesses suggested by him (Graham) should be examined, and another that the Representatives and Senators from those States be allowed to be present to cross examine those witnesses. The last request was not complied with, because it was not customary in cases of investigation by a Committee, and because the proceedings of the Committee were not in the nature of a criminal investigation, where cross examinations were necessary. He (Fessenden) did not regard the lately rebellious States in the light of criminals on trial, nor was he acting in the capacity of prosecutor. Another error of Mr. Graham's was his belief that the testimony had closed because it had been ordered to be printed. It had not closed except in the case of Tennessee. In the case of North Carolina no testimony had yet been printed at all, it being in the hands of Mr. Howard, of Michigan, now absent on account of domestic affliction.

Mr. Davis, in reply to Mr. Fessenden, advocated the right of the claimants as Southern Senators and Representatives to be present and cross-examine witnesses. Mr. Davis proceeded to read Mr. Graham's statement in the *Intelligencer*. Having read for half an hour, he was called to order by Mr. Chandler, who insisted that there was no question before the Senate.

Mr. Fessenden said that he had yielded to Mr. Davis for him to read Mr. Graham's letter, but it was evident that he was reading the editorial and news columns of the paper.

Mr. Davis said he was reading an explanation of the case by Mayor Lawrence.

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis' reading, Mr. Fessenden rose to say, that if Mr. Graham desired to introduce further testimony in the case of North Carolina, he could do so.

HOUSE.—Mr. Dawson, of Pa., introduced resolutions declaring that the United States cannot guarantee the bonds of Mexico or any other nation, and endorsing Mr. Jefferson's principle of avoiding "entangling alliances."

The House having refused to second a demand for the previous question, the resolution went over under the rule.

Mr. Ancona, of Pa., offered a resolution providing for the adjournment of Congress on the — day of May, 1866. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Cullom, of Illinois, offered a joint resolution making an amendment to the Constitution, which provides that no person except a citizen of the United States, who has at all times borne true allegiance thereto, shall ever hold office under the United States. The resolution was referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

The House reconsidered the vote by which the loan bill was rejected, and recommitted it to the committee on Ways and Means.

NEGRO TROOPS TO BE MUSTERED OUT.

A dispatch from Washington says:

The Secretary of War has ordered the muster-out of forty thousand negro troops now in the Southern States, and the order will be issued immediately. In some localities they will be replaced by white soldiers.

A dispatch to the *New York World* says:

Within the next few days, about 5,000 colored troops will be mustered out of the service in South Carolina. General Bennett advises them to direct their attention to the cultivation of the soil.

It is believed that the government intends to order the muster out within the next two weeks of 40,000 colored troops now stationed in the South, to be taken from such parts of the several military departments as can best spare them.

CONDITION OF THE TREASURY.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, requiring him to prepare a statement showing the amount of money now in the Treasury, yesterday transmitted a communication from the Treasurer of the United States, from which it is seen that the available balance in the Treasury, according to returns received to the 16th inst., was $123,429,866.91, of which $57,799,821.27 consisted of coin, and $65,673,864.90 of currency. Of the total $21,780,358.55 were on deposit in the National Banks designated as depositories.

Commissioner Newton, the present head of the Bureau of Agriculture, does not seem to be very acceptable. The New England Agricultural Society, at a late meeting, "earnestly" requested the President to remove him on the score of incompetency, and to appoint some one of suitable scientific and practical qualifications.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has reduced the freight on coal, straw and hay. Hay is consequently expected to decline in price in Baltimore.

It takes at least $60,000 a month, says a Washington paper, to support the 25,000 lazy and worthless negroes who infest the neighborhood of Yorktown, Va.

The defences of Washington are being dismantled, and reduced to a peace footing.

The Spanish officials were hoaxed, in New York, a few days ago, into sending off the two Spanish men-of-war at that point after imaginary Chilian privateers.