The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

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THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE CASE OF EX GOVERNOR THOMAS—PROBABLE LIBEL SUIT—THAD. STEVENS AND CONFISCATION—THE DEAD LOCK ON APPOINTMENTS AND REJECTIONS—DEAD LETTERS.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, March 18.

From indications in and out of the Senate to-day, it seems that every effort will be made by extreme partisans to keep Governor Phillip Frances Thomas, the Senator elect from Maryland, out of his seat in that body. Senator Conness announced his determination to vote against the admission of Mr. Thomas or any other person hereafter sent to that body who entertains or has entertained the views expressed by Mr. Thomas in his letter to Mr. Buchanan, resigning his position as Secretary of the Treasury. In this spirit a majority of the Senators indicated, privately, their concurrence, and their determination to dispose of Mr. Thomas in the first instance on his credentials, because the matter can, in its present phase, be disposed of by a majority vote, whereas if the Senator is admitted to his seat, it will require a two-thirds vote to expel him.

A libel suit, growing out of implied charges against the loyalty of Judge Fisher, of the District Supreme Court, made in the correspondence of a Philadelphia paper from this place, is threatened. The correspondent expressed the opinion that loyal men were afraid that Surratt would escape under the ruling of Judge Fisher, and is charged with having been actuated by malice. The matter will probably be brought to a head in a few days.

It is known that Mr. Stevens, of Penn., has prepared an elaborate speech on the subject of confiscation, which he will read as soon as he can find an opportunity. The speech is in type, and will occupy about two hours in its delivery.*

The President did not send any nominations to the Senate to-day, nevertheless Mr. Johnson and the members of the Cabinet were laboriously engaged in the examination of applications for office to supply the large number of vacancies occasioned by rejections in the Senate. The result of frequent rejections of nominations for the same office has multiplied the work of the administration in the matter of filling the offices on an average about threefold, and if the Senate continues to reject in the same ratio as heretofore, an adjournment of Congress will find about one-third of the offices without an incumbent.

As the case now stands, there is a deadlock between the Executive and the Senate, the latter cunningly determined to force the former to nominate "out and out radicals," or none but those who first make their peace with the republican Congressmen of the several districts to which the nominees belong. The condition of the offices in Philadelphia may be taken as a fair illustration of the fault of this difference between the Executive and the Senate.

That city is now without a naval officer, a collector of customs, a director of the mint, a collector of internal revenue of the first district, and, until the executive session this evening, when Mr. Bingham was confirmed, was also without a Postmaster. For one of these positions, there have been three rejections, and for the others, save one, there have been two nominations each.

The records of the Post Office Department show that in the dead letter bureau there have been six hundred thousand dead letters destroyed in the last year, in which were enclosed $200,000 in drafts, which were returned to the owners thereof.

The Southern Loyalists now here called on Chief Justice Chase to-day, and urged him to appoint ex Governor Hamilton, of Texas, register under the bankrupt law at New Orleans.

*The telegraph informs us that the immaculate Stevens undertook to get off his speech about confiscation, on Tuesday, but broke down in the midst of it. The Clerk, the stoutest orator of the two, finished it for him. It could not have been a very stirring performance, however, for the further consideration of the subject was postponed until December.

BRICK POMEROY.

HIS "TALK" IN NEW ORLEANS.

Brick Pomeroy lectured in New Orleans on the night of the 14th inst. to a large audience. In the course of his remarks he said: "I tell you here, as a Northern man, that I come here not as a Southerner, but as a Northern man, as a National man without prejudices (except against spoons). (Laughter.) I come to see whether the stories of these so-called Southern loyalists are true or false, and you have my word of honor that I intend to take none of your niggers, your carpets or your silver spoons. Before leaving home I settled my affairs and sent to Butler a wooden spoon. If anything can reach him a spoon can. I hear to-day he has received it. I got my life insured at five or six times its value, supposing that I was coming down into a country of guerillas. (Laughter.) Were I to tell them that here you attend churches, lectures, theatres—they would answer that it was out of the question. They imagine since the war closed as prosperously as it has—(laughter)—this is no joke;) that you men have all long red hair, with belts around your waists loaded with revolvers, bowie knives, and everything except spoons; that all you do is to lay around in the woods, looking for Northern men to rob and steal from; and, I assure you 'tis a fact, they think you need reconstruction and a military government for no government, which is the same thing; they think you cut people's throats, and "go through" (as we say in our country) every one not agreeing with you in politics and religion. They think of you ladies as being what they call in New England "she rebels;" they think you go around without hoops or any of those attraction which make women so much what they are.

