

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Washington, May 3. In the House Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, made a suggestion as to early action on the tariff bill.

Mr. Dunn, of Ind., wanted to adjourn before the dog days, and should vote to proceed to business.

Mr. Cobb, of Ala., said he desired to make a speech on the state of the Union generally, but he preferred to wait until the final action of the Charleston Convention before doing so. If that Convention should be turned out to grass he would forbear making his speech. (Laughter.)

Mr. Sherman gave notice that he would call up the Tariff bill on Wednesday, and it was generally agreed that after to-day debate in the committee should be confined to that subject until it was disposed of.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Gooch reviewed the Dred Scott decision, denying it to be binding authority.

Mr. Hall defined the principles of the Republican Party to be opposition to the extension of Slavery.

Mr. Milson said disunion meant bloodshed and murder, widows and orphans. It meant tears, and lamentations, and anguish. If any such catastrophe should impend, he would seek some place of retirement, and pray Almighty Wisdom to dispose of the issue which was too great for feeble men.

Several other members made speeches, occupying the time till the hour of adjournment, when the Committee rose and reported and the House adjourned.

May 4. In the Senate, Mr. King presented a memorial from the Board of Trade of Oswego, New York, complaining of the manner in which the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Great Britain is carried out. Referred to the Committee on foreign relations.

A short Executive session was then held, after which the private calendar was taken up. Several private bills were passed. Adjourned till Monday the 7th.

In the House several bills were passed, including that for the payment of the indemnity for depredations committed on the Shawnee Indians in Kansas, and the bill reimbursing the expenses of Utah in suppressing Indian hostilities in 1853.

The House then went into Committee, and Messrs. Longnecker Adrain and Nixon made speeches, in favor of the protection of domestic manufactures.—What portion of their written speeches they omitted to read, they were privileged by the dozen members present, to print. Adjourned.

May 5th. In the House Mr. Train, of Massachusetts, asked leave to report from the committee on public buildings and grounds a joint resolution providing for a watchman to protect the equestrian statue of Washington, and for other purposes.

Mr. Crawford objected. He said to employ a man to watch the statue was a disgrace to the country.

Mr. Crawford replied there was not a man on this continent who would interfere with the statue of Washington or do it harm.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and proceeded to the consideration of private bills; and among those passed was one authorizing Captains Hudson and Sands to receive a snuff box and medal from the British government as a testimonial of their services in connection with laying the Atlantic cable, and then adjourned.

May 7. In the Senate—The galleries were crowded; a large number of ladies were present. Mr. Chandler offered a resolution to admit Governors of States to the privileges of the floor. Referred to the Library Committee.

The bill to settle the titles of certain lands set apart for the use of half-breed Indians in Kansas, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Davis' resolutions came up, and Mr. Davis addressed the Senate.

Mr. Brown replied to some remarks of Mr. Davis, when Mr. Clingman got the floor, and without concluding the Senate adjourned.

In the House Mr. Burlingame, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill authorizing the President to appoint a full minister to Sardinia, at a salary of \$12,000, with a secretary of legation at \$8,000 per annum. Passed without debate.

On motion of Mr. Grow, Territorial business was postponed till Friday.

A resolution offered by Mr. Sherman that debate on the tariff bill shall close to-morrow at 1 o'clock was adopted.

Mr. Sherman then spoke on the tariff question.

Messrs Schwartz and Grow also spoke in favor of the bill.

Without any action upon the subject the House adjourned.

May 8. In the Senate—Mr. Pearce offered a resolution providing an observation of the total eclipse of the sun on the 18th of July. A discussion ensued, after which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Brown presented a bill for deepening the channels of rivers emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, and authorizing certain States to levy tonnage dues. Referred.

Mr. Davis's territorial resolutions came up, and Mr. Clingman finished his remarks, arguing at length in favor of Congressional non-intervention, and the propriety of leaving the matter to the decision of the courts.

The Cincinnati platform was debated, was discussed by Messrs Benjamin Pugh, Clingman, Davis, Douglas and Wade.

The Senate then went into Executive Session, and subsequently adjourned.

The House went into Committee of the Whole and took up the Tariff bill, upon which there was considerable debate.

