

Congressional.

Thirty-Second Congress—First Session.

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1856.

SENATE. Mr. Seward offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the President of the United States, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate all information in his possession relative to the revolutionary proceedings in Nicaragua, and especially regarding the seizure of the Transit Company's property.

Mr. Halls offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Sergeant at Arms to exclude all persons excepting reporters from the seats in the gallery assigned to members of the press.

On motion of Mr. Seward, the Committee on the Library were instructed to consider the expediency of some legislative recognition of the eminent services of the expedition under Dr. Kane, in the Arctic regions.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the Deficiency Appropriation bill.

The amendment before the body, pending from Thursday, was that of Mr. Pratt, appropriating \$5,000 for the repair of the bridge over the Eastern branch.

Mr. Hunter thought that an appropriation for the Long Bridge was far more important and spoke at some length of maintaining that structure.

An amendment making appropriation for the repair of the Eastern Branch bridges and the Long Bridge was rejected.

The Pacific railroad bill was made the order of the day for the 14th of April; and after the transaction of other business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Speaker announced the following named gentlemen as the committee heretofore authorized to proceed to Kansas to inquire into the affairs of that territory.

Mr. Barlow proposed an amendment to the resolution, that no proceeding other than an act of the Legislature shall be construed to allow the use of her prisons for such purposes.

The House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 25.

SENATE. The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the President, transmitting the report and maps of Captain Mary's exploration of the head waters of the Brazos river.

Mr. Mason gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to amend the act remodeling the diplomatic and consular system.

Mr. Hunter, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill in reference to foreign coin, and the Spanish or milled quarters, eighths, and six tenths, and authorizing the issuing of a new one cent piece.

On motion of Mr. Brodhead, the Committee on Military Affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing one or more naval foundries, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of War, in his annual report in December, 1855.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the deficiency bill. After a long debate, \$40,200 were appropriated to pay for the engraving of maps or drawings to accompany the reports on the explorations for a Pacific railroad.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. Harris, of Maryland, presented the memorial of Alexander Brown & Sons, Wilson & Sons, Hugh Jenkins and others, for the erection of a marine hospital at the port of Baltimore, and on his motion it was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Walker offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the special committee to proceed to Kansas have the power to coerce the attendance of witnesses and punish for contempt.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, rising to a personal explanation, said that when the House was organized, very unexpectedly to himself, the chair appointed him to the distinguished position of chairman of the committee of ways and means; and yesterday a distinction was conferred upon him by the chair, equally as unexpected as the former.

After a struggle between the friends and foes of the bill, it was recommitted to the committee for the District of Columbia—yeas 87, nays 75.

Mr. Smith, of Tennessee, moved a reconsideration of the vote, but the motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Department, for the year ending June 30, 1857; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Lane, of Oregon, made a speech on the subject of the affairs of that territory, showing the necessity for an immediate appropriation of \$200,000, in order to the suppression of Indian hostilities.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, said the amendment proposed a distinction and a precedent which were not recognized by the Constitution of the country.

Mr. Davis, of Maryland, advocated the amendment as necessary to the purity of the ballot box.

Mr. Menchen said that the bill was approved by a majority of twenty-five against twenty of the members of the Legislature, and was very active in favor of opening the Indians to the white man.

Life in a Powder Mill.

Dickens thus describes a visit to the powder mill of Haslewood, near London:

In this silent region, amid whose ninety-seven work places no human voice ever breaks upon the ear, and where indeed no human form is seen except in the isolated form in which his allotted task is performed, there stood up of two hundred and fifty workmen employed. They are a peculiar race, not of course by nature, in most cases, but by the habit of years.

Some terrible explosion here, or in works of similar kind elsewhere, leaves a fixed mark in their memories, and acts as a constant warning. Here no shadow of a practical joke, or caper of animal spirits ever transpires—no witicism, no chaffing, or slang. A laugh is never heard a smile seldom seen.

