THE WEEKLY ERA.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1873.

John R. Thompson.

A correspondent writing on the literary incidents of Jo[illegible] Thompson, of Virginia, who was filling the position [illegible] Editor on the *Evening Post*, [illegible]:—The last time I saw him, in September last, he read to me his translation of some lines of Heine, which must, I fancy, often have been present to him in his failing health and chequered career. There sounds in the lines a melancholy pathos presaging an early grave:

Where shall then the traveller jaded,
In the grave at last recline?
In the South by palm trees shaded
Under lindens by the Rhine?

Shall I in some desert sterile
Be entombed by stranger hands?
Shall I sleep beyond life's peril
On some sea coast in the sands?

Well! God's sun will shine as brightly
There, as here, above my bed,
And the stars like death lamps, nightly
Shall be hung above my head.

H. C.

(From the Evening Post.)

Leaves from an Old Album.

A correspondent sends two recently-encountered extracts from the tattered old album kept at Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare:—

"Of mighty Shakespeare's birth the room we see;
That where he died, in vain to find we try;
Useless the search; for all immortal he;
And they who are immortal never die.
"WASHINGTON IRVING."

"Shakespeare! thy name revered is no less
By us who often reckon, sometimes guess;
Though England claims the glory of thy birth,
None more appreciate thy pages worth:
Nor more admire thy scenes well acted o'er,
Than we of 'state unborn' in ancient lore.
"JAMES H. HACKETT."

OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Passed at the third Session of the forty-second Congress.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 62.)

AN ACT to revise, consolidate, and amend the laws relating to pensions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if the ability of any officer of the army, including regulars, volunteers, and militia, or any officer in the navy or marine corps, or any enlisted man, however employed, in the military or naval service of the United States, or in its marine corps, whether regularly mustered or not, disabled by reason of any wound or injury received, or disease contracted, while in the service of the of the United States and in the line of duty; any master serving on a gunboat, or any pilot, engineer, sailor, or other person not regularly mustered, serving upon any gunboat or war vessel of the United States, disabled by any wound or injury received, or otherwise incapacitated, while in the line of duty, for procuring his subsistence by manual labor; any person not an enlisted soldier in the army, serving for the time being as a member of the militia of any State under orders of an officer of the United States, or otherwise mustered for the time being to serve with any regularly organized military or naval force of the United States, or who otherwise volunteered and rendered service in any engagement with rebels or Indians, disabled in consequence of wounds or injury received in the line of duty in such temporary service; any acting assistant or contract surgeon, disabled by any wound or injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty while actually performing the duties of assistant surgeon or acting assistant surgeon with any military force in the field or in transitu or in hospital, or any provost marshal, deputy provost marshal, or enrolling officer, disabled by reason of any wound or injury received in the discharge of his duty, to procure a subsistence by manual labor, has been since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, or shall hereafter be impaired by reason of such disability, he shall, upon making due proof of the fact, according to such forms and regulations as are or may be provided by and in pursuance of law, be placed upon the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and be entitled to receive, for a total disabily or a permanent specific disability, such pension as is hereinafter provided in such cases, and for an inferior disability, except in cases of permanent specific disability for which the rate of pension is expressly provided, an amount proportionate to that provided for total disability, to commence as hereinafter provided, and to continue during the existence of the disability: Provided, That no claim of a State militiaman, or non-enlisted person, on account of disability from wounds or injury received in battle with rebels or Indians, while temporarily rendering service, shall be valid unless prosecuted to a successful issue prior to the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy four: And provided further, That no person shall be entitled to a pension by reason of wounds or injury received or disease contracted in the service of the United States subsequent to the twenty-seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty eight, unless the person who was wounded or contracted the disease was in the line of duty; and, if in the military service, was at the time actually in the field, or on the march, or at some post, fort, or garrison, or en route by direction of competent authority to some post, fort, or garrison; or, if in the naval service, was at the time borne on the books of some ship or other vessel of the United States, at sea or in the harbor, actually in commission, or was at some naval station, or on his way, by direction of competent authority, to the United States, or to some other vessel, or naval station, or hospital.

