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NEWS OF THE DAY.

CONGRESS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—In the Senate, a bill was introduced authorizing the Postmaster General to contract for a monthly mail between San Francisco and Honolulu, no bid to exceed a hundred thousand dollars.

A motion to take up the Louisiana bill failed 27 to 25.

The League Island bill was passed by 27 to 17 and goes to the President.

A committee of conference was appointed on the tenure of office bill.

The Louisiana bill was read the second time. Mr. Trumbull spoke of several amendments.

Mr. Wade said if amended too far it would lose it. He gave notice that he would give the Senate no rest when the bill came up till it was passed.

Mr. Sumner was in favor of both bills, the Stevens and Louisiana. He had amendments to offer. One abolishing all decrees of courts since the secession ordinance.

Mr. Fessenden favored both bills and Blaine's amendment, which admits States on the adoption of the Constitutional amendment and impartial suffrage.

Mr. Wade consented to postpone, and the amendments were ordered to be printed.

Stevens' bill came up, was read the second time and ordered to be printed.

The bill for retiring compound interest notes was passed and goes to the House.

The House refused to concur in the Senate amendment to the tenure of office bill, including Cabinet officers.

The bill to pay the loyal States' war debt provides for the issue of one hundred and fifty millions in five per cent bonds.

Mr. Delano said that it was not the time for such action, when the credit of the government is worse than that of any State in the Union.—*Referred.*

Gov. Orr, on the Situation.

Charleston, Feb. 14.—At the anniversary banquet of the Chamber of Commerce, Gov. Orr said that our political relations are very grave. He had recently been in position to consult the controllers of the government; in all frankness it was difficult to tell the future political situation. Several Southern gentlemen hoped to secure the support of the Conservative Radicals. Hence the scheme of adjustment that had been suggested. His judgment is that if North Carolina and Arkansas adopt the programme, and others adopt it, or show a disposition to do so, it will produce the best results, and save the South from many proposed radical measures.

From Washington.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Mr. Bingham voted for Stevens' bill, notwithstanding his opposition to it.

The movement in favor of Blaine's amendment making the adoption of the Constitutional amendment, with universal suffrage, appended as a finality, gains ground. Several Republican Senators will help the Democrats fight the bill to a pocket veto, unless an amendment is added which will take it back to the House. There is really some hope that the bill will go over. As the crisis approaches Senators are becoming serious over the responsibility of fathering the bill.

Southern Loyalists.

New York, February 15.—The Herald's Washington special says that the Southern Loyalists are getting shy of Elliott's bill. They have apprehension of negro Governors and Legislators.

Botts Submits a Plan of Reconstruction to the President.—Rumored Cabinet Changes.

Washington, February 17.—Botts submitted a plan of reconstruction to the President to-night, which will be introduced into Congress to-morrow.

Wild stories are in circulation respecting Cabinet changes. It is understood that Remond has resigned.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Washington, February 16.—SENATE.—The proceedings last night, on Blaine's amendment, were interesting. The point on which the Republicans split is, allowing ex-Confederates to vote. All favor the black vote, but some seem to abhor the idea of disfranchising the whites and placing the States at the mercy of the blacks; others are determined to disfranchise the whites as a punishment, and others because they fear their votes. After several motions to adjourn were negatived, and a proposition to vote at 12 o'clock, the Senate finally adjourned.

In the course of debate, Mr. Doolittle said the South would not accept universal suffrage, but would prefer military rule.

Mr. Wilson responded, "we will make them accept it."

Mr. Wilson, during the session, introduced a

bill declaring the constitutional amendment ratified and a part of the Constitution.

The Senate insisted on its amendment to the bankrupt bill, and asked for a committee of conference.

The Stevens bill was resumed: Mr. Doolittle said it was a declaration of war upon ten States. He closed at half past 4 o'clock, and Mr. Salisbury obtained the floor. The Senate then took a recess.