After telling his hearers "some truths in regard to the late war," he said: "I wish that I were President for only fifteen minutes. One man alone could not stand it for any greater length of time. (I hope no Radicals are here; I don't want this to get out.) I should sit down and look steadfastly over the Constitution. I would write a proclamation extending pardon to every man who fought for his country, and putting in the State prison every man who stole from his countrymen, and then you would see going to jail the longest procession you ever saw, at their head the cock-eyed hero of Lowell. I would pardon every brave man who dared to fight for what he thought was right, and send to jail every villain who broke into houses and insulted women. I would bring order out of chaos. I would take then the key of Lafayette or of Fortress Monroe, and I would say: 'Jefferson Davis, step forth a free man.' (Applause.) I should not be afraid of that old man going to his grave for what he thought was right. I would ask him to come with me to Washington, and consult as to the best means to make this country as prosperous as before the war."

"Brick" then told the story of a dog given him by an army chaplain—poodle dog—the "dog gondest" dog ever seen. He named him Banks. That dog wasn't much on fighting, but was good on paper collars, and sometimes had a wagon load at a time. Then he changed his name to Beecher, but inasmuch as the other dogs around town had no money, they couldn't pay him to hold services for them. But one day "Brick" got mad with the dog and called him Ben Butler; he rather "wilted on the turn," but still he stood it. That dog immediately had a fondness for silver spoons and other "conquered property." One day he stole the contribution boxes out of a church. The dog used to want to become an engraver. He would watch at the engravers' windows to see the names engraved on silver spoons, and then steal spoons and all. He would look in the jewelry stores for hours at a time, and would follow any man with jewelry on him. He had even known him to follow a coffin for five or six miles, to steal the silver plate off it. So finally he got disgusted with the dog, and turned him loose, and the next thing "Brick" found he was sent to Congress from Massachusetts.

THE NORTHWEST AND NEW ENGLAND.

The following are extracts from two consecutive articles in the Cincinnati *Enquirer*. There is a logical significance in their sequence:

Three fourths or four fifths of [the United States] bonds are held in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. They are the creditor States. The West are the debtor States. The holders of the bonds are mainly to the West what the Irish landlords are in Ireland—an absentee class—drawing their incomes largely from the hard earnings of the people, and spending it in a different part of the country. This is a system which will impoverish and draw from the West its very life blood. This immense capital in the hands of a favored few secures the protection of the Government, and yet pays nothing whatever towards its support. The bondholder uses the schools, the turnpikes and bridges of the country; he has the benefits of its courts of justice, and of its police protection; in short, of all the aids and regulations of civilized society, and yet he is released from contributing in any way to these purposes. If it is proposed to put this immense amount of property upon the tax duplicate, the response immediately is like "Shylock," in the *Merchant of Venice*, that "it is not so nominated in the bond." The "pound of flesh" must be cut out al, though it comes from the very heart of the people. The contract of a foolish Congress, the obligation which it recklessly and illegally assumed, is paid as a full equivalent of any change or modification of our condition. Every thing else is broken, constitutions, laws and chattels, in fact, every solemn covenant that protects the interests of the many; but that stipulation, however grievous, in favor of the wealthy and aristocratic few, is to be as irrevocable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

A PRECEDENT.

How would our Radical friends like a bill that should provide, whereas the State governments in the New England States did not afford adequate protection to life and property, that they were, therefore, abolished and remanded into the condition of district having no law but the will of a military commander? In addition, it would provide that when some onerous conditions, involving an entire change in their social and political condition, were agreed to, and when they were *all consolidated into one State*, with *but two United States Senators*, it might be received back into the Union; how would such a statute, we repeat, strike our Radical friends? They have afforded a good precedent for the passage of such a law. It would only be a copy of their late military despotism act, as applied by them to the South. Did it ever occur to them that they had laid down a principle that might not, in future applications, be altogether pleasant or comfortable in every respect to their interests?

GENERAL WISE CALLED ON TO ADDRESS THE NEGROES.—We learn that a request to General Henry A. Wise, to deliver an address to the colored people of this city, was circulated yesterday amongst the most respectable portion of that class in the city, and that a large number of them signed it. The call states that "the colored people of this city, appreciating their altered political condition since the passage of the 'Sherman bill' by Congress, are desirous of hearing his views on the privileges and duties in their present condition."