Mr. Butler submitted resolutions, instructing the Post Office Committee to inquire into the expediency of discontinuing to members of Congress their franking privilege, and in lieu thereof, allowing them, by law, dollars to enable them to transmit through the mail such letters and packages as they think proper; also, authorizing said Committee, if they see fit to report a bill relating to the postage on such letters and packages aforesaid. Agreed to.

The consideration of the Deficiency bill was resumed. Mr. Bayard's amendment of \$150,000 for the Patent office building was adopted, yeas 24, nays 17.

Mr. Hunter offered an amendment, appropriating \$6,000 for the repair of the Long Bridge. It was rejected—yeas, 19; nays 26.

The bill was passed, and after an Executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House discussed, for an hour and a half a Senate bill relating to punishments in Penitentiaries, providing, in effect, that Federal Courts may sentence, persons convicted of crime to the penitentiary in the State, though without the Judicial district of trial.

Mr. Humphrey Marshall offered an amendment, that where the use of a penitentiary is denied by any State, it shall be the duty of the Marshal to confine criminals in the nearest penitentiary granted for that purpose.

Mr. Barlow proposed an amendment to the resolution, that no proceeding other than an act of the Legislature shall be construed to allow the use of her prisons for such purposes.

The House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, March 27.

The resolutions heretofore submitted relating to the action of the Naval board were, after conversation, made the special order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Pugh offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of making provision for writs of error from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Harlan, of Iowa, made a speech on the subject of Kansas affairs; and in reviewing the report of Mr. Douglas, said it was partial, perverted, and highly colored. His remarks were decidedly in opposition to those of the friends of the Nebraska and Kansas bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. Faulkner offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of repealing the first section of the act to remodel the diplomatic and consular system.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, moved that the whole subject be laid on the table, but the motion did not prevail—yeas 73, nays 92.

After further proceedings, without definite action on the subject.

WASHINGTON, March 28.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House resumed the consideration of the bill defining the rights of voters, and the duties of commissioners of elections in the city of Washington, and for other purposes.

After a struggle between the friends and foes of the bill, it was recommitted to the committee for the District of Columbia—yeas 87, nays 75.

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From the New Orleans Courier.

Free-Soilers and Mr. Fillmore.

As was to have been expected, the whole Abolition camp at Washington was terribly excited over the nomination of Millard Fillmore, and intrigues were once set on foot to injure his prospects, blacken his fair fame, and throw all manner of obliquity upon the national party which thought him worthy the highest office within the gift of the people.

We learn from a Washington dispatch to the New York Express, that a written paper has been in circulation among the Abolition, Free-Soil and Black Republican members of Congress—those who "love to hate" Mr. Fillmore—recommending a call for a National Convention to assemble in July next, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President.

This call, according to current rumor, has been signed by some one hundred Senators and Representatives, which approximates the present Black Republican strength in both branches of our national Legislature.

The object of this move is as palpable as anything can be, and the source from which it emanated is well known. The leading signatures in the Senate were those of Messrs. Seward and Wilson—the one the arch originator of everything that is black and treasonable, the other the pliant tool and willing instrument of his unscrupulous leader.

The old saying, "like master like man," was never more apply illustrated. Seward can originate schemes of mischief in his twisting brain, and his Senatus, (Wilson,) with not a tinge of his intellect, but with more nerve, sits by his side to carry them out.

These men want to head off Mr. Fillmore, by attempting to make it appear that the opposition to him in the North is so strong, it is vain to hope he can carry a single Northern State. Especially do they wish to inculcate this belief in the South; and with suicidal infatuation, Southern men fall into the line of argument conceived in the scorching hot bed of Abolitionism, and arrayed forth by the high priests who minister around its diabolical altars.

