

cessary for the protection of the emigrants on the overland routes between the Atlantic States and California and Oregon and Washington Territory, was passed.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to amend the Indian intercourse act, and passed it, and also considered the Senate's amendments to the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill, which will be returned to the Senate.

They concurred in those, including Florence among the consul-generalships, and striking out Hayti, Liberia, &c.

Both Houses adjourned till Monday 27th. In the Senate on the 27th, Mr. Sherman presented a petition from the mayor, &c., of Springfield, Ohio, for a national armory there.

Mr. Lane presented a petition from the Board of Trade, of Indianapolis, in relation to a national armory.

Mr. King presented a petition against all further traffic in the public lands.

Mr. Wade offered a joint resolution, in order to develop, concentrate, and bring into effect the mechanical resources of the United States for the suppression of the rebellion and future defense of the country. The superintendent of the census is authorized to perform such things under the direction of the Secretary of War, and to collect such war statistics as, in the judgment of the Secretary of War, may be right and proper.

Mr. Grimes opposed putting the superintendent of the census under the direction of the Secretary of War.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, the latter part of the resolution was modified so as to read:—"The superintendent of the census is authorized to furnish the Secretary of War with such war statistics from time to time as the Secretary of War may deem necessary for the use of the department." The resolution was then passed.

Mr. King presented a resolution from the Legislature of New York, instructing senators to vote for the abolition of the franking privilege.

Mr. Wade called up the resolution making an addition to the joint rules of both Houses, as follows: That when any member of the House or Senate shall rise in his seat and shall say that the executive department of the government desires immediate action on any matter pertaining to the suppression of the present rebellion, the House or Senate, as the case may be, shall go into secret session and proceed to the consideration of the measure proposed, and the debate thereon shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker, and the vote thereon shall be taken before the adjournment of the secret session. Any breach of secrecy, unless the injunction is removed, shall be punishable by expulsion if by a member, and if by any officer of the House or Senate, by such punishment as the body in which it occurs shall impose.

Mr. Wade moved the resolution be so modified as to strike out the limitation of the debate to five minutes, though he thought we never learned anything after a person had spoken for five minutes.

Mr. Foster did not believe in what was facetiously called secret session. He thought that what transpired in secret session was reported sooner than what took place in open session. He did not think secret sessions an element of power.

Mr. Trumbull was glad the resolution was offered. He said, for some reason, the whole country felt more hopeful, and thought the army should be used to put down the rebellion. There seemed to be more activity and preparation for movements. He thought this was due to the war committee. He did not believe in secret session. The people ought to know all that was done, but if the Senate thought it necessary to do certain business in secret session, he did not object. But it was a great power to put in the hands of any single member to compel either body to go into secret session. He said it was the rule now to expel any member who divulged the proceedings of the secret session; yet what do we see now? Nearly everything published the next day, and exaggerated. He would rather have the regular report than these garbled accounts.

Mr. Chandler urged the necessity of the measure, but would leave the punishment to the discretion of the body. If there was a traitor in the body who divulged the secrets, he would hang him.

Mr. Hale wanted to say a single word about the disgrace of having garbled reports of everything done in secret session, and gave notice that in the future, if he saw the rule relative to secrecy broken, he would bring the subject to the notice of the Senate and endeavor to have the offender punished.

Mr. Wade said there were measures which ought to be considered in secret session, and if we had this rule he should move secret session on them immediately. If they were considered in open session the rebels would know all about them in an hour. The Senator did not seem to realize that we were in war, indeed, war was so much like peace he might not think we were in war; but the committee of which he was a member, committee on war, determined that something should be done. We must act with the Executive Department, or else force the Executive to take powers which belong to Congress.

The resolution was modified so that when any members make a motion to go into secret session, the doors shall be shut, and the member state the reasons, and the majority determine whether to continue in secret session. The subject was then postponed, and Mr. Bright's case taken up, on which Mr. Latham made a speech, the closing remarks

of which were that—He was opposed to the proscription of any man for political opinions. The bells of time are ringing changes fast, and the old landmarks of the Constitution are fading away. The liberty of the press is gone, and citizens are roving in political battles, beyond the power of the habeas corpus. If the government would cling to the Constitution we must triumph, as sure as night succeeds day; but, if not, he feared we were on that stream which bears nations down to the great ocean of oblivion, to be forgotten forever and ever.