HOUSE.—The concurrent resolutions of the New York Legislature approving of the District of Columbia suffrage bill were presented.

A resolution inquiring into alleged corruption of members of the House involving its honor or by promising not to do certain things if the President changed his policy, and inquiring into the names of the members who carried messages between them and the President, was referred to a select committee of three.

Two and a quarter millions were appropriated for the revenue cutter service.

A bill was passed to erect lighthouses at the following places: Braddock's Point, Ga., Combahee Bank, Ga., Tybee Island, Ga., Morris Island, S. C., St. Simons, Ga., Sapelo Island, Ga., and Wolf Island, Ga.

The sum of \$4,800,000 was appropriated for river and harbor improvements, of which the South gets only \$200,000 for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi.

The bill providing for a President in case of a vacancy was passed. First, the pro tem. President of the Senate; then the Speaker of the House; and last, the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court.

Important Case in New York.—No such State as Virginia.

New York, February 16.—In Supreme Court in chambers yesterday in this city the case of George Otney Captain of the steamer, Washington Irving, came up on a writ of habeas corpus. The prisoner is charged with running off his steamer from Virginia while she was under an attachment for debt. The petition of Governor Perpoint is invalid on the ground that there is no such State as Virginia in the Union recognized by the Federal Government or the Senate; as such; that Governor Perpoint had been appointed Governor by the President, who had no right to make such an appointment; that the Governor of New York had no legal right to expatriate a citizen on a requisition from Governor Perpoint, and that we have no treaty with Virginia for that purpose. The petitioner signified his intention of traversing the return to the writ, and the hearing of the case is set down for this morning. The case is looked to with intense interest as bringing a vital question squarely before the Supreme Court.

From Washington.

Washington, February 16.—A Republican caucus has appointed a committee of seven to combine the Stevens and Elliott bills to apply to all the Southern States.

The internal revenue this week is \$2,500,000.

Washington, February 17.—The substitute of Mr. Sherman for the Stevens bill was adopted twenty-nine to ten by the Senate. It is substantially Blaine's amendment. The bill will meet serious opposition in the House.

Several Republicans including Brandegee and Stevens, are reported indignant that the President should have approved death sentences, and that the Federal Courts should be allowed to issue habeas corpus writs. The friends of the measure apprehend a veto, and the bill will defeat the entire measure. Three senators voted nay on the motion to substitute Sherman's for Stevens' bill—namely, Salisbury, Buckalew and Davis. An amendment that all punishments under Sherman's substitute should be according to the existing law was defeated 29 to 8.

Sherman's substitute, in its preamble and relative to military provisions and districts, is similar to Stevens' bill, except that the President, instead of the General of the army, appoints the officers commanding. Sentences of death require the Presidential approval, and habeas corpus is not suspended beyond that interference of State authority with the military authority is nullified. The following is

Section 5. When any rebel State forms a constitution in conformity with the Constitution of the United States, framed by a convention of delegates elected by mail citizens twenty-one years of age, without regard to race or color, or previous condition, who have resided in the State a year (except persons disfranchised by felony or participating in the rebellion) which constitution provides that the elective franchise be enjoyed by all persons herein qualified to vote for delegates; and when this constitution shall have been ratified by the electors, and submitted to and approved by Congress; and when a Legislature elected under the said Constitution ratifies the constitutional amendment, and said amendment becomes a part of the National Constitution then the said State is declared entitled to representatives and senators, who are to be admitted to Congress on taking the oath prescribed by law.

Fenian Outbreak in Ireland.—Several Persons Killed—Telegraph Wires Destroyed.

London, February 15.—Eight hundred Fenians, commanded by Colonel O'Connor, have assembled and retreated to the hills in the neighborhood. An ex-captain of the United States army has been arrested at Killybegs as a Fenian leader. A number of marines at Portsmouth have received orders to depart for the insurrectionary district.