It has been intimated that General Wise would give a favorable response to a call of this kind, and we hope it may be true. It behooves our best citizens to interest themselves in this matter, and to counteract, to the full extent of their ability, the machinations of the swindlers and scoundrels who are seeking to gain positions of trust and influence by imposing on the credulity and ignorance of the negroes. If such men as General Wise, and many others that we might name, would interest themselves, much evil might be averted.—*Richmond Examiner, 19th.*

ANOTHER BORDER WAR.

The Government is evidently in possession of evidence sufficiently strong to warrant the belief that another attempt is about to be made by the Fenian organization to invade the Canadian provinces. Yesterday a force of United States regulars, in numbers sufficient to load nine passenger cars, which would not be less than five or six hundred men, was despatched over the Hudson River Railroad for Oswego, where they will probably remain until their services are needed on the frontiers. This looks as if the Government is determined to again interfere for the preservation of our neutrality laws.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Nearly all our exchanges speak of the incessant rains for the past six weeks and consequent swollen condition of the streams.—In Tennessee great damage has been done to railroads by the washing away of bridges, &c.

Cincinnati has forty-one applications for divorces. "Too much married."

CONFISCATION.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

SPEECH BY THADDEUS STEVENS.

The following is taken from the report of the proceedings of Congress on Tuesday. The report of Stevens' speech is from the Baltimore *Gazette*:

Mr. Stevens called up the bill introduced by him some days ago, to confiscate the property of rebels.

The bill contains a preamble in the following words: Whereas, it is due to justice, and as example to future times, that some proper punishment should be inflicted on the people who constituted the "Confederate States of America," both because they declared an unjust war against the United States for the purpose of destroying republican liberty and permanently establishing slavery, as well as for the cruel and barbarous manner in which they conducted said war, in violation of all the laws of civilized warfare, and also to compel them to make some compensation for the damages and expenditures caused by the war, therefore, &c.

Section 1 enacts that all pubile lands belonging to the ten States that formed the Government of the Confederate States shall be forfeited and become the property of the United States.

Section 2 requires the President to proceed forthwith to cause the seizure of all property belonging to the belligerent enemy deemed forfeited by the act of July 17, 1862, and hold and appropriate the same as enemy's property, and to proceed to the condemnation of that already seized.

Section 3 enacts that in lieu of the proceeding to condemn the property thus seized as enemy's property, as is provided by the act of July 17, 1862, the President shall appoint two or more commissions for each of said Confederate States, to consist of three persons, each one of whom shall be an officer of the late or present army, and two shall be civilians, neither of whom shall be a citizen of the State for which he shall be appointed, and said commissions shall proceed to adjudicate and condemn the property aforesaid, under such forms and proceedings as shall be prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States, whereupon the title to said property shall become vested in the United States.

Section 4 provides that out of the lands thus seized and confiscated, the slaves who have been liberated by the operation of the war and the amendment to the Constitution or otherwise, who resided in said Confederate States on March 4th, 1861, or since, shall have have distributed to them as follows, viz: 40 acres to each adult male who is the head of a family; 40 acres to each adult male, whether the head of a family or not, and 40 acres to each widow who is the head of a family, to be held by them in fee simple, but inalienable for the next ten years after they become seized thereof.

For the purpose of allotting and distributing said land, the Secretary of War shall appoint as many commissions in each State as he shall deem necessary, to consist of three members each, two of whom at least shall not be citizens of the State for which they are appointed. Each commissioner shall receive a salary of $3,000 annually, and his necessary expenses, and each commission shall have one clerk, at a salary of $2,000 per annum. The title to the homestead aforesaid shall be vested in trustees for the use of the liberated persons aforesaid; trustees shall be appointed by the Secretary of War, and shall receive salaries of not more than $3,000 per annum. At the end of ten years the absolute title to said homestead shall be conveyed to the owners, or to the heirs of such as are then dead.

Section 5 enacts that out of the balance of the property thus seized there shall be raised a sum equal to $50 for each homestead, to be applied towards the erection of buildings for the use of said former slaves; and the farther sum of $500,000,000, of which $200,000,000 shall be invested in the United States 6 per cent. securities, and the interest shall be semi-annually added to the pensions allowed by law to pensioners who have become so by reason of the late war, and $300,000,000, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be appropriated to pay damages done to loyal citizens by the civil or military operations of the government lately called the "Confederate States of America."

Section 6 enacts that in order that just discrimination may be made, the property of none shall be seized whose whole estate on March 4th., 1865, was not worth more than $5,000, to be valued by the said commission, unless he shall have become an officer or employee in the military or civil service of the Confederate States, or in the service of some one of said States, and in enforcing all confiscations the sum of $5,000 in real or personal property shall be left or assigned to the delinquent.