Mr. Pettit's amendment to repeal the duties on sugar and molasses was voted down.

Owing to some Democrats declining to vote, the Committee repeatedly found itself without a quorum, although it appeared by the roll calls that one was present. The struggle was prolonged till 8 o'clock, when the House adjourned.

May 9th. In the Senate—Mr. Davis introduced a bill to change the jurisdiction of the Indian Bureau from the interior to the War Department.

The Homestead bill was taken up, and Mr. Grimes moved to extend its provisions to all single persons over 21 years of age, as well as heads of families, and advocated his amendment.

Mr. Green opposed the bill as one of compromise and concession, and therefore opposed Mr. Grimes' amendment.

After considerable debate, the amendment was rejected—yeas 27, nays 28.

Mr. Fitch offered an amendment extending the present bounty system to soldiers who have served less than 14 days. Rejected—yeas 17, nays 35.

Mr. Wade moved to substitute the House bill. Negative—26 to 31.

Mr. Clark moved to strike out the 11th section, for the cession of those lands remaining unsold after 35 years, to States in which they are situated. Rejected—7 to 48.

Mr. Rich moved to amend the same section by substituting five years for 35. Lost.

Mr. Clay moved to make it 25 years.

Mr. Clay modified his amendment to 30 years, and it was accepted—27 to 26.

A discussion ensued on several amendments, and several motions to adjourn were voted down.

Mr. Rice offered an amendment extending the operation of the bill to lands not subject to private entry. Adopted.

Mr. Lane moved to postpone the bill till the first Monday in June, and have the amendments printed, so that Senators could understand it.

Mr. Wade said there must be an end to all things, and he hoped the bill would be finished to-night.

Several dilatory motions were voted down by the friends of the bill.

At 7 o'clock the bill was reported to the Senate.

After further debate, but without action, the Senate adjourned at half-past 8.

House.—Mr. Dunn asked leave to introduce a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the practicability and expediency of obtaining a location on some part of this Continent or adjacent islands, for the free negroes of the United States, to be protected by this government. Leave was not granted.

The House went into Committee of the Whole and took up the tariff bill.

Mr. Vallandigham's amendment, fixing the duty on flaxseed and linseed at 20 per cent. was agreed to—71 against 51.

Mr. Phelps' amendment to make salt free was rejected.

A debate of great length followed.

The committee rose and reported and the House adjourned.

May 10. In the Senate.—A number of petitions were presented.

Mr. Gwin asked to take up the bill relating to the overland mail, and that it might be made the special order for Tuesday next.

On motion of Mr. Hale, the President's veto message was taken up.

Mr. Yulee reported the House bill to furnish additional mail facilities. Passed.

The Homestead bill was resumed and the amendments made in the Committee of the Whole came up for concurrence. Most of them were adopted without debate.

The amendment adopted yesterday, on Mr. Rice's motion, caused considerable debate.

Mr. Douglas hoped that the same privilege would be extended to the Territories as well as the States. He thought the argument for the settlement of one, applied equally to the other. The heaviest taxation in America is in the Territories, for the reason that the first settlements are sparse, and the scattered population have to tax themselves for roads, bridges, court houses, school houses, and other public buildings, and the rate of taxation is necessarily heavier than in old communities. The number of persons bearing it is small, and hence the ratio is larger.

Mr. Rice declined to accept the modification.

The Chair said the amendment was now before the Senate, and open to amendment.

The question was taken, and Mr. Rice's amendment was rejected.

The amendment reported by the Committee was not concurred in.

Mr. Douglas then offered an amendment, extending the provisions of the bill to all lands which have been, or shall hereafter become, subjected to pre-emption, not including reserved or mineral lands.

Messrs. Bragg, Mason and others, briefly opposed the amendments, and it was rejected, yeas 26, nays 31.

Mr. Wade renewed his motion to substitute the House bill for the Senate bill, saying that he would make one more effort to secure a Homestead bill. The motion was rejected, yeas 25, nays 30.

The bill was read the third time and passed by a vote of 44 to 8.

The Senate then adjourned.

In the House Mr. Curtis made an ineffectual motion to assign the 22d and 23d of May for the consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill.