Anything for a diversion to damage the prospects of Fillmore, say the Abolitionists. Anything that will tend to defeat Fillmore, say his Southern political opponents. Such a conjunction of antipathetic elements to accomplish a single result, is a strange spectacle, and constitutes a theme for profound and comprehensive reflection, at least on the part of Southern men.

The candidates held in view by this congressional free-soil league, are said to be H. J. McLean, of the Supreme Court, and Col. John C. Fremont. Of course Justice McLean will not lend himself to the vile uses of a conscienceless band of fanatics. His decisions on the re-ords of the Supreme Court demonstrate that he sustains, like a judge and patriot, to use the language of a New York contemporary, "all the proper parts of the Federal Constitution—Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, and all."

Neither will Col. Fremont. He was born in South Carolina, and has been intimately connected with the institutions of the South all his life.

But, in the meantime, their names, as well as those of others, may be used to some little purpose, although we apprehend no great danger in any event. The worst fruit of the scheme can only amount to a temporary diversion. Still we have thought it not out of place to refer to the men or in order that the Southern public may not be unadvised of the machinations of their enemies.

With the great broad, indelible stain starting them in the face and ringing in their ears, that Millard Fillmore is, and has been for years, the object of Free-Soil hatred, misrepresentation and slander, it is not a matter for wonderment that he should be assailed in the slaveholding States? It certainly is. Our common enemies are to be found in the ranks of the Abolitionists. They abuse, malign and persecute us, without stint, on every occasion, and we, of the South, owe them no love. Yet there is not a prominent slaveholder in the South they do not treat tenderly when compared to their treatment of Mr. Fillmore. They never abused John C. Calhoun as they abuse Mr. Fillmore. They never vilified John A. Quitman, Jefferson Davis, Tombs, Stephens, and other noted extreme Southern Rights men, as they vilify Mr. Fillmore! These are incontrovertible truths; and under the ordinary circumstances which control human action, would lead the entire slave holding community to the support of the man against whom the deadliest batteries of the common foe are directed. For our part, had not Mr. Fillmore a glorious past to refer to, he is hated by all the Abolitionists and enemies of the South, would be a sufficient recommendation to entitle him to our cordial and earnest support.

"Black Republicanism."

The Boston Times winds up a powerful article upon "Black Republicanism," with the following statement that nobody can gain gaisney—We call it to the particular attention of the few Whigs who are hesitating about supporting Mr. Fillmore:

"Republicanism goes in for Democracy, and is and will be its last ally. It prefers Mr. Pierce or Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Fillmore, just as it did Mr. Polk or Mr. Clay. It is true that it keeps up a great blare of war against the Democratic party, but that is all a sham. It is done to build itself up and get possession of local spoils. It pretends to have great regard for Kansas and freedom; but it takes very precise care that Kansas shall remain where it is, as a professional beggar, who more than any other man remains ragged, and cold, and distressed, as their capitalist in trade, to make sympathy. Take the one and sixty infant that is beaten daily till it bleeds, from the arms of a mercantile mother, and restore it to health and cleanliness, and you will take away the whole stock of trade of the begging rascal, and he will be as good as dead. It is the same with Whigland 'Border, R. Man, and Reeler, 'Free States,' came up before the House of Representatives, the principle was surrendered at once, by allowing the 'Quarter Rigger' to take his seat without resistance."

Mr. Thornton, of Iowa, has been suddenly called away from his seat in the House of Representatives, and will probably be absent a couple of weeks. He has captured up with Mr. Miles Taylor, of Louisiana. We regret the double affliction which requires this absence. On Tuesday last Mr. Thornton received two despatches, each conveying sad intelligence in regard to members of his family. The first, from his brother, John H. Thornton, stated that his nephew, F. H. Thornton was in the last stage of consumption, and could live but a few days. The second was from his brother-in-law, J. M. Parker, of the banking house of Cook, Rogers & Parker, of Black Island, and stated that Mr. John H. Thornton (referred to above) had on that day been knocked down in their banking-house (for whom he was clerk) and that he would be unable, and that the house would have been sold of three thousand dollars. Mr. Thornton's wife in the cars on Wednesday morning, for Black Island, the same of this disaster. Very truly yours, S. J. Burdett.