Sec. 2. That the pension for total disability shall be as follows, namely: For lieutenant colonel and all officers of higher rank in the military service and in the marine corps, and for captain, and all officers of higher rank, commander, surgeon, paymaster, and chief engineer, respectively ranking with commander by law, lieutenant commanding and master commanding, in the naval service, thirty dollars per month; for major in the military service and in the marine corps, and lieutenant, surgeon, paymaster, and chief engineer, respectively ranking with lieutenant by law, and passed assistant surgeon in the naval service, twenty five dollars per month; for captain in the military service and in the marine corps, chaplain in the army, and provost marshal, professor of mathematics, master, assistant surgeon, assistant paymaster, and chaplain in the naval service, twenty dollars per month; for first lieutenant in the military service and in the marine corps, acting assistant or contract surgeon, and deputy provost marshal, seventeen dollars per month; for second lieutenant in the military service and in the marine corps, first assistant engineer, ensign, and pilot in the naval service, and enrolling officer, fifteen dollars per month; for cadet midshipman, passed midshipman, midshipmen, clerks of admirals and paymasters, and of other officers, masters of vessels, second and commanding assistant engineer, master's third assistant engineer, and all warrant officers in the naval service, ten dollars per month; and for all enlisted men whose rank or office is not mentioned in this section, eight dollars per month; and the masters, pilots, engineers, sailors, and crews upon the gunboats and war vessels shall be entitled to receive the pension allowed herein to those of like rank in the naval service; and every commissioned officer of the army, navy, or marine corps, shall receive such and only such pensions as is herein provided for the rank he held at the time he received the injury, or contracted the disease which resulted in the disability, on account of which he may be entitled to a pension; and any commission or presidential appointment, regularly issued to such person, shall be taken to determine, his rank from and after the date, as given in the body of the commission or appointment conferring said rank: Provided, That a vacancy existed in the rank thereby conferred; that the person commissioned was not so disabled for military duty; and that he did not wilfully neglect or refuse to be mustered.

Sec. 3. That for the period commencing July fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty four, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy two, those persons entitled to a less pension than hereinafter mentioned, who shall have lost both feet in the military or naval service and in the line of duty, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; for the same period those persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost both hands or the sight of both eyes, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty five dollars per month; and for the period commencing March third, eighteen hundred and sixty five, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, those persons who under like circumstances shall have lost one hand and one foot, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; and for the period commencing June sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty six, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy two, those persons who under like circumstances shall have lost one hand or one foot, shall be entitled to a pension of fifteen dollars per month; and for the period commencing June sixty, eighteen hundred and sixty six, and ending June third, eighteen hundred and seventy two, those persons entitled to a less pension than hereinafter mentioned, who by reason of injury received or disease contracted in the military or naval service of the United States and in the line of duty, shall have been permanently and totally disabled in both hands, or who shall have lost the sight of one eye, the other having been previously lost, or who shall have been otherwise so totally and permanently disabled as to render them utterly helpless, or so nearly so as to require regular personal aid and attendance of another person, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty five dollars per month; and for the same period those who under like circumstances shall have been totally and permanently disabled in both feet, or in one hand and one foot, or otherwise so disabled as to be incapacitated for the performance of any manual labor, but not so much as to require regular personal aid and attention, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty dollars per month; and for the same period all persons who under like circumstances shall have been totally and permanently disabled in one hand, or one foot, or otherwise so disabled as to render their inability to perform manual labor equivalent to the loss of a hand or foot, shall be entitled to a pension of fifteen dollars per month.

Sec. 4. That from and after June fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy two, all persons entitled by law to a less pension than hereinafter specified, who, while in the military or naval service of the United States, and in line of duty, shall have lost the sight of both eyes, or shall have lost the sight of one eye, the sight of the other having been previously lost, or shall have lost both hands, or shall have lost both feet, or been permanently and totally disabled in the same, or otherwise so permanently and totally disabled as to render them utterly helpless, or so nearly so as to require the regular personal aid and attendance of another person, shall be entitled to a pension of thirty one dollars and twenty five cents per month; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost one hand and one foot, or been totally and permanently disabled in the same, or otherwise so disabled as to be incapacitated for performing any manual labor, but not so much as to require regular personal aid and attendance, shall be entitled to a pension of twenty four dollars per month; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost one hand, or one foot, or been totally and permanently disabled in the same, or otherwise so disabled as to render their inability to perform manual labor equivalent to the loss of a hand or foot, shall be entitled to a pension of eighteen dollars per month: Provided, That all persons who, under like circumstances, have lost a leg above the knee, and in consequence thereof are so disabled that they cannot use artificial limbs, shall be rated in the second class and receive twenty four dollars per month; and all persons who, under like circumstances, shall have lost the hearing of both ears, shall be entitled to a pension of thirteen dollars per month: Provided, That the pension for a disability not permanent, equivalent in degree to any provided for in this section, shall, during the continuance of the disability in such degree, be at the same rate as that herein provided for a permanent disability of like degree: Provided further, That, except in cases of permanent specific disabilities, no increase of pension shall be allowed to commence prior to the date of the examining surgeon's certificate; and that in this, as well as all other cases, the certificate of an examining surgeon, or of a board of examining surgeons, shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Pensions.

