

They would further recommend that the accompanying bill, entitled a bill in relation to witnesses, be introduced, printed and referred to the committee on the judiciary, with leave to report thereon at any time."

The following are the bills presented by Knott—

"A bill to protect witnesses who shall be required to testify on certain cases—

"Be it enacted, that when any person shall be required to testify against his protest before either House of Congress, or any committee thereof, or the Senate sitting as a court of impeachment, and shall so testify under protest, he shall not thereafter be called to answer criminally in any court of justice, or be subject to any penalty or forfeiture on account of any act concerning which he shall be so required to testify, provided that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to relieve any person from liability to impeachment.

"Be it enacted, that every person who shall wilfully absent himself from his residence or place of residence, or conceal himself, or absent himself from the U. S., or, being absent, shall wilfully remain absent, or shall flee, or attempt to do so, for the purpose and with the intent to escape the service of any lawful writ or process requiring him to appear and testify or give evidence, or produce books, letters, documents or papers, or for the purpose and with the intent to avoid being required to testify or give evidence, or to become a witness, shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding three years, or by both of said punishments. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt any such person from lawful punishment, or for a contempt."

Knott closed the discussion, and noticed the fact that notwithstanding the anxiety expressed on the other side to debate the bill not a word had been said about it. Three speeches had been made as to the willingness of the other side to aid in exposing and punishing corruption; but he reminded them that they had had many years to do so, but had never done so (applause on the democratic side). The bill was then passed, yeas 206, nays 10. Adjourned.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 6.

The President has sent to the Senate the name of Richard H. Dana, jr., of Mass., to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain, vice Robert C. Schenck, resigned.

Ex-Secretary Belknap remains in his own house, which he has not left since the tender of his resignation, and he is to all purposes a prisoner, the entrances, back and front, being guarded by policemen. Messrs. Carpenter and Blair, counsel for Belknap, appeared at the Attorney General's office to-day, and asked that the police be removed, as the Secretary had no intention whatever of attempting flight from Washington. To this the answer was made that as soon as an indictment was found, the Secretary would be arrested, and he could then give bail, which would relieve him from the surveillance to which he is now subjected. Should the grand jury meet with any embarrassments in obtaining the necessary evidence to frame an indictment, the arrest will be made without an indictment. Several personal friends have visited General Belknap to assure him of their sympathy in his troubles.

A telegram was sent from the White House, to a gentleman whose name has not been mentioned, outside the Cabinet, tendering the appointment of Secretary of War; acting in accordance with the rule of the President, no mention will be made of his intention regarding this appointment, until the party to whom it is tendered has signified that he will accept the office.

This afternoon Judge Snell, of the police court, received a note from Attorney Wells stating that ex-Senator Carpenter had informed him that Belknap would not be ready to appear in court to-day with his bail, and asking that his case be allowed to stand; this arrangement was agreed to, and Belknap will remain in the custody of the officers, and will have his hearing to-morrow.

Senator Dorsey's bill amendatory

of the Pacific R. R. laws asserts, in a preamble, that the Central Pacific R. R. Co., has improperly increased its capital stock, its interest-bearing securities, and its liabilities for or on account of branch roads, steamboat lines and other properties, without the authority of Congress, and without a corresponding increase in the value of its real and personal property, and that such action is designed to prevent, or postpone for a long time, any action on the part of the government in fixing the tariff rates, which it is authorized to do by the 18th section of the law of July 1st, 1862, whenever its net earnings should exceed 10 per centum upon the actual cost of the road between Ogden and Sacramento. The bill therefore proposes to restrain the issue or sale of any more obligations of the company secured by a mortgage upon the line or the land granted by the U. S. to aid its construction.