In the House on the 27th, Mr. Colfax introduced a bill to render more uniform the postage on printed matter. Referred to the post-office committee. He said, in explanation, that instead of three hundred rates now existing on printed matter, it provided for three. On newspapers less than two ounces in weight, and on which postage is now chargeable by law, it makes the postage five cents per quarter; for weeklies, when carried less than 10,000 miles, ten cents; for semi-weeklies, etc., according to the number of issues per week, and on magazines and periodicals a half cent per ounce, and on books and other mailable matter sent through the mails, one cent per ounce; when over 2,000 miles double postage. He said this would simplify the rates so that every postmaster and subscriber could understand them clearly, which they could not now, and it would supersede the rates of 3 1/4 and 6 1/2 cents per quarter which no one could pay exactly in any federal coin.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the West Point Academy bill. The debate involved the "nigger question."

Mr. Menzies combated the principle enunciated by Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, to emancipate the slaves of the rebels, and to compensate loyal masters for this description of property. He (Stevens) must have obtained this idea from that illustrious man, James Buchanan, whose representative he was, living in the Lancaster district.

Mr. Stevens declaimed intimacy with Mr. Buchanan. He had not spoken to him since he attempted to make Kansas a slave State.

Mr. Riddle said this question of slavery is in, over, and through everything; politically speaking, it is everything. He maintained that slavery is war, prosecuting its own purposes through its own means of aggression and conquest, and when the people of the free States resolved to put a limit to the further extension of this war, slavery took up its old war club.

Mr. Sheffield expressed his surprise at the sentiment here enunciated, that Congress has power by a single enactment to emancipate all the slaves held under the laws of all slaveholding States, and after this announcement he was not at all surprised to hear the principle asserted that in a certain emergency Congress had power to declare a dictator to control the government. According to his view, the Constitution was a compact of the entire people with every individual, by which government is bound to afford protection, and the people to render obedience, on the terms and conditions set forth in the Constitution. We cannot take property excepting by due process of law, and this provision is governed by the other prohibiting the passage of any bill of attainder. The Constitution must be taken as a whole, not in detached parts. It is an instrument of delegated and limited powers. We have no right to instruct the executive in the discharge of his duties, any more than the executive has to instruct Congress how they shall perform theirs. The powers of Congress end when the armies are in the field; then the President is at the head of them. The laws of peace give way to the laws of war. A state of peace is inconsistent with a state of war. The two cannot exist together.

### Races and Religions.

The whole North American continent has only 36,000,000 of inhabitants, hardly as much as France or Austria. The whole of Central or South America has only 22,000,000; less than Italy. European Russia, with its sixty millions, has as many inhabitants as America, Australia and Polynesia together. More people live in London than in all Australia and Polynesia. China Proper has more inhabitants than America, Australia and Africa together, and India has nearly three times as many inhabitants as the whole of the New World. The result is, that our planet bears 1,288,000,000 of mankind, of which sum total, 522,000,000 belong to the Magnolian, 369,000,000 to the Caucasian, 209,000,000 to the Malayan, 169,000,000 to the Ethiopian, and 100,000,000 to the American race. Divided according to their confessions, there are 335,000,000 of Christians, 5,000,000 of Jews, 600,000,000 belonging to the Asiatic religions, 169,000,000 to Mohammedanism, and 200,000,000 of heathens.—[Ohio Farmer.]

HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN ROUST, BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL.—Some parents make the great mistake of keeping their children indoors during cold weather. It enfleebles the bodies of children, and renders them peculiarly liable to be attacked by colds and coughs. A child should have its feet well shod with socks and boots, its body well wrapped in warm clothing, its head securely protected from the cold, and then be let loose to play in the keen, bracing, winter air. By this means its body will become robust, and its spirits be kept bright and cheerful; whereas, if a child be shut up in the house, it will become fretful and feverish.

### A FAITHFUL SENTINEL.

A TALE OF THE FRENCH WAR.

