

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 23.—The situation in Maine and the probability of an appeal to the National Government to settle the threatened conflict of authority in that State continues to be the engrossing topic of conversation in Washington political circles; and notwithstanding the freely published denials of yesterday's reports concerning the attitude of the President and other prominent republicans on this question, there is no positive evidence obtainable to prove that these reports had a substantial foundation. To-day's discussion appears, however, to develop an important point which was generally overlooked yesterday, namely that the dominant party in Congress is likely to hold that if dual governments are set up, Congress has the right to decide which is the legal one, and that the President is not clothed with any such judicial power unless in case of insurrection or domestic violence he is called upon as commander-in-chief of the army to preserve the peace.

Representative Buckner, of Missouri, in conversation on this subject to-day, called attention to the speech of Senator Morton on the Electoral bill, in which he took precisely the position above indicated, and supported it by the following extract from a Supreme Court decision in the case of Luther vs. Borden:

"Under the Constitution it rests with Congress to decide what government is the established one in a State, for before the United States can guarantee to a State a republican government some form of government must be established in a State before it can be determined whether it is republican or not."

This view, it will be observed, does not impair the sagacity of the general republican plan of action described in last evening's dispatches, for as then intimated the republicans expect the issue will be presented by means of an application to the President for national aid to repress domestic violence.

Congressman Blount, of Georgia, is also of the opinion that Congress and not the President is the proper power to settle disputes in States. Referring to the Brooks-Baxter Arkansas contest seven or eight years ago, he recalled the fact that although the President recognized one of the dual legislatures and the governor, as the legal power in the State, Congress, nevertheless sent a committee to investigate the trouble; and in accordance with that committee and report the action of the President was reversed and the governor and legislature that he refused to recognize, were recognized by Congress and assumed the exercise of its legal functions.

A prominent democrat, who does not care to have his name published, denounces the action of Gov. Garcelon and his council quite vehemently, and adds: "I believe the whole thing was set up by Samuel J. Tilden to attract the attention of the people of the country to the outrage, so that it may more strongly appreciate the outrage perpetrated in Louisiana in 1876, which Tilden thinks, if properly appreciated, will again give him a chance for the presidency as a martyr."

In this direction a very clever *don mot* is current in democratic circles concerning Senator Hamlin's public assertions that he didn't believe eight men could be found outside of the walls of a penitentiary who would do such a thing as count out republicans in Maine. To this it is replied that the celebrated eight of the electoral commission are still at large.

It is rumored in official quarters that soon after the reassembling of Congress the Administration will specially recommend some bill for an enactment to provide for the more effectual prosecution and conviction of polygamists. The recommendation will most probably come from the Department of Justice, and favor the passage of some such measure as that recently introduced by Representative Willets in regard to the proof of plural marriages, together with sundry features of the bill agreed upon by the Senate judiciary committee in the last Congress, among which will be one legitimizing the children of polygamous marriages and making provision for amnesty for past offences for a specified period.

The charges received here against

Governor Emery of Utah are principally to the effect that he is under the influence of Mormon leaders. Strong rebutting representations have also been received, but it seems to be the general impression that his prospects for reappointment are not good. Among the persons mentioned as his probable successor is Gen. Chas. E. Ewing, brother of Congressman Thomas Ewing and brother-in-law of Gen. Sherman.

The Secretary of the Interior has rendered a decision of importance to all purchasers of public lands by private entry, holding that when, prior to patenting, it is discovered that land previously offered and entered as agricultural, is really mineral in its character, the entry must be cancelled and the land reserved for entry under the laws specially applicable to mining lands. The issue was presented by the case of *Smith Scogging vs. Charles E. Culver et al.*, involving title to a tract of 2,000 acres of land in Camden, Arkansas, a district which was purchased from the government at private entry in 1878, but subsequently found to contain argentiferous leads.

With reference to the proposed negotiation for a commercial treaty between the United States and Roumania, it is ascertained that Secretary Evarts has instructed Minister Kasson to take notice of a letter filed at the State Department by Simon Wolf in behalf of a board of delegates of American Israelites protesting against any recognition of the Roumanian government till it complies with the provisions of the Berlin treaty guaranteeing not only civil but religious liberty to all its subjects. Minister Kasson is instructed to act in accordance with the request of this letter.