Section 7 enacts that the commissions shall put a just and impartial valuation upon all the property thus seized and forfeited, and when such valuation shall be completed in the several States, all the commissioners shall meet in Washington and assess the $500,000,000 aforesaid, as well as the allowances for homesteads, &c., and shall give notice of such assessment and apportionment by publication for sixty days in two daily newspapers of Washington and in two daily newspapers in the capitals of each of the said Confederate States.

Section 8 Provides that the owners of said seized and forfeited estates may have them restored to them if, within ninety days after the first of the above publications, they pay into the Treasury of the United States, the sum assessed upon their estates, respectively.

Section 9 Enacts that all the land estates and property of whatever kind, which shall not be redeemed as aforesaid within ninety days, shall be sold and converted into money in such time and manner as may be deemed by the commissioners most advantageous to the United States; provided that no arable land shall be sold in larger tracts than 500 acres, and no longer credit shall be given than three years.

After the bill had been read, Mr. Boyer, of Pennsylvania, asked if a motion to lay the bill on the table would be in order.

The Speaker said that it would, after Mr. Stevens had completed his remarks.

Mr. Stevens then proceeded to address the House, but had uttered only a few sentences, when he became exhausted, and his speech was read by the clerk, Mr. McPherson.

The following is a synopsis of the speech:

MR. SPEAKER:—I am about to discuss the question of the punishment of belligerent traitors by enforcing the confiscation of their property to a certain extent, both as a punishment for their crimes and to pay the loyal men who have been robbed by the Rebels and to increase the pensions of our wounded soldiers. The punishment of traitors has been wholly ignored by a treacherous Executive and a sluggish Congress. I wish to make an issue before the American people and see whether they will sanction the perfect impunity of a murderous belligerent and consent that the loyal men of this nation, who have been despoiled of their property, shall remain without remuneration either by the Rebel property or the property of the nation.

To this issue I desire to devote the small remnant of my life. I desire to make the issue before the people of my own State, and should be glad if the issue were to extend to the other States. I desire the verdict of the people upon this great question.

What I ask of this House is to give a square vote upon the direct question by yeas and nays. I pray you do not evade or kill it by a side wind. When you have given such vote I shall be satisfied, whatever may be the result.

This bill, it seems to me, can be condemned only by the criminals and their immediate friends, and by that unmanly kind of men whose intellectual and moral vigor has melted into a fluid weakness which they mistake for mercy, and which is untempered with a single grain of justice, and to those religionists who mistake meanness for Christianity, and who forget that the essence of religion is to "do unto others what others have a right to expect from you." It is offensive to certain pretentious doctors of divinity who are mawkishly prating about the "fatted calf, the prodigal son of the forgiving father." They forget that there is no analogy between the cases. The thoughtless youth having received a part of his father's estate, and probably taken a load of corn to market, fell into bad company and contracted the loathsome vice of drunkenness and spent the money in rioting and debauchery, and like all drunkards, made his bed with the swine and fed on husks; but like one case only in a thousand, he reformed, joined the total abstinence society, washed himself clean, brushed his clothes, and with repentant steps returned to his father's house. Well might his aged parent rejoice; well might he kill the fatted calf at such a rescue. But how venial was such offence compared with this murderous rebellion!

When the great ancestor of this bloody race had slain his brother, and tremblingly met his judge and sought for pardon, what was the answer? "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which has opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. When thou tillest the ground it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be on the earth."—When Cain cried that his "punishment was more than he could bear," the Judge who administered justice in mercy drove him forth into stern, inexorable exile. He taught no forgiveness for such sins. He prated of no "fatted calves." * * * *

In discussing the different sections of the bill, he said:

The fourth section provides that out of the lands thus confiscated each liberated slave who is a male adult, or the head of a family, shall have assigned to him a homestead of forty acres of land, (with $100 to build a dwelling,) which shall be held for them by trustees during their pupilage.

Whatever may be the fate of the rest of the bill, I must earnestly pray that this may not be defeated. On its success, in my judgment, depends not only the happiness and respectability of the colored race, but their very existence. Homesteads to them are far more valuable than the immediate right of suffrage, though both are their due.