The French army lay encamped only about a day's march from Berlin. The sentinels were doubled, and the most strict orders given, for the Prussian and Austrian spies were plenty and troublesome. At midnight Pierre Sancoin was stationed at one of the outposts. He was a stout, bold, shrewd man, and a good soldier.—The Colonel of his regiment was with the sergeant on his beat, having requested to be called at midnight, that he might visit the outposts.

"Pierre," he said, after the man had been posted, "You must keep your eyes open. Don't let even a horse go out or come without the pass. Do you understand?"

"Ay, mon Colonel, I shall be prompt."

"The dogs are all around us," pursued the officer, "and you cannot be too careful. Don't trust men nor brutes."

"Never fear," was Pierre's answer, as he brought his firelock to his shoulder, and moved back a pace. After this the guard moved on to the next post, and Pierre Sancoin was left alone. Pierre's post was one of the most important in the camp, or rather around it, and he had been placed there for that reason. The ground over which he had to walk was a long knoll, bounded at one end by a huge rock, and at the other sloping away into a narrow ravine, in which was a copse of willows. Beyond this copse the ground was low and boggy, so that a man could not pass it. The rock was to the westward, and Pierre's walk was to the outer side.

The night was quite dark, huge masses of clouds floated overhead, and shut out the stars; and a sort of fog seemed to be rising also from the marsh. The wind moaned through the copse in the ravine, and the air was damp and chilly. With a slow, steady tread, the soldier paced his ground, ever and anon stopping to listen, as the willows in the ravine rattled their leaves, or some night bird started out with its quick flapping.

An hour had passed away, and the sentinel had seen nothing to excite his suspicions. He had stopped for a moment close by the rock, when he was startled by a quick, wild scream from the wood, and in a few moments more a large bird flew over his head.

"Parbleu!" he uttered, after the night bird had flown over; "could mortal man have stopped that fellow passing?"

He satisfied himself that he had done nothing wrong in suffering the bird to pass. He had walked the length of his way two or three times, and was just turning by the rock, when he was sure he saw a dark object just crossing the line toward the copse.

"Hold," he cried, bringing the musket quick to his shoulder, "Hold or I fire!"

And with his piece at him, he advanced toward the spot where the object stopped; but as he came to within a few yards of it, it started to move on again toward the camp.

"Diable!" cried Pierre, "move any farther and I fire! What, Pardieu! Le Prince? Ho, ho; why Prince?"

The animal turned and made a motion as though he would leap upon the sentinel's bosom, but the soldier motioned him off.

"Bavo, Prince," Pierre cried, reaching forth his hand and patting the head of the great shaggy beast, which had set upon its branches. Pierre recognized the intruder now as a great dog of the breed of St. Bernard, which had been owned in the regiment for over a year, and which had been missing for about a week. He disappeared one night from the pickets, and all search for him had been unavailing.

"Parbleu, mon grande Prince," Pierre uttered, as though the dog could understand every word; "the men will be happy to see you; where have you been so long?"

The dog made no answer to this save a low whine, and a familiar nodding of the head.

"Now, mon amie, you just keep your sitting there until the guard comes, and then we'll go to the camp together. Mind that, will you?"

And with these words, uttered with solemn emphasis, and due meaning, Pierre started on his beat again. He had got half way to the rock, when the idea of looking around struck him, and he did so. Le Prince was moving toward the camp again.

"Ha! Prince, that won't do! Stop! stop, or I'll shoot! Diable, the colonel was positive in his order; I was to let nothing pass my post without the countersign. A dog is something. You can't go, Prince, so now lie down. Down! down, I say!"

With this the dog lay flat down upon his belly and stretched out his fore paws. Pierre patted him upon the head again, and having duly urged upon him the necessity of remaining where he was, he resumed his march once more.

During the next fifteen minutes the animal lay perfectly quiet, and ever and anon the sentinel would speak to him by way of being sociable. But at length the dog made another attempt to go into the camp. Pierre had nearly reached the rock when he heard the movement, and on turning he could just see his uneasy companion making off.

"Diable!" the honest fellow uttered, "I must obey orders. The Colonel's word was plain. Here! Parbleu! come here! Here! Prince! Mon Dieu! you must die if you don't!"

With a few quick bounds the soldier had got near enough to the dog to fire, and as the latter stopped, he stopped.