The consideration of the President's protest was postponed till Wednesday and Thursday next.

Mr. Bingham, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill declaring null and void acts of the Legislative Assembly of New Mexico, establishing and protecting slavery.

The House passed the bill providing for running the boundary line between California and the territories of the United States.

Mr. Grow reported a bill to organize the territorial government of Idaho.

Mr. Clark, of Mo., gave notice of amendment to strike out the clause prohibiting slavery, and inserting instead that the Legislative Assembly shall not by legislation establish or prohibit slavery.

Mr. Kellogg, of Ill., by consent of Mr. Grow, offered an amendment providing for the election of all territorial officers by the people of organized territories.

Mr. Morris said he could show his colleague he was, in this matter, playing the demagogue.

Mr. Kellogg retorted, it was impossible for his colleague to conduct himself as a gentleman, for the Almighty has written on his face—

The remainder of the sentence was lost in the vociferous cries of order.

Mr. Morris excitedly replied. The only words heard were, falsehood, I can prove God Almighty has written his name—

Mr. Kellogg replied, but his words were not heard in the roar of voices calling him to order. At last quiet was restored.

Mr. Sherman moved to censure both gentlemen, but finally, by request, withdrew it.

Before further action on the bill Mr. Houston moved a call of the House, which was denied.

Mr. Bingham, in accordance with the request of his Republican friends, was willing to postpone the consideration of the bill two weeks, in order that it may be fully considered.

Much excitement prevailed, and after much discussion the bill was passed, 97 to 90.

The consideration of the bill was resumed.

Mr. Harper moved a substitute proposing to create the Jefferson Land District, with a Surveyor General, &c.

Mr. Grow raised a point that the substitute was not Germane, and the Speaker sustained this view. An appeal from the Speaker's decision was tabled by 7 majority.

Mr. Cartell desired to offer an amendment to each of the Territorial bills—five in number—prohibiting the Territorial Legislatures from excluding slavery.

Mr. Adrian gave notice of an amendment leaving the Territories free to regulate their own institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution.

Mr. Haskin also indicated an amendment authorizing the holding of a Convention to form a State Constitution when each Territory shall have the requisite population for a member of Congress.

On motion of Mr. Grow the bill was postponed to Saturday, and amendments ordered to be printed.

The House went into Committee on the tariff bill.

Mr. Morrill's bill, with a few slight modifications, not affecting its general principles, was agreed to—89 against 37.

The Committee rose.

Much confusion ensued, principally as to getting in an amendment raising the duty on flax seed from 10 to 15 cents per bush. The bill passed—105 against 64, and the House adjourned.

Lyman Beecher's Courtship.

This eminent divine, who is as well known as he is universally respected, many years since was led to the conclusion that "it is not well for man to be alone." After considerable pondering, he resolved to offer himself in marriage to a certain member of his flock. No sooner was the plan formed than it was put into practice, and getting out his cane, he speedily reached the dwelling of his mistress.

It chanced to be on Monday morning, a day which many New England readers need not be told is better known as washing day.

Unconscious of the honor that was intended her, the lady was standing behind the tub in the back kitchen, with her arms immersed in the suds, busily engaged in an occupation which, to say the least of it, is more useful than romantic. There was a loud knock at the door.

"Jane, go to the door, and if it is anybody to see me, tell them I am engaged, and cannot see them."

The message was faithfully rehearsed.

"Tell your mistress that it is very important that I should see her."

"Tell him to call this afternoon," said the lady, "and I will see him."

But it was unavailing.

"I must see her now," said the minister, "tell me where she is."

So saying, he followed the servant into the kitchen, to the great surprise of her mistress.

"Miss—, I have come to the conclusion to marry; will you have me?" was the minister's opening speech.

"Have you?" replied the astonished lady. "This is a singular time to offer yourself. Such an important step should be made a matter of prayer and deliberation."

"Let us pray!" was Mr. B.'s only response, as he knelt down beside the tub, and prayed that a union might be formed which would enhance the happiness of both parties. His prayer was answered, and from this union, thus singularly formed, has sprung a family remarkable for talent and piety.

Formal Invitations.