The committee on the judiciary, this p. m., completed the Belknap articles of impeachment. They are twenty in number, specifically stating the various amounts of money received by him at different times from Marsh. These articles are founded on the testimony of that witness, but as he has fled the country the committee will, to-morrow, on making the reports, move its reference back to the committee, so that further testimony may be taken to strengthen the case. Some days may elapse before the articles will be finally acted on by the House and presented. The committee will not act in haste, as they wish to present a case that can be maintained before the Senate. They charge Belknap with having violated Sec. 1,781 of the Revised Statutes, the penalty for which is imprisonment for not more than two years, and a fine of not more than \$10,000.

The following telegram was sent to General Sheridan to-day—

"War Department,

Adj't. General's Office,

Washington, 6.

"To Lt. General Sheridan,

Commanding, Chicago.

"The President directs you to notify Evans, post-trader at Fort Sill, that his appointment is revoked; he will be permitted to remain and sell goods at prices fixed by the council of the administration till the appointment of his successor. The President desires you to direct the council of the administration to meet, and to recommend to the Secretary of War, through the military channels, a suitable person for trader. (Signed)

"E. D. TOWNSEND,

"Adj't General."

Notwithstanding the reports to the contrary, General Babcock has not resigned his position in the army, and to-day he said he had no intention of so doing.

The Attorney General has addressed a letter to the Hon. Scott Lord, chairman of the sub-committee on the judiciary, saying that his fair and considerate letter of the 3rd instant, gives him an opportunity to fully explain certain charges contained in newspaper publications, copies of which had been enclosed to him. The Attorney General says that in relation to the whiskey cases at St. Louis, Chicago and Milwaukee, the Secretary of the Treasury and himself were in frequent consultation, and never differed in policy nor in what they deemed the best mode of carrying out that policy. In October last, while the solicitor of the Treasury was in St. Louis, they agreed upon, and the Secretary dispatched, a communication to the solicitor, in the way of instructions, in which he said among other things that unless important ends were to be gained in other cases, he would make no terms with any individual or party. The Attorney General says that the policy indicated in this order was not communicated by him in any circular letter to the district attorneys of those cities, but it was intended to be carried out alike in St. Louis, Chicago and Milwaukee. Nothing occurred to lead the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Treasury, or the solicitor, so far as the Attorney General knew or believed, to change this policy in any degree; but about the middle of January, and subsequently therein, various newspaper slips of private letters, and personal statements came to the President, and in a lesser degree to the Attorney General, that bargains were being made, or were about to be made, with criminals whose testimony was not in the slightest

degree needed, by which a large number of criminals were to be let off from any kind of punishment, and to be relieved of prosecution in a manner likely to bring scandal upon the administration of justice, and quite at variance with the policy expressed by the Secretary of the Treasury and approved by the Attorney General, and these statements were in a large measure affirmed to the President and subsequently to the Attorney General by one of the oldest and most trusted supervisors in the service, who claims to speak from personal knowledge upon the subject, and especially in relation to criminals in Chicago. The President was, of course, greatly disturbed by these varied and repeated representations, so at variance with the policy before indicated, and he brought it to the attention of the Attorney General, and suggested that it would be well for the Attorney General to let the District Attorney receive some caution upon this subject, and therefore a letter was dispatched by the Attorney General to District Attorney Hazelton, and it is the one copied in the official records of the department, with a note that the same was sent to the District Attorneys at Chicago and St. Louis. In this letter the Attorney General said that he reposed in the officers' good judgment to refrain from everything that could, by any possibility, be construed as favoritism towards those who had defrauded the government, and he remarked "It is the President's desire that no guilty man should escape." A few days later, the President, being still further pressed about the matter, sent for the Attorney General to learn whether he had taken any action. As the letter was purely official, and as all such letters are strictly confidential and intended solely for the eye of the District Attorney, and for the sole purpose of advising them of the complaints which were being made, and to caution them against any appearance of improper management, it is quite certain that if any of the defrauders of the revenue imagined that they were to reap advantage from the publication of the letter or from the very false construction which they tried to force upon it, they had been or would be signally mistaken. The Attorney General says that since the acquittal of General Babcock he had seen it stated in one of the western papers that the evidence bearing on the guilt of Babcock was communicated to his counsel by the Attorney General. He wished to state, in the most emphatic language, and without any possible reservation, that there is not the slightest truth in the statement. He never made a communication, either written or verbal, to either of General Babcock's counsel. As to Storrs, who is the counsel specially mentioned, the Attorney General says that he has no recollection that he ever saw him in his life; he was certain he never wrote to him; he might have seen him and been introduced to him at some one of the crowded receptions of the President's. This is possible. Very many persons are introduced to him at these receptions whose names are indistinctly heard, and therefore not remembered. He certainly never saw Storrs at his house, or at the department, or at any other house or place where he ever conversed with him upon the subject of Babcock's trial or upon any other subject.