"Mon cher amie, you must stay with me! Here! Come back! I must shoot you if you don't. Parbleu! what a thing to start the whole camp for, to shoot a dog!"

But by coaxing and threatening, the sentinel got the dog back to his post, and there he made him lie down once more.—And thus matters rested till the tramp of the coming guard was heard.

"Ah, now Prince will be relieved," the soldier said, stopping near the dog. "You shall go and see your old friends."

The tramp of the coming guard drew near, and Pierre was preparing to hail them, when the dog took a new turn, and in a new direction, this time starting towards the copse.

"Here, here, Prince! Parbleu, don't you run off again."

But the fellow took no other notice of the call than to quicken his speed.

"Back! back! Here!"

"Grand Dieu!" This last exclamation was forced from Pierre's lips, by seeing the dog leap to his hind legs, and run thus. In an instant the truth burst upon him. Quick as thought he clapped his gun to his shoulder and took aim. He could just distinguish the dim outlines now, and he fired. There was a sharp cry, and then Pierre had to turn, for the guard were approaching.

"Qu'est-ce là?" (Who is there?) he cried. "Relief guard," was the answer.

And having obtained the countersign, he informed the officer what had happened.

"A dog?" cried the officer, "Prince, did you say?"

"He looked like Prince; but, diable, you should have seen him run off on his hind legs."

"Eh? Hind legs?"

"Yes."

"Then come; show us where he was."

With this the officer of the mounted guard pulled his lantern from his breast, and having removed the shade he started on. Pierre led the way to the copse, and there the dog was found in the last struggles of death.

The officer stooped down and turned him over.

"Grand Dieu!" he cried, what legs for a dog, eh?"

And no wonder he did so. The hind legs of the animal were booted, and had every appearance of the pedal extremities of the genius man. But all doubts were removed very quickly, for as the officer turned the body again, a groan escaped, and the words "God take me!" in the Prussian tongue, followed.

"Diable! here's an adventure!" uttered the officer, and made Pierre hold the lantern while he ripped open enough of the dog's skin to find the face. But they concluded not to stop there to investigate, so they formed a litter by crossing their muskets, and having lifted the strange animal upon it, they proceeded on their way. When they reached the camp they found half the soldiers up, waiting to find out why the gun was fired.

When they arrived, the dog skin was removed, and within was found a Prussian drummer. He was small though apparently some twenty years of age; but he was dead, Pierre's ball having touched his heart, or somewhere near it. His pockets were overhauled, and in one of them was found an illegible cypher. The colonel took it, and directed that the body should be placed out of sight for burial on the morrow.

But this was not the end. About four o'clock, just before daylight, another gun was fired on the same spot where Pierre had been, and this time a man was shot who was trying to make his escape from the camp. He was shot through the head. When the body was brought into camp, it was found to be that of a Bavarian trooper, who had been suspected of treachery, though no proof had ever been found against him. On his person was found the key to the drummer's cypher. It proved to be a direction to the Bavarian to lay his plans for keeping as near to Napoleon's person as possible, after he should enter Berlin, and then wait for some further orders.

The mystery was explained. The Bavarian had contrived to call the great dog away from the regiment and delivered him up to the enemy, and the skin was to be made the cover for a spy to enter the camp under. And the spy would have got in, too, but for the sportive order of the colonel; and the wilfully, faithful obedience of Pierre Sancoin.

On the next day Pierre was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and the Emperor said to him as he bestowed the boon:

"If you only make as faithful an officer as you have proved yourself faithful as a sentinel, I can ask no more."

CURIOUS THEORY.—Some believe in a theory that "five and six years of scarcity and five and six years of abundance follow each other pretty regularly." There may be something to it, at any rate it will do no harm to watch it. Count Hugo gives the following table extending through a period of 33 years to prove it:

From the year 1816 to 1821 was a period of scarcity.

From the year 1822 to 1827 was a period of abundance.

From the year 1828 to 1832 was a period of scarcity.

From the year 1833 to 1837 was a period of abundance.

From the year 1838 to 1842 was a mixed period.

From the year 1843 to 1847 was a period of scarcity.

From the year 1848 to 1852 was a period of abundance.

—In the space of forty years, Mexico has had no fewer than fifty-five different Governments.