Sec. 5. That the rate of eighteen dollars per month may be proportionately divided for any degree of disability established for which the second section of this act makes no provision.

Sec. 6. That the officers absent on sick leave, and enlisted men absent on sick furlough, or on veteran furlough, while with the organization to which they belong, shall be regarded in the administration of the pension laws in the same manner as if they were in the field or hospital.

Sec. 7. That the period of service of all persons entitled to the benefit of the pension laws, or on account of whose death any person may become entitled to a pension, shall be construed to extend to the time of disbanding the organization to which such person belonged, or until their actual discharge for other cause than the expiration of the service of such organization.

Sec. 8. That if any person embraced within the provisions of the first section of this act has died since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, or shall hereafter die, by reason of any wound, injury, or disease which, under the conditions and limitations of said section, would have entitled him to an invalid pension had he been disabled, his widow, or if there be no widow, or in case of her death, without payment to her of any part of the pension hereinafter mentioned, his child or children, under sixteen years of age, shall be entitled to receive the same pension as the husband or father would have been entitled to had he been totally disabled, to commence from the death of the husband or father, to continue to the widow during her widowhood, and to his child or children until they severally attain the age of sixteen years, and no longer, and that if the widow remarry, the child or children shall be entitled from the date of remarriage. That the provisions of this act are hereby extended to and made to embrace the officers and privates of the Missouri State militia, and the provisional Missouri militia, disabled by reason of injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty while such militia was co-operating with the United States forces, and the widow or children of any such person, dying of injury received or disease contracted under the circumstances herein set forth shall be entitled to the benefits of this act: Provided, That the pensions on account of such militia shall not commence prior to the date of the passage of this act. That the provisions of this section shall be so interpreted as to apply to the widows, child or children of officers and privates of the Missouri State militia, if the husband or father was wounded, or contracted the disease of which he died, while in the service of the government of the United States.

Sec. 9. That the pensions of widows shall be increased from and after the twenty fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty six, at the rate of two dollars per month for each child under the age of sixteen years, of the husband on account of whose death the claim has been, or shall be, granted. And in every case in which the deceased husband has left, or shall leave, no widow, or where his widow has died or married again, or where she has been deprived of her pension under the provisions of the pension law, the pension granted to such child or children shall be increased to the same amount per month that would be allowed under the foregoing provisions to the widow, if living and entitled to a pension: Provided, That the additional pension herein granted to the widow on account of the child or children of the husband by a former wife shall be paid to her only for such period of her widowhood as she has been, or shall be, charged with the maintenance of such child or children; for any period during which she has not been, or she shall not be, so charged, it shall be granted and paid to the guardian of such child or children: Provided further, That a widor or guardian to whom increase of pension has been, or shall hereafter be, granted on account of minor children, shall not be deprived thereof by reason of their being maintained in whole or in part at the expense of a State or the public in any educational institution, or in any institution organized for the care of soldiers' orphans.

Sec. 10. That in the administration of the pension laws, children born before the marriage of their parents, if acknowledged by the father before or after the marriage, shall be deemed legitimate.

Sec. 11. That the widows of colored or Indian soldiers and sailors who have died, or shall hereafter die, by reason of wounds or injuries received, or casualty received or disease contracted, in the military or naval service of the United States, and in the line of duty, shall be entitled to receive the pension provided by law without other evidence of marriage than satisfactory proof that the parties were joined in marriage by some ceremony deemed by them obligatory, or habitually recognized each other as man and wife, and were so recognized by their neighbors, and lived together as such up to the date of enlistment, when such soldier or sailor died in the service, or, if otherwise, to date of death; and the children born of any marriage so proved shall be deemed and held to be lawful children of such soldier or sailor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to any claims on account of persons who shall have enlisted after the passage of this act.