All the departments will be closed on Christmas and New Years. On the days intervening, the Treasury Department will be open between 10 and 1 o'clock. The other departments from 9 to 12. At the Navy Department half the clerical force will be absent every other day. All the departments close at 12 to-morrow.

The New York tobacco manufacturers protest against the proposed change in the manner of printing internal revenue stamps in tinfoil tobacco wraps and the department promises to consult the wishes of the trade before making any alteration.

Judge Harlan has rendered a decision in the case of the Columbus, Chicago & Indiana Central Railroad Company against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He fixes the amount due plaintiff at \$2,600,000.

Quite a party will accompany Gen. Grant on his trip south, including Lieutenant General Sheridan and Mrs. Sheridan, Col. Fred. Grant and wife, and several other ladies and gentlemen.

NEW YORK, 23.—A Washington special to the *Evening Post* says: The President, in conversation with Representative Williams (republican of Wisconsin) this morning, expressed some very decided views on the situation in Maine. The latter deprecated the State Legislature's grabbing the vote of the State. The President replied quickly and with emphasis, "But they are not going to grab it; this Maine business is not going to succeed," and added that if he were one of the republican members of that legislature, he would sit there until September and by every device known to parliamentary law for the protection of minorities, all other business should be suspended until the wrong was righted. He would not resort to force, but he would endeavor to bring to bear upon the democrats such a weight of public opinion that they could not escape or resist it. If counted in by technicalities, they should be thwarted in their revolutionary purpose until they were made to feel that the will of the majority, when properly and legally expressed, must control. He expressed the opinion that the good people of all parties, as the facts became known, would emphatically condemn the outrage.

A dispatch from Washington says: A circular without signature has been sent to the clerks in the departments from Maine, who served in the Union army during the war, ordering them to so arrange their affairs that they can meet without delay at the Grand Army Hall, to organize a rifle club and start at once for Augusta, Maine. The circular says: Uniforms, great coats and caps, will be furnished with rations and trans-

portation and a supply of Spencer rifles will be provided on the way north.

CHICAGO, 23.—The *Daily News* European correspondent has interviewed D. D. Spencer, president of the defunct savings bank of Chicago, who is at present living at Wurtemberg, Germany. He verifies the history of his travels as already published, and says he has made no effort to conceal his whereabouts. He gives details of the operations of the bank and the causes which led to the suspension. He says he took with him from Chicago only \$10,000, which he realized on his life insurance. He is anxious to return to Chicago that he may in a measure clear up the stigma which rests upon his name.

There is no change in the condition of affairs at the stock yards. Several of the largest houses refuse utterly to concede any further points to the workmen. Several others are running very tight and only a few minor ones slaughtering to their full capacity. A number of hogs have been shipped from here to Milwaukee, but by far the greater number are detained at the points of shipping till matters have assumed a definite shape here.

The *Drivers Journal* this evening, publishes a letter from an influential Catholic Priest of the Nativity Church, in which he advises the Union to rescind their last order, that packers shall not hire non-union workmen. It is regarded as likely to accomplish its purpose, especially as the strikers are in bad financial condition.

CINCINNATI, 23.—The *Commercial's Versalles* (Indiana) special says: Father Donhafer, of Morris, Ripley County, Catholic Church, who was brought to trial for whipping the boys of his school for acting as pall bearers at the funeral of a Protestant boy was found guilty in two cases, and fined \$13 in one case and \$15 in another, and costs amounting to \$300. The case has caused much excitement, and the defendant has asked and received two changes of venue on account of the high state of feeling.

The wrestling match to-night, between John McMahon and W. L. Kennedy, collar and elbow style, at Robinson's Opera House, was won by McMahon. Kennedy won the first fall, but McMahon threw Kennedy the next two falls. McMahon starts to-morrow for Boston, where he has a match with Dufour.