London, February 15.—The Government denies the wide spread stories of the landing of ship-loads of Fenians. A serious revolt at Killybegs is admitted.

The telegraph wires near Valentia are destroyed for a long distance.

Several of the coast guard and pilotmen have been killed.

London, February 15.—P.M.—Much of the Fenian news required is suppressed by the Government. A large party of Fenians are sur-

rounded in Toome's wood, and their escape is doubtful. Eight hundred are still in the hills near Killybegs.

The uprising thus far is confined to Kerry and Cork Counties. The spread is improbable.

London, February 16.—The county of Kerry has been proclaimed in a state of siege. O'Connor and James Stephens are said to be the same persons. Twenty Americans are acting with the Fenians.

Foreign News.

Paris, February 16.—Napoleon's army organization plan is breeding distrust.

Affairs in Crete are changed.

Russia remains home minister of Italy.

Liverpool, February 16.—Cotton opened dull and lower; sales of 8,000 bales; middling uplands, 14½; Orleans, 14½. Manchester trade tending downward. Breadstuffs quiet.

London, February 16.—Consols, 91. 5/20's, 73½.

St. Petersburg, February 16.—The Czar will protect the Christians if the Turks refuse them equality.

Frankfurt, February 16.—United States bonds are quoted at 78.

Paris, February 16.—P.M.—United States bonds are quoted at 83½.

The Betrayal of Surratt.

Washington, February 16.—Henry St. Marie, who betrayed John H. Surratt, has arrived here. Nothing has yet been heard from the ship with Surratt on board.

Jaurez Again on the Run.

Vera Cruz, February 12.—The capture of Jaurez is discredited. The imperial Government has a dispatch announcing a victory at Zacatecas, and the flight of Jaurez and his minister.

Mr. Elliott's bill to establish a legal government in Louisiana was debated in the Senate yesterday. Mr. Trumbull and Mr. Sumner wished to amend it. Mr. Wade rightly warned the Senate that too many amendments might defeat a bill of which the principles were conceded to be just. It was postponed till to-day, and we hope Mr. Wade will hold to his intention of giving the Senate no rest till it is passed.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The above illustrates the sincerity and worth of the late positions of the Tribune in favor of "universal suffrage and amnesty." In the same category we regret to be constrained to place the Chicago Tribune. Their meaning of "universal" suffrage appears to be the enfranchisement of negroes in Louisiana, and the disfranchisement of white men. It is thus universal suffrage only for the negro.—*National Intelligencer.*

NEVER, in all the legislation of a Christian, people, was it proposed to restore peace and harmony to a portion of the country by undertaking, as is shown in the Louisiana bill, to put ignorant slaves in legislative control, to the proscription of their former masters. Is it the road to peace to disfranchise the most intelligent and energetic and wealthy citizens, and subordinate them to the rule of the most ignorant? Are the American people prepared to put the destinies of a sister State in the hands of the blacks, elevated for that purpose above the Anglo-Saxon race? Does not every sane man see that this is the way to commotion, to bloodshed, perpetual feuds? Yet this is the statesmanship of the Thirty-ninth Congress.—*Id.*

MR. GARFIELD assures us that the rebels have lost all of their rights; that we had the right to try and hang every man of them. Is this common sense, much less Christianity, or is it the language of a barbarian? We venture to say that "the scourge of God," when pouring upon Europe with his Eastern hordes, never uttered so infamous a sentiment as that he had a right to slay a whole people. So, too, his talk about taking their last dollar and depriving them of citizenship might be appropriate in the court of Dahomey, but is an insult to the Christian sentiment, nay, to the common sense of a free people.—*Id.*

MR. STEVENS' BILL.

The following is a copy of the bill reported from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction by Mr. Stevens, as it passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday:

A bill to provide for the more efficient government of the Insurrectionary States.