Sec. 12. That if any person has died, or shall hereafter die, leaving a widow entitled to a pension by reason of his death, and a child or children under sixteen years of age by such widow, and it shall be duly certified under seal by any court having probate jurisdiction, that satisfactory evidence has been produced before such court upon due notice to the widow that the widow aforesaid has abandoned the care of such child or children, or that she is an unsuitable person, by reason of immoral conduct, to have the custody of the same, or on presentation of satisfactory evidence thereof to the Commissioner of Pensions, then no pension shall be allowed to such widow until such child or children shall have attained the age of sixteen years, any provisions of this act or of any previous act to the contrary notwithstanding; and the said child or children aforesaid shall be pensioned in the same manner, and from the same date, as if no widow had survived such person, and such pension shall be paid to the gardian of such child or children: Provided, That if in any case payment of pension shall have been made to the widow, the pension to the child or children shall commence from the date to which her pension has been paid.

Sec. 13. That if any person embraced within the provisions of the first section of this act has died since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, or shall hereafter die, by reason of any wound, injury, casualty, or disease, which, under the conditions and limitations of said section, would have entitled him to an invalid pension, and has not left or shall not leave a widow or legitimate child, but has left or shall leave other relative or relatives who were dependent upon him for support at the date of his death, such relative or relatives shall be entitled in the following order of precedence to receive the same pension, as such person would have been entitled to had he been totally disabled, to commence from the death of such person, namely, first, the mother; secondly, the father; thirdly, orphan brothers and sisters under sixteen years of age, who shall be pensioned jointly: Provided, That where orphan children of the same parent have different guardians, or a portion of them only are under guardianship, the share of the joint pension to which each ward shall be entitled shall be paid to the guardian of such ward: Provided, That if in any case said person shall have left father and mother who are dependent upon him, then, on the death of the mother, the father shall become entitled to the pension, commencing from and after the death of the mother; and upon the death of the mother and father, or upon the death of the father and the remarriage of the mother, the dependent brothers and sisters under sixteen years of age shall jointly become entitled to such pension until they attain the age of sixteen years respectively, commencing from the death or remarriage of the party who had the prior right to the pension: Provided, That a mother shall be assumed to have been dependent upon her son, within the meaning of this act, if, at the date of his death, she had no other adequate means of support than the ordinary proceeds of her own manual labor and the contributions of said son or of any other persons not legally bound to aid in her support; and if, by actual contributions or in any other way, the son had recognized his obligations to aid in support of said mother, or was by law bound to such support, and that a father or a minor brother or sister shall, in like manner and under like conditions, be assumed to have been dependent, except that the income which was derived or derivable from his actual or possible manual labor shall be taken into account in estimating a father's means of independent support: Provided further, That the pension allowed to any person on account of his or her dependence as hereinbefore provided shall not be paid for any period during which it shall not be necessary as a means of adequate subsistence.

Sec. 14. That the remarriage of any widow, dependent mother, or dependent sister, entitled to pension, shall not bar her right to such pension to the date of her remarriage, whether an application therefor was filed before or after such marriage; and that on the remarriage of any widow, dependent mother, or dependent sister, having a pension, such pension shall cease.

Sec. 15. That all pensions which have been, or which may hereafter be, granted in consequence of death occurring from a cause which originated in the service since the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, or in consequence of wounds or injuries received or disease contracted since said date, shall commence from the death or discharge of the person on whose account the claim has been or shall hereafter be granted, or from the termination of the right of party having prior title to such pension: Provided, That the application for such pension has been, or shall hereafter be, filed with the Commissioner of Pensions within five years after the right thereto shall have accrued; otherwise the pension shall commence from the date of filing the last evidence necessary to established the same: Provided further, That the limitation herein prescribed shall not apply to claims by or in behalf of insane persons or persons under sixteen years.

Sec. 16. That in construing the preceding section, the right of persons entitled to pensions shall be recognized as accruing at the date therein stated for the commencement of such pension, and that the right of a dependent father or dependent brother to pension shall not in any case be held to have accrued prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty six; and the right of all other classes of claimants, if applying on account of the death of a person who was regularly mustered into the service, or regularly employed in the navy, or upon the gun boats or war vessels of the United States, shall not be held to have accrued prior to the fourteenth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty two; if applying on account of a chaplain of the army, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the ninth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty four; if applying on account of an enlisted soldier who was not mustured, or a non-enlisted man in temporary service, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty four; if applying on account of an acting assistant or contract surgeon, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the third day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty five; if applying on account of persons enlisted as teamsters, wagoners, artificers, hospital stewards, or farriers, their right shall not be held to have accrued prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty six; and the right of all classes of claimants, applying on account of a provost, marshal, deputy provost marshal, or enrolling officer, shall not be held to have accrued prior to the twenty fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty six: Provided, That the right of a widow or dependent mother who married prior, and did not apply till subsequent to the twenty seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty eight, shall not be held to have accrued prior to that date.