He then advocated this provision at great length, citing the recent action of the Czar of Russia in liberating the serfs and taxing their former owners to provide for them.—He then said:

The remaining part of the sum levied, to wit: $200,000,000, is to remunerate loyal men in both sections who in consequence of their loyalty have been plundered and had their property destroyed by the invading armies and raiders of the enemy, or by the unjust seizure and confiscation of the property of loyal men in the rebel States. Who objects to this? Whoever does, let him put his name on record that the country may fairly judge on which side his sympathies lie. By the usages of nations, the property of the citizens of the belligerent power taken or destroyed as a military necessity is paid by the Government. But property taken or destroyed by the enemy is not paid by the Government. Strictly speaking, the property of citizens of the hostile Government, though friendly to the conqueror, cannot be charged to the victor. But in civil war, it seems to me, that a distinction should be made, and those who had suffered for their adherence to the parent Government should be taken care of in adjusting the conditions of peace.—We know there are loyal men in the South who are large sufferers. There are still a larger number in the North who are made larger sufferers, neither of whom have any chance of being remunerated except through this Congressional legislation. Neither of them can ever receive a dollar out of the Treasury of the United States. I know not whether $200,000,000 will pay them. Certainly it would be a great relief. I need not enumerate the sort of damages to which I refer. Southern loyalists who have suffered are everywhere to be seen. The Valley of Virginia and the course of Sheridan's operations are full of them. The smoking ruins of Lawrence and Chambersburg, almost every county of Missouri and Maryland, and the frontier portions of Ohio, are samples of the latter.

If the war had been between two regular governments, both of which survived the war, the victor in the treaty of peace would require the vanquished to pay all such damages as well as the expenses of the war. If neither had conquered the other they would probably be silent, and each bear his own loss. Congress is dictating the terms of peace. If she does not provide for these meritorious claimants she will be bound in honor to pay them out of the national treasury. If she does not individuals will be wronged and the nation dishonored. This bill is very merciful toward a cruel, outlawed belligerent who, when their armies were dispersed, would gladly have compromised it their lives were saved. Those who will be affected by this bill will not exceed 70,000 out of a population of six millions of whites, for this is a people of aristocrats and subjects; of a proud nobility and a cringing poor peasantry. Those seventy thousand persons own about three hundred and ninety millions acres of land out of the five hundred millions in the Confederate States. This, together with the town property, cannot be worth less than ten billions of dollars, ($10,000,000,000). This estimate includes no man's property who was worth less than ten thousand dollars; nor does it include any personal property, which may perhaps swell it to twelve billions of dollars. The fine proposed would be but one-twentieth of their estates. Were ever such great malefactors so gently dealt with? It were well if all their large estates could be subdivided and sold in small tracts. No people will ever be republican in spirit and practice where a few own immense manors and the masses are landless. Small independent landholders are the support and guardians of republican liberty.

But it is said that very many of these men have been pardoned by the President, and their forfeited estates restored to them.

I must take the liberty to deny that any pardon, or any other power vested in the President, can withdraw these forfeited estates from the confiscation decreed by Congress. Nothing less than an act of Congress can divest them from the United States and bestow them on the pardoned belligerents.

Mr. Stevens then proceeded with an elaborate eulogy on President Lincoln, whom, in the latter's lifetime, he was accustomed to denounce.

The Washington correspondent of the Petersburg *Index* has the following with reference to the foregoing speech:

"In the House yesterday old Thad. received a most cruel setting down. He rose unbidden in appearance to read a four column speech prepared with weeks of hard study in support of a confiscation bill which he simultaneously offered. His voice failed him after the first two or three paragraphs had been read to an evidently disgusted auditory. The Clerk took the paper and drawled it out in the regular monotonous clerkly style, few hearing and nobody caring to, until, to the ill concealed relief of all parties concerned, the end of the venomous document was reached, when the whole matter was postponed until December next."

HOW HAPPY I'LL BE.

BY M. E. M.

A little one played among the flowers,
In the blush and bloom of summer hours;
She twined the buds in a garland fair,
And bound them up in her shining hair.
"Ah me!" said she, "how happy I'll be
When ten years more have grown over me,
And I am a maiden, with youth's bright glow
Flushing my cheek and lighting my brow!"

A maiden mused in a pleasant room,
Where the air was filled with a soft perfume;
Vases were near of antique mould,
Beautiful pictures rare and old,
And she of all the loveliness there
Was by far the loveliest and most fair.
"Ah me!" sighed she, "how happy I'll be
When my heart's true love comes home to me!
Light of my life, my spirit's pride,
I count the days till thou reach my side."

A mother bent over the cradle nest,
Where she soothed her babe to his smiling rest.
"Sleep well," she murmured, soft and low,
As she pressed her kiss on his brow.
"Oh! child, sweet child, how happy I'll be,
If the good God let thee stay with me,
Till later on, in life's evening hour,
Thy strength shall be my strength and tower!"