Whereas, the pretended State governments of the late so-called Confederate States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Arkansas were set up without the authority of Congress and without the sanction of the people; and whereas, said pretended governments afford no adequate protection for life or property, but countenance and encourage lawlessness and crime; and whereas, it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced in said so-called States until loyal and republican State governments can be legally established; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said late so-called Confederate States shall be divided into military dis-

tricts and made subject to the military authority of the United States as herein prescribed, and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the first district; North Carolina and South Carolina the second district; Georgia, Alabama and Florida the third district; Mississippi and Arkansas the fourth district, and Louisiana and Texas the fifth district.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the General of the army to assign to the command of each said district an officer of the army, not below the rank of Brigadier General and to detail a sufficient military force to enable such officer to perform his duties and enforce his authority within the district to which he is assigned.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid, to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder and violence, and to punish, or cause to be punished, all disturbers of the public peace and criminals, and to this end he may allow local civil tribunals to take jurisdiction of and to try offenders, or, when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military commissions or tribunals for that purpose, anything in the Constitution and laws of any of the so-called Confederate States to the contrary notwithstanding; and all legislative or judicial proceedings or processes to prevent or control the proceedings of said military tribunals, and all interference by said pretended State governments with the exercise of military authority under this act, shall be void and of no effect.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That courts and judicial officers of the United States shall not issue writs of habeas corpus in behalf of persons in military custody, except in cases in which the person is held to answer only for a crime or crimes exclusively within the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States within said military districts, and indictable therein, or unless some commissioned officer on duty in the district where the person is detained shall endorse upon said petition a statement, certifying upon honor that he has knowledge or information as to the cause and circumstances of the alleged detention, and that he believes the same to be wrongful; and further, that he believes that the endorsed petition is preferred in good faith and in furtherance of justice, and not to injure or delay the punishment of crime. All persons put under military arrest by virtue of this act shall be tried without unnecessary delay, and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted.

Section 5. And be it further enacted, That no sentence of any military commission or tribunal hereby authorized, affecting the life and liberty of any person, shall be executed until it is approved by the officer in command of the district, and the laws and regulations for the government of the army shall not be affected by this, act except in so far as they conflict with its provisions.

BLAINE'S AMENDMENT.

The following is the amendment proposed by Mr. Blaine:

Section 1. And be it further enacted, That when the constitutional amendment proposed as article fourteen by the Thirty-ninth Congress shall have become a part of the Constitution of the United States, by the ratification of three-fourths of the States now represented in Congress, and when any one of the late so-called Confederate States shall have given its assent to the same and conformed to its constitution and laws thereto in all respects, and when it shall have provided by its constitution that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed equally and impartially by all male citizens of the United States, twenty-one years of age and upwards, without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude, except such as may be disfranchised for participating in the late rebellion; and when said constitution shall have been submitted to the voters of said State, as thus defined, for ratification or rejection, and when the constitution, if ratified by the popular vote, shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, said State shall, if its constitution be approved by Congress, be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this bill shall be inoperative in said State.

THE NEW INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

The following are provisions of the bill:

Section 1. That all acts in relation to the assessment, return, collection, and payment of the income tax, special tax, and other annual taxes now by law required to be performed in the month of May, shall hereafter be required on the corresponding days in the month of March in each year; all acts required to be performed in the month of June, in relation to the collection, return, and payment of said taxes, shall hereafter be required on the corresponding days of the month of April of each year.

Section 2. That apothecaries, butchers, confectioners, and plumbers and gas fitters whose an-

nual sales exceed \$25,000 shall pay in addition to the special tax now required by law, one dollar for every thousand dollars in excess of said \$25,000, and the taxes on such excess shall be assessed and paid in the manner provided in the case of wholesale dealers.

Section 8. That hereafter for any failure to pay any internal revenue tax at the time and in the manner required by law, where such failure creates a liability to pay a penalty of ten per centum additional upon the amount of tax so due and unpaid, the person or persons so failing or neglecting to pay said tax, instead of ten per centum as aforesaid, shall pay a penalty of five per centum, together with interest at the rate of one per centum per month upon said tax from the time the same became due, but no interest for any fraction of a month shall be demanded.