Sec. 17. That it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Pensions, upon any application by letter or otherwise by or on behalf of any pensioner entitled to arrears of pension under the fifteenth section of this act, or, if any such pensioner shall have died, upon a similar application by or on behalf of any person entitled to receive the accrued pension due such pensioner at his or her death, to pay or cause to be paid to such pensioner, or other person, all such arrears of pension as the pensioner may be entitled to, (if dead) would have been entitled to under the provisions of said section had he or she survived; and no claim agent or other persons shall be entitled to receive any compensation for services in making application for arrears of pension.

Sec. 18. That the provisions of this act in respect to the rates of pension pension are hereby extended to pensioners who are right to pension accrued under general acts passed since the war of the Revolution and prior to the fourth of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, to take effect from and after the twenty fifth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty six; and that the widows of revolutionary soldiers and sailors receiving a less sum shall be paid at the rate of eight dollars per month from and after the twenty seventh day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty eight.

Sec. 19. That in all cases in which the cause of disability or death originated in the service prior to the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty one, and an application for pension shall not have been filed within three years from the discharge or death of the person on whose account the claim is made, or within three years of the termination of a pension previously granted on account of the service and death of the same person, the pension shall commence from the date of filing, by the party prosecuting the claim, the last paper requisite to establish the same: Provided, That no claim allowed prior to the sixth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty six, shall be affected by anything herein contained.

Sec. 20. That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to allow more than one pension at the same time to the same person or to persons entitled jointly; but any pensioner who shall so elect may surrender his or her certificate, and receive, in lieu thereof, a certificate for any other pension to which he or she would have been entitled had not the surrendered certificate been issued: Provided, That all payments previously made for any period covered by the new certificate shall be deducted from the amount allowed by said certificate.

Sec. 21. That declarations of pension claimants shall be made before a court of record, or before some officer thereof having custody of its seal, said officer hereby being fully authorized and empowered to administer and certify any oath or affirmation relating to any pension or application therefor: Provided, That the Commissioner of Pensions may designate in localities more than twenty five miles distant from any place at which such court is holden, persons duly qualified to administer oaths, before whom declarations may be made and testimony taken, and may accept declarations of claimants residing in foreign countries, made before a United States minister or consul, or before some officer of the country duly authorized to administer oaths for general durposes, and whose official character and signature shall be duly authenticated by the certificate of a United States minister or consul; declarations in claims of Indians made before a United States agent; and declarations in claims under the act of February fourteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy one, made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, when the applicants, by reason of infirmity of age, are unable to travel: Provided, That any declaration made before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes shall be accepted to exempt a claim from the limitation as to date of filing prescribed in the fifteenth section of this act.

Sec. 22. That the Commissioner of Pensions, on application being made to him in person or by letter by any claimant or applicant for pension, bounty land, or other allowance required by law to be adjusted or paid by the Pension office, shall furnish such person, free of all expense to him or her, all such printed instructions and forms as may be necessary in establishing and obtaining said claim; and on the issuing of a certificate of pension, or of a bounty land warrant, he shall forthwith notify the claimant or applicant, and also the agent or attorney in the case, if there be one, that such certificate has been issued, or allowance made, and the date and amount thereof.

Sec. 23. That no money on account of pension shall be paid to any person, or to the widow, children, or heirs of any deceased person, who in any manner voluntarily engaged in, or aided or abetted, the late rebellion against the authority of the United States.

Sec. 24. That no claim for pension not prosecuted to successful issue within five years from the date of filing the same shall be admitted without record evidence from the War or Navy Department of the injury or the disease which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made: Provided, That in any case in which the limitation prescribed by this section bars the further prosecution of the claim, the claimant may present, through the Pension Office, to the Adjutant General of the army or the Surgeon General of the navy, evidence that the disease or injury which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made, originated in the service and in the line of duty; and if such evidence is deemed satisfactory by the officer to whom it may be submitted, he shall cause a record of the fact so proved to be made, and a copy of the same to be transmitted to the Commissioner of Pensions, and the bar to the prosecution of the claim shall thereby be removed.