Babcock's retirement from the White House is likely to be followed by his resignation from the army; it is asserted just now that many have been deceived in him.

Col. Fred. Grant is ordered to rejoin his command in the Yellowstone country, notwithstanding his wife's present health made him anxious to remain east.

The acceptance of Schenck's resignation and the appointment of a successor is another result of Belknap's exposure. The President is evidently abandoning his obstinate sticking to friends indiscriminately.

The Sun says that the cause of the rupture between the President and Babcock is the discovery that the latter is responsible for the leakage of the Pierpont letter to the District Attorney relative to the whiskey prosecutions.

New York, 6.—Reliable private advices from Washington say that the House committee on naval affairs find nothing against Robeson in their investigation, but that Norman Wiard's accounts for ordnance experiments, amounting to

over a quarter of a million dollars, are of such a character that his testimony is wanted, while rumor says that he went to China by the last steamer from San Francisco. His assistant has testified before the committee, that false reports of the progress and success of Wiard's experiments were continuously made, and that their cost was ten times the amount necessary.

GALVESTON, Tex., 6.—A special from Brownsville, Texas, says that the revolutionists under Diaz are rapidly gaining strength, and considerable consternation prevails amongst the government adherents in the towns along the Mexican border.

NEW YORK, 7.—Henry C. Bowen has received a copy of the charges preferred against him at the last weekly meeting by the examining committee of Plymouth church, with a summons to appear before the committee appointed by the church to examine the charges to-morrow evening.

A Boston dispatch says that Richard H. Dana, Jr., was suffering yesterday from a severe attack of vertigo, which prostrated him at church on Sunday; when the news of his nomination as minister to England was made, it is stated that he viewed the position as one of the most honorable. He felt that it was a dignity, but before he could make up his mind in favor of acceptance he must consult his friends.

The House for Aged People, conducted by the Catholic community known as the Little Sisters of the Poor, and located in the eastern district of Brooklyn, was completely burned this morning; the house comprised a four story building, and had 185 inmates. When these were made aware of the fire a panic seized them and, the sisters losing control, they ran through the buildings, some escaping to the street, but others sinking down exhausted, overcome by fright, smoke and pain. The firemen rescued all these, but a number who could not get to the lower floors by reason of the smoke and flames, ran for the roof; all who reached there were rescued, but some of the inmates, too feeble to run or clamber, were burned to death, while two who threw themselves from an upper window were fatally injured. Five bodies have been taken from the ruins. The loss on the building and furniture is \$25,000, insurance \$30,000.

The later report from the fire in the Home for the Indigent, under the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor, makes it more disastrous in its results than at first noted. It seems that the fire was discovered in the south wing, occupied by the male portion of the inmates, and contained seventy-two persons, whose age varied from 68 to 105 years. The fire was discovered by persons in the street, who gave the alarm by ringing the bell of the Institution, and awakening the Sisters and aged inmates. When the firemen arrived the flames were sweeping through the south wing in every direction, and it was not until about 9 o'clock that the fire had been reduced to smoldering embers in the basement that the firemen were enabled, by ladders, to examine the upper stories of the burned wing, when they found seventeen men burned in their beds on the upper story. The bedsteads were made of iron and rested on the charred beams which had remained in their places. The bodies were burned to a crisp, rendering them totally unrecognizable. It is said that thirty are missing, and it is feared are buried. The bodies of some may be found among the debris of the fire in the basement. The firemen succeeded in saving the main building of the south wing, which is occupied by about sixty old women.