The "Pharisee" and the "Money Changers."

P. T. Barnum, without character for honesty has been portrayed by himself in his "Autobiography"—was under examination in New York the other day, when some questions implying a doubt whether he had honestly given all his property was propounded; to which the back-slap, humbugger indignantly replied: "I wish you to understand that the standard of morality for showmen is a bar or two higher than that found in the members of Wall street."

Movement of Troops in Florida.

A letter in the New York Tribune, dated Fort Myers, Fla. March 10, says:

The Indians have burned down two houses at Havana, belonging to a Mr. East, and another to a Mr. Cunningham. This was done by a number of the Indians, and was very active in favor of opening the Indians to the white man.

"Republicanism at the South."

Such is the caption of a commentary on the recent letters of F. P. Blair, father and son, in a late number of the Cleveland Leader, an ultra Free-soil sheet, from which we extract the following paragraph, which presents the feature of the article:

"How such sentiments, (the letter of F. P. Blair,) coming from such a source, put to shame the vile herd of Northern maniacs who follow in the train of Franklin Pierce! If they had a venture of manhood left, they would hide their heads. There is certainly cause for hopes when Republicanism has taken so strong a root in Baltimore and in St. Louis."

Both the documents referred to have had a wide circulation through the newspapers, particularly in the North. The manifesto of Frank Blair, Jr., is looked upon and rejoiced over by the Anti-Slavery press as an endorsement of the platform of the Black Republican party, as embodied in the Address of F. P. Blair, Sr.; and the resolutions adopted by the Pittsburgh Convention.

Nothing has transpired of late days which has given the Free-soilers so much satisfaction as these documents of the Blairs; and they calculate on having the aid and support of both, the son as well as the father.

Now, the people of Missouri and the citizens of St. Louis would heed very little what Frank Blair might say or do, politically speaking, were it not that he is the acknowledged leader of the Benton Democracy—we may with propriety say of the whole Democratic party—of the city and county of St. Louis, (for the two wings have fused). The Democracy have refused to repudiate him—and by permitting him to continue to act with them, or more properly, to control and direct them, they endorse fully and clearly the position he has taken. Private and specious and equivocal contradictions by the candidates for the city offices do not exonerate them, and through them the entire party, from the stigma. And we find men and a newspaper, claiming to be "National Democrats," supporting a ticket which stands committed (not in so many words) to the principles set forth by the recent letter of Frank Blair. And these men still talk about "principles," "consistency," &c!

No man will deny that the Black Republican sheet, from which we have quoted, has sufficient reason to rejoice, that Republicanism has taken a "strong root" in St. Louis. And the Bentonites, and the "National Democrats" who prate so much about "principles," know very well that if Mr. Blair is elected, with his special plea of disclaimer of affinity with Free-soilism before the election, the result will be hailed by the Free-soil press of the North as a Black Republican victory! And the most ridiculous and contemptible justification ever set up by any man who knows he is doing a piece of political rascality, is that assigned by the organs of the misnamed "National Democracy"—viz: "That Mr. Blair had been heard to declare that he was not a Black Republican, and that if elected, and his success was claimed as a Free-soil victory, he would publicly disavow it!" How magnanimous! How candid!

Let every friend of the good name and the institutions of our State, bear in mind, when he reflects as to how he shall vote for city officers, that if he votes for John How under the present circumstances, he endorses F. P. Blair, Jr., and gives aid and comfort to the fanatics of the North. Is there a true friend of Missouri who will hesitate to condemn the Benton ticket, by casting his ballot for a good, straightforward, sound, opponent of their humbugger and trickery?

St. Louis Intelligencer.

The Organ of Senators Hunter, Mason, Butler, and Douglas on Pierce.