The too frequent habit of extending mere formal invitations is justly rebuked in the following story of Vivier, the artist, which we find amongst the Parisian gossip in the "Musical World."

Vivier, the celebrated and witty artist, passed recently some time at Paris, on his return from his summer travels. He had hardly arrived when he was invited to dine with Mons. X—, the musical amateur and rich capitalist. After the repast, the master and mistress of the house said to their agreeable guest: "We hope that we shall have you often to dine with us; your plate will always be ready."

"Always?" said Vivier, "that is, in the fashionable sense of the word."

"By no means. We are not persons of such hollow politeness. You know how much we love artists, and you in particular. Our home is yours. Come and dine with us whenever you please. We should be glad if it were every day."

"In earnest?"

"Certainly, we should be delighted."

"Ah, well! since you are so cordial, I promise you I will do my best to be agreeable."

"We shall depend upon seeing you."

The next day at six o'clock, Vivier presented himself.

"You see," said he, "that I have taken your invitation literally. I have come to dine."

"Ah! it is very kind of you!—it is very charming," said his hosts, to whom his arrival appeared very piquant and quite original.

The dinner was very gay, and the artist, on taking leave, received many compliments. The next day as they were about to sit down to the table Vivier again appeared.

"Here I am; exact, punctual and faithful to my promise."

"But it is singular," he continued, fixing a penetrating and quizzical look upon the faces of his hosts—"it is singular! You appear surprised! Did you expect me?"

"Oh! certainly; you give us much pleasure," the Amphitryon and his wife replied with a forced smile.

"So much the better."

Vivier sat down, was in his happiest vein, played the agreeable to all the family, and seemed quite unconscious that he had all the burthen of the entertaining, and that except a few monosyllable the conversation was reduced to a mere monologue.

On the fourth day, at six o'clock precisely, the obstinate guest once more presented himself.—This time coldness and constraint were very perceptible, and Vivier spoke of it.

The mistress of the house replied stiffly; "It is only because we feared you would not fare well, we have so poor a dinner to-day."

"I thought you expected me, but it is of no consequence. I am not difficult to please. I wish only the pleasure of your society."

He seated himself with perfect composure, ate heartily; then turning to madame with a complimentary air, he said:

"What could you mean? This dinner is quite as good as the others. Excellent fare, upon my word. I should desire nothing better."

The next day—it was the fifth—Vivier arrived as usual. The porter met him at the door—"Mons. X—, is not at home. He dines down town to-day."

"Ah! very well! But I forgot my great coat yesterday, I must ask the servant for it;" and darting across the threshold and up the staircase, he knocked; and the door was opened to the unsuspected apparition!

"Your porter is a simpleton," said Vivier gaily. "He pretended that you had gone out. I knew that he was mistaken. But what long faces!—What a sombre and melancholy air! Has anything happened? Any accident—any misfortune? Tell me, that I may offer my sympathies."

All dinner time the witty artist continued and redoubled his entreaties that the supposed misfortune might be confided to him. He complained of their reserve, and indulged himself in all sorts of conjectures and questions.

"Have you lost money in speculations?—missed an inheritance?—heard bad music?—received a visit from a troublesome bore? Have you been wounded in your affections—in your fortune?—in your ambition?"

Then, at the desert, bursting into a fit of laughter: "I know what is the matter, and what troubles you. It is your invitation, so cordially made and so literally accepted. I thought that I would make the trial, suspecting that you would not endure me long. To-day, you shut the door against me, and to-morrow, if I should return, you would throw me out of the window. But you will not catch me here. I wish you good night."

Goon.—The following is too good to be lost of a school master and pupil:

"Joseph, how do people live?"

"By drawing."

"Drawing what—water?"

"No, sir; by drawing their breath."

"Sit down, Joseph. Thomas, what is the equator?"

"Why, sir, it is the horizontal pole running perpendicular through the imagination of astronomers and old geographers."

"Go take your seat, Thomas. William, what do you mean by an eclipse?"

"An old race-horse, sir?"

"Silence! Jack, what is an eclipse?"

"An eclipse is a thing as appears when the moon gets off on a bust, and runs agin the sun—consequently the sun blackens the moon's face."

"Class is dismissed."