Sec. 25. That if any pensioner, or any person entitled to a pension, who during the pendency of his application therefor has died since March fourth, eighteen hundred and sixty one, or shall hereafter die, his widow, or if no widow, his child or children, under sixteen years of age at the time of his death, shall be entitled to receive the accrued pension to the date of death, such accrued pension shall not be considered as a part of the assets of the estate of deceased, nor liable to be applied to the payment of the debts of said estate in any case whatever, but shall insure to the sole and exclusive benefit of the widow or children; and if no widow or child survive, no payment whatsoever of the accrued pension shall be made or allowed, except so much as may be necessary to reimburse the person who bore the expenses of the last sickness and burial of the decedent, in cases where he did not leave sufficient assets to meet such expenses.

Sec. 26. That the failure of any pensioner to claim his or her pension for three years after the same shall have become due shall be deemed presumptive evidence that such pension has legally terminated by reason of the pensioner's death, remarriage, recovery from the disability, or otherwise, and the pensioner's name shall be stricken from the list of pensioners, subject to the right of restoration to the same on a new application by the pensioner, or, if the pensioner is dead, by the widow or minor children entitled to receive the accrued pension, accompanied by evidence satisfactorily accounting for the failure to claim such pension, and by medical evidence in cases of invalids who were not exempt from biennial examinations as to the continuance of the disability.

Sec. 27. That when the rate, commencement, and duration of a pension allowed by special act are fixed by such act, they shall not be subject to be varied by the provisions and limitations of the general pension laws, but when not thus fixed the rate and continuance of the pension shall be subject to variation in accordance with the general laws, and its commencement shall date from the passage of the special act, and the Commissioner of Pensions shall, upon satisfactory evidence that fraud was perpetrated in obtaining such special act, suspend payment thereupon until the propriety of repealing the same can be considered by Congress.

Sec. 28. That the term of limitation prescribed by sections sixteen and twenty three of this act shall, in pending claims of Indians, be extended to two years from and after the passage of this act; that all proof which has heretofore been taken before an Indian agent, or before an officer of any tribe, competent according to the rules of said tribe to administer oaths, shall be held and regarded by the Pension Office, in the examining and determining of claims of Indians now on file, as of the same validity as if taken before an officer recognized by the law at the time as competent to administer oaths; that all proof wanting in said claims hereafter, as well as in those filed after the passage of this act, shall be taken before the agent of the tribe to which the claimants respectively belong; that in regard to dates, all applications of Indians now on file be treated as though they were made before a competent officer at their respective dates, and if found to be in all other respects conclusive, they shall be allowed; and that Indians shall be exempted from the obligation to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, required by the act of February fourteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy one, providing for pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and to widows of deceased soldiers.

Sec. 29. That the President shall appoint in the Department of the Interior, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a competent person, who shall be called the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, with an annual salary of twenty five hundred dollars, who shall be charged with such duties in the Pension bureau as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior or may be required by law; and in case of the death, resignation, absence, or sickness of the Commissioner, his duties shall devolve upon the Deputy Commissioner until a successor shall be appointed, or such absence or sickness shall cease.

Sec. 30. That the Commissioner of Pensions is hereby authorized and empowered to detail, from time to time, clerks in his office to investigate suspected attempts at fraud on the government of the United States, through and by virtue of the provisions of this or any other act of Congress providing for pensions, and to aid in prosecuting any person so offending, with such additional compensation as is customary in cases of special service; and that any person so detailed shall have the power to administer oaths and take affidavits in the course of any such investigation.

Sec. 31. That no agent or attorney or other person instrumental in prosecuting any claim for pension or bounty land shall demand or receive any other compensation for his services in prosecuting a claim for pension or bounty-land than such as the Commissioner of Pensions shall direct to be paid to him, not exceeding twenty five dollars; and any agent or attorney or any other person instrumental in prosecuting any claim for pension or bounty-land, who shall directly or indirectly contract for, demand, or receive or retain any greater compensation for his services or instrumentality in prosecuting a claim for pension or bounty land than is hereinbefore provided, or who shall wrongfully withhold from a pensioner or claimant the whole or any part of the pension or claim allowed and due such pensioner or claimant, or the land warrant issued to any such claimant, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall, for every such offense, be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisoned at hard labor not exceeding two years, or both, at the discretion of the court. And if any guardian having the charge and custody of the pension of his ward shall embezzle the same in violation of his trust, or fraudulently convert the same to his own use, he shall be punished by fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding five years, or both, at the direction of the court.