The Washington Sentinel says:

Franklin Pierce has been weighed in the balance and found wanting—wanting in every element of the statesman or the political sage—stripped of his hypocritical professions of disinterestedness and love for the people, he stands before us one of the vilest demagogues of the age, talking of nothing, writing of nothing, thinking of nothing, but the advancement of his own private affairs.

Can any of the living or could any of the dead, if they were restored to life, testify in favor of one so full, unmistakable blow on the side of the constitution and the rights of man?

He turned out of office every politician in the State of New York who was not favorable to the interests of Martin Van Buren and his abolition confederates.

He established a press in Washington city, and directed every man depending upon him for bread and meat, to devote his leisure hours to extravagant eulogies of his administration.

He commanded his agents throughout the country to attend all the primary conventions, and see to it that delegates should be chosen favorable to his re-nomination.

He issued many proclamations of his intentions to regard the equality of the States and the compromise of the question; nevertheless, he suffered his law to run riot in the Territory of Kansas for many a month, and dared not fear of injuring his prospects for the Presidency, even the power which he admitted was lodged in his hands. Instead of quelling disorder in Kansas, according to his oath of office—according to the constitution and laws of the land, and according to the right which he admitted he possessed—he called upon Congress for authority to do that which nobody doubted he had the right to do. His only object was to make a pompous display before the country, and avoid responsibility from which it was impossible to relieve himself.

He abdicated, by his treatment of National Democrats, half a dozen Northern States of the Union.

He telegraphed to New York city to prevent American citizens leaving our shores to settle in Central America.

He and his Attorney General talked loudly of a war with England, and still suffered the "in-the-chance" to gain a great advantage in the final settlement of the most important political question of the age.

Who does not know that the antagonism of thousands of our own party in New Hampshire to him; and peculiarly to him, is the true cause of this repeated disaster?

Argument in Favor of Martineau.

A mother and four daughters, three of whom reside in this town, have, collectively, approached the altar of Hyems to see their dear ones in their graves. The mother has had four husbands, one of her daughters has had four husbands, one son, and the others three each.

Industry of Massachusetts.

According to the Worcester Spy, the aggregate productive industry of Massachusetts has increased from one hundred and fourteen millions in 1845, to three hundred millions in 1855, making a growth of 160 per cent. in the productive wealth of the State in ten years. In the cotton manufacture the growth has been from twelve millions to twenty-six millions, an increase of 116 per cent. in ten years. From eight to twelve, in iron, from one hundred and forty to two hundred and thirty-eight, in steam engines, from two hundred thousand to three million, and a quarter, in paper and book manufacture, from one to three million, in glass, from three-fourths of a million to two and three-fourths millions, in chemicals, from three hundred thousand to one million one hundred and ten thousand four hundred.

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From the American Organ.

A Sensible Letter.

OSWEGO, C. H. N. C., March 15, 1856.

Sir—The office of postmaster at this place, you must be aware, is not new, neither was it ever, one of very great pecuniary gain. The contrary, rather, has ever been the case, and the master is never half paid for the small amount of work which is necessary. The "convention of the thing" is its only recommendation, and this was the only reason by which I was induced to accept the same. Under these circumstances I must confess my disposition to be in an ill-humored mood, was only permitted to remain in office in consequence of the above stated fact.

To these sayings, however, I paid as little attention as the nature of the case would admit, and my judgment could dictate—coming as they did from a weaker man, and I supposed more prejudiced minds, than to those whom will any power of any nature should ever have been situated. In this I was mistaken; for, although you have taken the trouble to publish what you and your Louisa friends call a "correction" of Mr. Puryear's statement of a conversation between yourself and that gentleman, you have at the same time, published what I suppose every candid reader must take for sufficient evidence, that the statement was substantially true, with the addition "when good Democrats were offered for their place." Previous to my reading this "correction," I addressed to you a note detailing my connection with the American party, and my readiness to be "turned out" of the post office.