An aged one sat by the glowing hearth,
Almost ready to leave the earth;
Feeble and frail, the race she had run
Had borne her along to the setting sun.
"Ah me!" she breathed, in an under tone,
"How happy I'll be when life is done!
When the world fades out with its weary strife,
And I soar away to a better life!"

'Tis thus we journey from youth to age,
Longing to turn to another page
Striving to hasten the years away,
Lighting our hearts with the future's ray;
Hoping on earth till its visions fade,
Wishing and waiting, through sun and shade;
Turning, when earth's last tie is riven,
To the beautiful rest that remains in heaven.

BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.—In consequence of the wholesale sueing that has been resorted to in South Carolina, we learn that affairs are in a deplorable condition in that State. A great deal of property has been sold by the Sheriffs for almost nothing, and families who were heretofore in good condition, are in consequence left without a home or the means of making a living. We are told that good tracts of land have been sold at less than 50 cents an acre, and good mules as low as $16. Many of the people have not money enough to pay the taxes on their property, and consequently it is offered for sale by the tax collectors, and in numerous instances sacrificed. Of course, where there is so much suing, bad feeling exists between man and man, and in some instances serious conflicts have lately been prevented.

Now, this is all wrong. Our South Carolina neighbors, of all people, should be the most patient and forbearing towards each other in these times of trouble and disappointment and gloom. They started the ball that has crushed the hopes of so many thousands of people; and now that distress prevails in consequence of the failure of the Southern cause, they ought to be the last people on earth to add to that distress by uncharitableness and illiberality towards each other.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

The Charleston *Mercury* comes to the following conclusion upon the present status of affairs:

"There is no need to give up an atom of our self-respect; there is no need to give up one memory of that blessed past to which we have so long clung; but the military law is the law for us; and, until that law be repealed or modified, it is the law which the people of the South must obey. No one but a madman would counsel mere physical resistance to the law. Obey we must; and it is the better to do this without any exhibition of bitterness or ill feeling. Our only plan now—the only plan that can avail us—is to make a merit of necessity."

The House of Delegates ordered to its engrossment yesterday a bill to pay four per cent. on the interest of the Virginia debt.—Four per cent. on the whole debt is equivalent to six per cent. on two thirds of the debt, the part really owed by the present Virginia.—*Rich. Enquirer, 20th.*

Gen. Scofield has ordered the officers of the negro battalion in Richmond to disband their organizations, in pursuance of the recent law of Congress prohibiting the organization of the militia in the Southern States.

The philosopher says that if we must have uncomfortable weather, we might as well have it in March as at any other time. Thus far March appears to have been in accord with the philosopher.

In England four-fifths of the work in the telegraph and post offices is done by women. In the same country women constitute two-thirds of the liquor sellers.

The new iron bridge to be built across the Mississippi, at St. Louis, will cost $5,000,000. It will be of altitude sufficient to allow steamers to pass under it at high water.

A school-house in Accrington, county of Lancaster, England, was recently partially destroyed by fire, and nine children lost their lives by suffocation from the smoke.

THE RECONSTRUCTION DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

The Supplemental Reconstruction Bill was taken up in the Senate, on Saturday, a little before 2 o'clock, and occupied that body till midnight. The bill, as reported by the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, differed but slightly from that which passed the House. The oath was modified so as to exclude the phrase "sincerely attached to the Government"; and some other unessential amendments were offered. The debate in the Senate took a wide sweep, embracing the whole question of reconstruction. A number of amendments were offered and rejected. The question which elicited the warmest discussion was whether the vote which ratifies the Constitution should be one requiring a majority of all the registered voters or all the votes cast. The House bill requires the former, as did the bill of the Judiciary Committee, in the estimation of some of the members, but not in that of others, and several votes were had upon it, and any quantity of debate.

The alterations finally made were by modifying the form of the oath and by inserting the third section, which provides for a vote being taken at the election for delegates for and against the Convention, which shall not be held if a majority oppose it, or if a majority of the *registered* voters fail to vote upon the question. The same provision, requiring one half the registered voters, is applied to the ratification.

Mr. Howard's amendment respecting the oath specifies the conditions of disfranchisement, instead of referring in general terms to the act of March 2d. This elicited a warm discussion, which developed a marked diversity of opinion. Some gentleman thought the oath of but little consequence. Some thought it unfair to ask a man to swear to that to which you could apply no test, such as a feeling of attachment to the Union. Some thought rebels would not be deterred by oaths, and a few agreed with Mr. Sumner in thinking that the terms were not harsh enough. He wanted the affiant to swear to the indissolubility of the Union; that he would not countenance the Confederate debt, but uphold the national, and oppose all discrimination of rights in regard to color. Mr. Howard's amendment was lost in committee, but adopted in the Senate.