Section 9. Any person who shall exercise or carry on any trade, business, or profession, or do any act hereinafter mentioned, for the exercising, carrying on, or doing of which a special tax is imposed by law, without payment thereof, as in that behalf required, shall, for every such offense, besides being liable to the payment of the tax, be subject to a fine of not less than ten nor more than five hundred dollars. And if such person shall be a manufacturer of tobacco, snuff, or cigars, or a wholesale or retail dealer in liquor, he shall be further liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than sixty days and not exceeding two years. Adding proviso to section seventy-nine: "Provided, That no special tax shall be required of any person for the manufacture of better and hence."

GENERAL GRANT OFFERED TO A MILITARY DESPOTISM IN THE SOUTH. The New York Times, of Wednesday, has the following important revelation: "As late as Thursday last, a bill for the establishment of military despotism acquired strength in the House, by the declaration of Mr. Farosworth that General Grant favored it, and the member who announced the news was regarded, for the time being, as an oracle to be respected. Owing to the importance of the matter, Grant took the earliest opportunity to inform a prominent member of the House that he had been misrepresented—that he did not favor the erection of a despotism, with himself as chief despot—and that he was really surprised that such a notion should be attributed to him."

HOW MUCH IS PEABODY WORTH?—The question has been frequently asked "How much is Mr. Peabody worth?" It is a very natural one, in view of the frequent and munificent donations he has made during the last fifteen years for educational and charitable purposes. We learn that in 1856 Mr. Peabody made a will, which demonstrated that he was then worth about fifty million pounds sterling. We presume, from the liberal manner in which he scatters his charities, that he has not grown any poorer since. If he had not transacted any business since that time, the simple interest on such an enormous sum would have largely increased his wealth; but the fact is he has ever since been one of the largest, most active, and cautious bankers in the world. Hence his present wealth must exceed £100,000,000. This is a snug little sum for a rainy day.

Nat. Republican.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.

We regret that we are unable to gratify the request made to us in various quarters for a copy of an abstract of the bankrupt bill. Two bills were before the present Congress at its last session—the one originating in the Senate, the other in the House. The latter having first passed, was on the tables of the Senators when the Congress adjourned. It was defeated by one vote a few days ago in the Senate. A motion to reconsider having prevailed, the House bill, with some trifling amendments, was passed, on Tuesday last, by a majority of two in a vote of forty-two. We remember of its feature—not having seen it since last spring—that it not only affects past debts, but may be hereafter availed of, and that the bankrupt himself, without committing any of what are known under the English law as acts of bankruptcy, may take advantage of its provisions.—*Rich. Examiner.*

SINGING NOTES OF HAND.—A writer in the Albany (Ga.) News says:

Many sharp persons, in taking notes for old debts, are careful to have them payable to bearer instead of to order, and to make them over \$500. Why is this? A note for \$500, if payable to order, cannot be used in the Circuit Court of the United States, unless the payer of the note was a non-resident or otherwise had the right to sue in that Court. But if the debt is over \$500, and is payable to A. B. or bearer, and it is transferred to a non-resident of this State, it can be sued in a Circuit Court of the United States. The purpose is thus to get their debtors before a jurisdiction where the remedy is more summary and the stay law of our State would not be in the way of selling the debtor's property.

George Bancroft, historian, has been nominated to the Senate of the United States to be Collector of the port of Boston.

It is reported that the Memphis Appeal newspaper has been purchased by John Hogan, of St. Louis, and others. It will be edited by Gen. Albert Pike.

Beneath the Alban hills, near Rome, a second Pompeii has been discovered.

Atlanta has 155 widows and 294 orphans of Confederate soldiers.

EXEMPTION LAW.