The non-compliance, on my part, with the provisions of the aforesaid "addition," must excuse you for a neglect, to pay that attention to my note which I so earnestly wished and courted. I am, however, glad to see that you have implicitly awaited the appointment of my successor, your friends have "sufficiently amused" themselves over the mistaken idea of your having faithfully obeyed "orders" and my removal. Those "orders" should have been obeyed. Your friends expected it, and I hope you will in an early day re-learn that character for promptness for which you have received so much credit from a set of friends so confident of your having performed your duty, that their prudence was overcome by joyous feelings, which prompted the tongue to utter words of thanks "before they were entirely out of the woods."

My wish has not been granted. Your friends have been disappointed, and a second time do I express my desire, and with that determination to be released from the office of postmaster at this place, and so to remain so long as any one who is not an alleged member of the party has control over any branch of the government of the U. S. To the best of my knowledge and ability I faithfully discharge my duty. And now I wish to call your attention to something which I do not consider a duty as postmaster, but a pleasant duty as an honest citizen of a Christian country.

In your blind zeal to remove all Know Nothings and appoint "good Democrats," you have succeeded in filling many of the offices with either ignoramus or grand villains. I mean there is a man of one stripe in one office, and one of the other in another. Very often have I seen people so impudently directed, so to be obliged to see the letter in order to tell its destination,--Bills so filled that a correct posting of the same is quite an accident if ever effected. These faults are to be pitied rather than abused; but robbing of the mail, is a matter that should receive the disapprobation of all honest men, and a right investigation from the department. I have never known so much complaint of improprieties upon the mails as prevails in the land at present, and so far as I have ever heard, the proper authorities have made no attempt to bring the guilty ones to justice. I have heard of many postboxes upon the route in this district, which have not been reached to their destination, when sent from here to Raleigh, N. C. There have been two sent, that place from here, and the reception of one, I know, and both, I have been denied over the signature of the postman, and I have seen the postman in desiring a return from the office, I would not willingly be an agent of a power which suffers such offenders to go unpunished, even without the use of any sufficient reasons to justify my desire.

The present quarter will end on the 31st instant, and I expect to discharge my duty, and no more after that date do I intend to receive any mail. I presume this will be timely notice of my intention, and you can act as you choose about the appointment of some person to act as postmaster after the above mentioned date.

Very respectfully,
JOHN P. MURRILL,
First Assistant Postmaster General,
Washington City, D. C.

A Good Practical Joke.

An English paper tells a story of a scientific lecturer, whose popular discourses on medicine and the various sciences therewith connected, had given offence to the more "orthodox" members of the profession. A couple of entries, M. D.'s resolved upon testing his medical skill.

They accordingly called upon him, and one of them, a fine healthy young man, with a roguish eye, complained of certain pains in the chest, a cough, night sweats, &c. The Doctor heard this tale, asked a number of questions, and, after a long diagnosis, declared him to be in deep consumption. This was just what was wanted, and the young couple could hardly control their mirth while Dr. Mill wrote his prescription, sealed it up in an envelope, and directed it to one of our first chemists, pocketed his fee, and bowed them out of the room. To the chemist's they rushed to enjoy the post-up laugh and handing him the note he read: "This young man is suffering from scorbic hermia in the region marked 'self-esteem' by phrenologists. Pray, therefore, give him common sense, grains, with drachm horse-power of libidino-J. M." We hardly expect the Doctor will get another professional patient here.

Fraud in Guano.

A joint resolution was adopted by the Legislature of New Jersey at its last session, to prevent fraud and imposition in the sale of adulterated and impure guano, instructing our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to ask for the appointment of Inspectors who are practical chemists, to be appointed by the government, at its different ports of entry, to inspect and mark the different properties and value of each ton that is sold, and analyze any that may have been sold. The resolution also urges the passage of a law making it misdemeanor to mix foreign substances with guano.

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