The question that was most persistently debated was whether a majority of the registered voters, or of all the votes cast, should be sufficient to call a convention and ratify the constitution,—Messrs. Howard, Sumner, Nye, Fessenden and Conkling contending for the former. The speeches of Messrs. Howard and Nye were especially bitter against rebels. According to their statements, the Southern people are not fit to live in a republican country, or, indeed, in any other. They are unworthy of trust, full of hostility to the Union and to free institutions, and are only kept from universal massacring of the negroes by Federal bayonets. This is the plain English of their talk. Both were afraid of too hasty reconstruction. Both thought the negroes too ignorant and too slavish to be trusted to vote against their masters. Mr. Howard, too, had a great horror of minority governments. Strange to say, he protested against a negro government, and was apprehensive that these contumacious rebels would stay away from the polls and leave the poor blacks, who required guardians, and are unfit for self government, to make a negro government. Mr. Nye was afraid the masters would keep their late slaves in leading strings, and so early reconstruction would be simply restoring rebels to power. So that both men, in fact, opposed to any reconstruction for some time to come, though Mr. Howard became indignant at Mr. Trumbull for speaking of him as an enemy of the bill, and demanded, with no little heat, "by what authority does the Senator from Illinois assert that I am an enemy of this bill?" and when Mr. Trumbull showed why he was, took the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee to task, lecturing him vehemently, proclaimed his independence, and announced with more force than modesty that he "recognized no superior and would submit to no dictator." The very temper of the gentleman showed the truth of the charge. So, too, Mr. Nye flared up at a remark of Mr. Wilson's about charging him with demagoguism, and on Mr. Wilson explaining that he warned him against the temptation to demagoguism by appealing to the passions engendered by the war instead of pouring oil on the waters, the Senator from Nevada proceeded to put on the cap by indulging in the very strain of talk which validated the charge.

Mr. Fessenden had considerable to say about leaving the people of the South to their own choice. He was unwilling to compel them into the Union. He was in favor of the military bill, pure and simple, and did not want it clogged with any terms of reconstruction. He wanted them to have no chance of saying they were forced in; but as they took their own way out, he would have them take their own way back, and let Congress say whether they would recognize that way or not. He was perfectly willing to defend that position before his own constituency or any other, and did not share the apprehension of Mr. Morton and others that the nation would tire of the delay.

Mr. Conkling made a couple of very forcible speeches, one especially, insisting that the people of the South should be bound by the work done; and unless a majority of them voted, they might repudiate it as the act of the minority.

On the other hand, the proposition was shown up very thoroughly by Messrs. Wilson, Morton, Trumbull, and Drake. The two former insisted that delay of reconstruction was fraught with danger to the country, but especially to the Radical party. The people demanded reconstruction, and Mr. Morton pertinently suggested that the Radicals could not go into the Presidential canvass next year, four years after the war was ended, and acknowledge their failure to reconstruct the Government by keeping the South out. If they failed in their duty, the country would find leaders who did not. Mr. Wilson contended that the South would go heartily into this movement, and that the Radicals had a fair show for controlling all the States except Virginia. He was confident of South Carolina and Louisiana, and rebuked his colleague for haggling over minor points, when the great object of bringing in the South with Radical senators was in their grasp. Mr. Fowler interrupted to ask a question. But it was more than the Massachusetts senator could stand. He warmly assured him that he was the last man who should be found making any opposition to his policy, for he (Mr. Wilson) had fought this same fight and had to meet the same arguments to get him (Mr. Fowler) into the Senate. It was crushing. Mr. Fowler stood convicted, and no longer interrupted the impetuous flow of the gentleman's roseate prognostications. That part of Mr. Wilson's speech relating to welcoming the South was very fine, but Mr. Nye's subsequent partisan appeal drove him into stating that he did not mean rebels, but negroes and loyalists. The argument that to require a majority of the registered voters is to count the absentees ought to be conclusive.