ST. LOUIS, 23.—A terrible combat occurred last evening between Patsy Brennan, a well known sport and professional pugilist, and a Siberian blood hound, for a wager of \$250. The affair was conducted very secretly and the police knew nothing of it. It took place about 10 o'clock out on the Harlem Bridge Road, in an old stable. The fight lasted three-quarters of an hour when the man proved victorious. The dog died shortly after the fight. Patsy Brennan is lying in bed in a shocking condition. His shoulders and arms are terribly lacerated and torn. His injuries, however, will not prove fatal.

ATOHISON, KS., 24.—A special to the *Champion* from Blue Rapids, 100 miles west of this city, states that the Buell Woolen Mills at that place took fire at 8 o'clock this morning, and were totally destroyed. The fire originated in the upper story of the building, which was a fine stone structure, supplied with the latest and best machinery. Wool and manufactured goods were stored in another building, which was not injured. James Waring, foreman of the mill, was badly injured by a fall from a ladder. The loss is a very serious one to the community.

NEW YORK, 24.—The opposition to the appointment of Governor Emery, of Utah, is becoming very aggressive. Mr. McBride, of Salt Lake City, one of the most prominent lawyers in the Territory, came to Washington to attend the recent meeting of the National Republican Committee, and during his stay he called upon the President in relation to the governorship of Utah. He is understood to make no accusations against Governor Emery, but he represents to the President that the Gentiles in Salt Lake City desire the appointment of some man who is outspoken in his opposition to Mormonism and in whom they would have more confidence in case of trouble. McBride does not complain of anything which Governor Emery has done or left undone, but fears he may not prove equal to any emergency that may arise.

Among the means that are being used by others in the attempt to prevent the reappointment of Emery is the charge that has been widely published in the newspapers that the Governor approved the law passed by the territorial legislature which repealed the statutes against seduction, adultery and kindred crimes. This repeal, it is asserted, left the Territory destitute of "any law that could reach polygamy."

A *Tribune* correspondent made a careful and thorough search to-day through the journals of the legislative assembly of Utah covering the entire period of Emery's administration. The examination proved that the above accusation is wholly false. If any law against adultery, seduction, etc., ever existed in Utah, it was repealed before Emery's time and he is not to blame for its abolition.

Another accusation against the governor is that he has favored the election law, which gives the Mormons the practical control of elections. The facts are as shown by the legislative records of Utah, that he has steadily used his influence in favor of an amendment of the election laws and from the very charge against him, it appears that he has measurably succeeded by securing the adoption of a law providing for a secret ballot. Before that, the law required that each ballot should be endorsed with the name of the voter. This, of course, placed almost unlimited power in the hands of the Mormon hierarchy. As to the general accusation that Emery has virtually been acting for a long time in the interest of the Mormons, a study of the journals above referred to, shows that the contrary is true. The governor's two regular messages, and numerous other messages which he has sent to the legislature on special subjects, prove that he has maintained a dignified attitude in support of the laws of the United States.

Of Emery's friends now in this city, one of the most active is Chief Justice Hunter, of Utah. In conversation with the President yesterday, he assured the latter that the governor could be depended upon to act fearlessly in any emergency, and that it will be a great mistake to fail to reappoint him now when affairs in Utah seem to be approaching a crisis and when there is perfect harmony and understanding among the federal officers of the Territory. The President has great confidence in Judge Hunter, and will probably be influenced by his advice. The administration is in earnest in its war upon polygamy, and its only desire is to have a man in the executive chair of Utah who will not falter in his duty. If the President can be convinced that Emery is such a man, as he undoubtedly is, he will certainly reappoint him. It is understood that already two candidates are in the field for Emery's place. One of these is Gen. Charles Ewing, of Ohio, and brother of Congressman Ewing, and a brother-in-law of Secretary Sherman. The other is N. G. Ordway, formerly sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives.

The *World* presents the following in italics in a score of places in its issue to-day: Suppose Horatio Seymour were nominated by the democratic party for the presidency in 1880, does anybody suppose that Grant could carry this State against him?

The *Herald* has no hope that O'ray will be able to do anything towards surrendering the guilty Indians, and says: From this distance another Canby affair seems quite as probable as anything better.