Sec. 32. That any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer of any right, claim, or interest in any pension which has been or may hereafter be granted, shall be void and of no effect; and any person acting as attorney to receive and receipt for money for and in behalf of any person entitled to a pension shall, before receiving said money, take and subscribe an oath, to be filed with the pension agent, and by him to be transmitted, with the vouchers now required by law, to the proper accounting officer of the treasury, that he has no interest in said money by any pledge, mortgage, sale, assignment, or transfer, and that he does not know or believe that the same has been so disposed of to any person; and any person who shall falsely take the said oath shall be guilty of perjury, and, on conviction, shall be liable to the pains and penalties of perjury.

Sec. 33. That any person who shall knowingly or willfully in any wise procure the making or presentation of any false or fraudulent affidavit concerning any claim for pension or payment thereof, or pertaining to any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Pensions, or shall knowingly or willfully present or cause to be presented at any pension agency any power of attorney, or other paper required as a voucher in drawing a pension, which paper shall bear a date subsequent to that on which it was actually signed or executed, such person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by both, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction shall be had; and no sum of money due, or to become due, to any pensioner under the laws aforesaid, shall be liable to attachment, levy, or seizure, by or under any legal or equitable process whatever, whether the same remains with the Pension Office, or any officer or agent therefor, or is in course of transmission to the pensioner entitled thereto, but shall insure wholly to the benefit of such pensioner.

Sec. 34. That in all cases of application for the payment of pensions to invalid pensioners to the fourth day of September of an old year, the certificate of an examining surgeon duly appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions, or of a surgeon of the army or navy, stating the continuance of the disability for which the pension was originally granted, (describing it,) and the degree of such disability at the time of making the certificate, shall be required to accompany the vouchers, and a duplicate thereof shall be filed in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions; and if in a case of continued disability it shall be stated at a degree below that for which the pension was originally granted, or was last paid, the pensioner shall only be paid for the quarter then due at the rate stated in the certificate: Provided, That when a pension shall be granted for a disability consequent upon the loss of a limb, or other essential portion of the body, or for other cause which cannot in whole or in part be removed, or when a disability is certified by competent examining surgeons, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Pensions, to have become permanent in a degree equal to the whole rate of pension, the above certificate shall not be necessary to entitle the pensioner to payment: And provided further, That this section shall not be construed to prevent the Commissioner of Pensions from requiring a more frequent examination if, in his judgment, it is necessary.

Sec. 35. That the Commissioner of Pensions be, and he is hereby, empowered to appoint, at his discretion, civil surgeons to make the periodical examinations of pensioners which are, or may be, required by law, and to examine applicants for pension, where he shall deem an examination by a surgeon appointed by him necessary; and the fee for such examinations, and the requisite certificates thereof in duplicate, including postage on such as are transmitted to pension agents, shall be two dollars, which shall be paid by the agent for paying pensions in the district within which the pensioner or claimant resides, out of any money appropriated for the payment of pensions, under such regulations as the Commissioner of Pensions may prescribe.

Sec. 36. That the Commissioner of Pensions be authorized to organize, at his discretion, boards of examining surgeons, not to exceed three members, and that each member of a board thus organized who shall have been actually present and made, in connection with other members or member, an ordered or periodical examination, shall be entitled to the fee of one dollar, on the receipt of a proper cestificate of said examination by the Commissioner of Pensions.

Sec. 37. That examining surgeons duly appointed by the Commissioner of Pensions, and such other qualified surgeons as may be employed in the Pension Office, may be required by him, from time to time, as he shall deem for the interests of the government, to make special examinations of pensioners, or applicants for pension, and such examinations shall have precedence over previous examinations, whether special or biennial; but when injustice is alleged to have been done by an examination so ordered, the Commissioner of Pensions may, at his discretion, select a board of three duly appointed examining surgeons, who shall meet at a place to be designated by him, and shall review such cases as may be ordered before them on appeal from any special examination as aforesaid, and the decision of such board shall be final on the question so submitted thereto, provided the Commissioner approve the same. The compensation of each of such surgeons shall be three dollars, and shall be paid out of any appropriations made for the payment of pensons, in the same manner as the ordinary fees of appointed surgeons are or may be authorized to be paid.