Mr. Trumbull had great difficulty in keeping his friends from loading down the bill with amendments relating to the details, and twice they were tacked on, but removed on reconsideration. He insisted that the whole question of detail was left to the commanding general, who must devise and employ his own machinery. He can use the existing election laws, adapting them to the changes required by the act of Congress, but he protested repeatedly against any effort to convert this into an election law, declaring that if that was the intention of the Senate, the bill must be referred, and ample time be given to the committee.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the discussion grew out of the proposition of Mr. Sumner to require each State to establish and maintain a system of common schools. It was contended by the Senator that they had power to lay down any conditions of reconstruction they thought wise, and that suffrage without knowledge was lootless, and he read a classic eulogy on education. In the course of his remarks he denounced the States to be created under this bill as "born of the bayonet." This expression seemed particularly obnoxious to his friends—we suppose because they secretly acknowledged its truth. Several Senators sprang to their feet on the conclusion of his speech, and Mr. Frelinghuysen was recognized. He protested against such an idea going forth to the country. It was grossly unjust, and the gentleman ingeniously sought to evade its force by explaining that the governments to be created would be the work of the people.

Mr. Conness scornfully disclaimed it, and reminded the Senator that California sprang into the Union from a military order; but he forgot to state that California had no conditions affixed to her coming, with the alternative of accepting them or being kept under the bayonet.

Mr. Stewart protested against any man's voting for a bill and denouncing it. He would vote against a bill, or he would defend it, and he claimed that it was grossly unfair to denounce a measure and get the credit for standing on a higher elevation than others, while really supporting it with his vote. They would be met on the stump with this speech of the senator; and it was unjust to his friends.

Mr. Hendricks denied the power of Congress to institute governments for the South, or to prescribe any other conditions than those imposed by the Constitution. He very briefly but forcibly and conclusively destroyed all the foundation of Mr. Sumner's argument on the power of Congress to prescribe governments for the South, which he derived from necessity, from military governments, and from that clause in the Constitution guaranteeing a republican government. Necessity knows no law, but we were governed by a Constitution, and have no powers save what were conferred. There is no war and the gentleman knows it.—There was no excuse, then, for appealing to the war power; but if there was, that did not justify such interference with the rights of American citizens. Governments already existed in the South; they are republican in form, and there is not the shadow of an excuse for Congressional interference.

Mr. Buckalew made a very striking and adroit argument, ostensibly in defence of Mr. Sumner, who, he claimed, was the pioneer of the party, advocating a policy for which he was denounced this year by his friends only to support it the next by their votes. He claimed, too, that the Senator was perfectly correct in characterizing these States as born of the bayonet. Civil authority did exist there. It protected life. It regulated property; it performed fully all the functions of government—as fully as elsewhere. Now, military authority was reared above the civil. Neither property, nor liberty, nor life, was secure, save by the permit of a soldier; and this state of things was to exist until conditions were acted upon by the South, which were extremely repulsive, and could only be extorted by power.

Mr. Sumner's proposition was lost by a tie vote.

One point of this debate we must reserve, as we have not space in which to do it justice. We refer to the question whether Congress is committed at all to a plan of reconstruction by the act of March 2d of the last Congress. On this the difference of opinion was very decided.

The bill now goes to the House, and it is difficult to say in what shape it will come out, as there is a marked difference between the two Houses, on the question whether a majority of all the votes cast at the election shall be requisite to ratify the constitutions that may be adopted.—*National Intelligencer.*

From the Irish Times, March 5.

ARREST OF HON. JOHN MORRISSEY.

Last night, at the Limerick Junction, Assistant Inspector General Brownrigg, of the constabulary, arrested, on the arrival of the mail train from Cork, John Morrissey, the celebrated prize fighter and member of the United States Congress, on a charge of Fenianism, just as he had alighted from a first-class carriage. He had arrived at Cork by the Cunard steamer *Australasian*, and was proceeding to Tipperary town. He is known as the man who fought the first great fight in Canada, near the American frontier, about eight years ago, with John C. Heenan, whom Morrissey defeated after a desperate fight of twenty-three rounds, which occupied nearly three hours. He has since become a gin-palace proprietor and legislator, and joined the Fenian Brotherhood at its commence. He has since subscribed largely to its funds. Morrissey, when arrested, fainted, and had to be taken to the gentlemen's waiting room where restoratives had to be applied, after which he was taken to Dublin. In consequence of his arrest, a large force of infantry was sent down early this morning to the junction, where the men are encamped, for the protection of that place.

[Morrissey is in his seat at Washington.]

Gen. Butler, of Massachusetts, having intimated that he will not be a candidate for re-election, the Boston *Traveller* says that General Butler has an eye to the place. It is important for Massachusetts to know which eye.

In Cincinnati, last Monday, John Loth obtained a divorce from his wife Rosina Loth, and in the afternoon of the same day Rosina obtained a license to marry one Chas. Schmidt.