It is a matter of some interest to know that even this Radical Congress has some mercy for the poor and unfortunate debtor. It is a matter of controversy whether, in the general, the just rights of creditors are not sometimes disregarded and violated for the benefit of debtors. As Sir Roger de Coverly said, in the Spectator, "much may be said on both sides." Waiving, for the present, all discussion upon equity, we present the exemptions of the bill lately passed by Congress for the District of Columbia, which has received the signature of the President:

The exemption provided for shall not interfere with the foreclosure of any mortgage or deed of trust executed before the passage of the act. All wearing apparel belonging to all persons and all heads of families, being householders; all beds, bedding, household furniture, stoves, cooking utensils, &c., not exceeding \$500 in value; provisions for three months' support, whether provided or growing; fuel for three months; mechanical tools and implements of the debtor's trade or business, amounting to \$200 in value, with \$200 worth of stock for carrying on the business of the debtor or his family; the library and implements of a professional man or artist, to the value of \$300; one horse, mule or yoke of oxen, one cart, wagon or dray, and harness for such team; farming utensils; food for three months, and if the debtor be a farmer, any other farming tools of the value of \$100; all family pictures, and all the family library, not exceeding in value \$400; one cow, one swine, six sheep, &c.

PAUSE AND THINK.

When a few years ago conservative men protested against assumptions of unconstitutional power by the President or by Congress, the answer was that the exigency of the times justified the course, that the salvation of the life of the nation was the all important object, that arbitrary power was necessary and its use pardonable for such a purpose, and that when the exigency was passed the old rules would be again rigidly obeyed.

We do not intend renewing the discussion. Grant that the reasons were ample and controlling; but let it be remembered that conservative men then said, "We are afraid that when the exigency is passed you will not have strength or courage to rebuild and defend the old barriers." It was argued, and forcibly argued, that breaking down constitutional immunities was a dangerous business, establishing bad precedents, and that it would be very difficult at the end of the war to stop the habit and custom of disregarding the superior force of the old charter of liberty. The time has long since arrived when those who promised to stand by strict constitutional law after the crisis was passed should keep their promise. Thousands have followed blindly the lead of ambition or artful men, far beyond the limit which they marked out when they joined these men.

The present aspect of affairs in Congress is that a body of men seeking to break the whole system of government and concentrate in the Congress the President, Judiciary and Legislature. Devices are every day brought to light for overcoming the provisions of the Constitution and destroying the checks which the fathers wisely provided. The tendency of everything is toward a thorough revolution. Is it not time for men to pause and think? However they may have felt in time of war we are persuaded that the present aspect of affairs is calculated to arrest the attention of thoughtful men and to remind them of the duty of standing by the Constitution as it is as the only hope for the future. The downward track is easy. But it is more difficult to pause and turn back. But it is assuredly the moment now for wise citizens to reflect, and if they have become accustomed to regard the Constitution as a myth or an old parchment, it is time to look on with something of the ancient veneration.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser states that the First National Bank has, in a period of four years, accumulated a surplus greater than its original capital, and without inspiring this surplus, it paid its proprietors a dividend for the past year of fifty per cent.

The Brandon Times, grows facetious on the subject of advertising, and vents itself as follows: "Does it pay to advertise? Our experience teaches us that it does. A week ago we advertised for a boy to learn the printer's trade. Imagine our surprise on Monday morning on finding at our domicile an applicant weighing just eight pounds and a half. We would not guarantee to all, such returns by patronizing the printer, but this is one instance where it is a success."

The Norfolk "Virginia" says the Peruvian cast off from her wharf, on Friday amid the cheers of the assembled multitude. She sailed for Liverpool direct, on Saturday, taking off 1,800 bales of cotton, 3,000 bushels of corn, 70 bags of peanuts, 40 boxes manufactured and 10 barrels leaf tobacco.

A Portland merchant who was untroubled by the great fire cleared \$50,000 in the six months following.