Sec. 38. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized to appoint a duly qualified surgeon as medical referee, who, under the control and direction of the Commissioner of Pensions, shall have charge of the examination and revision of the reports of examining surgeons, and such other duties touching medical and surgical questions in the Pension Office, as the interests of the service may demand; and his salary shall be two thousand five hundred dollars per annum. And the Secretary of the Interior is further authorized to appoint such qualified surgeons (not exceeding four) as the exigencies of the service may require, who may perform the duties of examining surgeons when so required, and who shall be borne upon the rolls as clerks of the fourth class: Provided, That such appointments shall not increase the clerical force of said bureau.

Sec. 39. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent or in conflict with the foregoing provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 64.)

AN ACT to extend for four years the act establishing the Board of Commissioners of Claims, and the acts relating thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth sections of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy two, and for other purposes," approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy one, and the act entitled "An act to authorize the commissioners of claims to appoint special commissioners to take testimony, and for other purposes," approved May eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy two, be, and the same are hereby, extended and continued in force for four years from the tenth day of March, anno Dominii eighteen hundred and seventy three.

Sec. 2. That thee ommissioners of claims shall not receive any petition for the allowance of any claims unless such petition shall be presented to and filed with them on or before the third day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy three; and all claims not so presented shall be deemed to be barred forever thereafter.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 65.)

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty nine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sixth section of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy," approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty nine, is so far modified as to authorize and permit the President of the United States to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to appoint, one assistant adjutant general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a major in the said department.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 66.)

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to establish the Department of Justice, and for other purposes."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the twelfth section of the act entitled "An act to establish the Department of Justice, and for other purposes," approved June twenty second, eighteen hundred and seventy, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: "That it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to make to Congress, at the commencement of each regular session of Congress, a report of the business of the Department for the last preceding fiscal year, and of any other matters appertaining thereto, that he may deem proper, including a statement of the several appropriations now, or which may hereafter be placed under its control, the amount appropriated, and a detailed statement of the amounts used for defraying the expenses of the United States courts in each district; also the statistics of crime under the laws of the United States, and a statement of the number of causes, civil and criminal, pending during the preceding year in each of the several courts of the United States.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to furnish to the head of the Department of Justice, from time to time, as they may be published, a sufficient number of the statutes of the United States, and the reports of the Supreme Court of the United States, to be by him distributed to such officers of the courts of the United States as are now or may hereafter be by law entitled to receive them; and all laws or parts of laws authorizing the distribution of such statutes and reports of the Supreme Court to the officers of the courts of the United States by the head of any other Executive Department of the government be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. That a register of such books shall be kept, under the authority of the head of the Department of Justice, showing the quantity of each kind received by him in pursuance of this act; and it shall be his duty to cause to be entered in such register, and at the proper time, when, where, and to whom the same, or any part of them, have been distributed and delivered, and to report the same to Congress in his annual report.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 67.

AN ACT fixing the time for the election Representative from the State of California to the Forty fourth Congress.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on the first Wednesday in September, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy four, there shall be elected in each congressional district in the State of California one Representative to represent said State in the Forty fourth Congress of the United States.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NATURE—No. 68.)

AN ACT to authorize the unlading of steamships at night.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the collector of customs (with the concurrence of the naval officer, if there be one) of any port in which a steamship from a foreign port or place may arrive, upon or after the issuing of a general order, to grant, upon proper application therefor, a special license to unlade the cargo of said vessel at night, that is to say, between sunset and sunrise; but before any such special license is granted, the consignees, or consignees of the vessel shall execute and deliver to the said collector a good and sufficient bond, to be approved by him, condition to indemnify and save the said collector harmless from any and all losses and liabilities which may occur or be occasioned by reason of the granting of such special license: And provided, That any liability of the master or owner of any such steamship to the owner or consignee of any merchandise landed from said vessel shall not be affected by the granting of such special license or any general order, but such liability shall continue until said merchandise is properly removed from the dock whereon the same may be landed; and the collector, under such general regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, shall fix a uniform and reasonable rate of compensation for like service, to be paid by the master, owner, or consignee, whenever such special license is granted, and shall collect and distribute the same among the inspectors assigned to superintend the unlading of the cargo.

Approved, March 3, 1873.

(GENERAL NAURE—No. 79.)

AN ACT to create a port of delivery at La Crosse, in Wisconsin, and to provide for a surveyor of customs thereat.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That La Crosse, in the county of La Crosse, and State of Wisconsin, be, and is hereby, constituted a port of delivery within the collection district of New Orleans; and there shall be appointed a surveyor of customs for said port, who shall perform the duties