BALTIMORE, Md., 7.—Warner, Dressel & Co., tobacco and shipping merchants, have suspended; the amount of their liabilities, part of which is in Europe, is not yet ascertained. The immediate cause of the failure was the suspension of Thompson & Randolph, whose notes they hold for \$20,000. Dresel has been German consul at this port for many years.

The grand jury, in the U. S. district court, has brought indictments against forty-five persons for the violation of the enforcement act of Congress, by intimidating and hindering persons from voting at the last State election.

Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, while the way freight train, with a passenger car

attached, was crossing the bridge over the narrow passage on the Harper's Ferry and Valley Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, sixty-three miles from Harper's Ferry, the middle span gave way, and the engine, tender and train fell through, and were wrecked. The following are the names of the killed—W. A. Whightman, of Edenburg, Va.; C. L. Noel, Mt. Jackson, Va.; R. E. Hammond, Mt. Jackson; R. L. Wood, Richmond, Va.; C. H. Modgson, Berkly Springs, a member of the West Virginia Legislature; J. H. Baldwin, Balto.; Mr. Gans, Winchester; A. C. Bowlers, commercial traveller, Balto.; F. Doran Engman, Sandy Hook, Ind.; J. D. Chapman, and F. Jefferson, brakemen, Winchester, Va. Six persons were wounded. The bodies of the killed were immediately sent to Winchester and placed in charge of an undertaker, and will be sent to their relatives and friends.

WASHINGTON, 7.—During the past month, in South Carolina, the operations of the revenue agents have resulted in breaking up thirty-three illicit distilleries, the capture of twenty-eight copper stills, caps and worms, forty-eight thousand gallons of mash and beer, and the arrest and binding over for trial of forty-four illicit distillers.

Secretary Chandler says that the story of the interview between him and General Belknap and wife, on Thursday morning, and the purported full confession is all made up.

District Attorney Dyer has telegraphed Attorney General Pierpont that neither himself nor General Henderson are in any way responsible for the publications relative to the Babcock trial.

Representatives Clymer, Blackburn, and Robbins of North Carolina, members of the committee on expenditures in the war department, appeared this morning, before the criminal court and stated that they had been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury. They denied the authority of the court to interrogate them as to the testimony of any witness before the committee of Congress; besides, they are constantly engaged in their duties as members of the committee, which would make it inconvenient for them to be present. They did not wish to plead their privilege, but to enter their protest, not only here but on the records of Congress for the country. District Attorney Wells said he thought he could remove the difficulty presented. In the first place he said he had no motive for, or orders, to ask any member of the committee anything as to any matter testified to by any witness before the committee; and in the second place, while appreciating the duties and engagements of the distinguished gentlemen, he thought the grand jury would fix such time as would subject the gentlemen to the least inconvenience. The Congressmen said in reply that if they were required to go before the grand jury and testify in relation to any matter, it would be impossible for them, as members of the committee, to give due attention to the examination of the matters with which they were especially entrusted; Judge McArthur remarked that it would not be competent for them to testify as to what a witness said before the committee, because that would be hearsay evidence. He would consider the subject, and confer with the District Attorney, so that when the gentlemen were wanted they could be so informed.

MONTREAL, 7.—The wife of Caleb P. Marsh has arrived in this city, and joined her husband.

BALTIMORE, 7.—Captain Geo. T. Robinson has a communication from H. B. Banning, chairman of the House committee on military affairs, requesting him to appear before the committee to make a complete statement of matters within his knowledge bearing on the pending investigation. Cap. Robinson states that he is very anxious to appear before the committee, and he will do so immediately, should his counsel consent, which he says is most probable, as it will give him an opportunity to show that the charges made against him are false.

PHILADELPHIA, 7.—A sub-committee of the House committee on naval affairs arrived in this city this morning, from Washington, for the purpose of investigating the alleged irregularities in the affairs of the navy yard here; the investigation will commence at once.