On the Maine question it says: The election proved that the republicans of Maine are a minority. The preponderance of physical strength is on the side of the fusionists. Blaine knows this perfectly well, and even if the republicans were a majority he is too wise to disturb the peace of the State, but he has permitted some of his followers to play with fire and things have come to a pass where he must hold them in check.

Yesterday, Broadway was crowded and jammed to an extent unknown for years. Pedestrians were compelled to go a block out of the way and omnibuses sought the side streets. This state of things lasted till long after dark. A block extended from Chambers Street to the battery, nearly a mile, and comprised vehicles of all descriptions, mainly trucks with holiday goods for outward bound steamers.

A similar scene is looked for to-day.

PORTLAND, 24.—At an indignation meeting last night Ex-Gov. Washburne presided, and criticized severely the action of the governor and council, and appealed to the honest democrats to denounce their proceedings.

AUGUSTA, 24.—The Fusionists held a public meeting here last evening at which speeches were made endorsing the action of the governor as being thoroughly in accordance with law and the constitution of the State. Resolutions expressive of these views were adopted.

Gov. Garcelon made a speech asking that himself and colleagues be sustained in the action they had taken.

A Montreal dispatch says: A public meeting called by the mayor was held last night to discuss the question of distress in Ireland. Alderman Jennet, acting mayor, presided. A number of influential citizens including Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen, occupied seats on the platform. A series of resolutions in favor of equitable land laws for the Irish tenantry were unanimously adopted. The speeches were characterized by a spirit of moderation and loyalty.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 23.—News of Edison's discovery again depreciate gas stocks.

At a meeting of the corporation of Dublin, yesterday, the Lord Mayor announced the receipt of a telegram from the Mayor of Adelaide, Australia, inquiring whether Ireland would warrant an appeal to be made there for the relief of the destitute Irish, and that he had replied that great distress was anticipated in the south and west and public aid was most desirable.

On the 2d inst., the Viceroy of India telegraphs as follows: Gen. Bright reports the continued advance of reinforcements. All quiet at Peizeran and convoys are passing thence Jogdulluk. Kugran is quiet.

LONDON, 23.—A portion of the ship's company of the abandoned steamer *Borussia*, landed at Queenstown to-day, consisting of the chief engineer, doctor, boat-swain and six seamen. They were picked up on the 5th inst., in an open boat. The *Borussia* had 180 passengers, of which number 105 embarked at Liverpool and seventy-five at Corunna. The crew numbered fifty-four men. After leaving Corunna, on Nov. 24, the *Borussia* experienced terrific weather, and sprung a leak on the 1st of December. The severity of the weather increasing, the vessel was abandoned on the second, about 350 miles south-west of Fayal. The captain and second officer remained with the sinking steamer. The crew and passengers left her in eleven boats. Before they were separated, one boat had capsized, and all the occupants drowned.

QUEENSTOWN, 23.—The survivors of the *Borussia* started immediately for Liverpool. It appears that a panic occurred among the passengers and crew. The survivors state that no order to launch the boats and prepare for the abandonment of the vessel was given by the officers. The crew themselves lowered the boats without waiting for orders. About twelve passengers got into the boats with a part of the crew; the remainder of the passengers went down in the vessel with the captain, second mate, 3 engineers, 11 firemen, 3 stewards, the carpenter and two boys. One boat was swamped alongside the vessel and its occupants, five men, were drowned. The survivors state that at 9 o'clock on the night of the abandonment of the vessel they saw a rocket ascend from a schooner, and soon after her masthead lights suddenly disappeared.

Intelligence from Cannes indicates that the Czarina's condition is so critical that there is little hope of her survival more than a few days.

A fire Sunday in the Sports Caes. ini Palace, Rome, caused considerable damage. Some valuable works of art were destroyed.

The first meeting of the Russian Council of Ministers has been convoked for the 26th inst.

The announcement was made yesterday and extensively circulated and placarded in London and the provinces, stating that the Attorney General having granted his fiat for a writ of error in the case of the Tichborne claimant, an association is being formed to assist the