

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

The Chaplain of the Senate, in his opening prayer, returned thanks to Providence for the repeal of the salary bill.

WASHINGTON, 14.—Schurz said the issue now seemed to be between resumption and inflation. He thought the doctrine of procrastination, in redeeming the legal tenders, an alarming and dangerous one. He was opposed to the reissue of any portion of the 44,000,000 of the reserve, and he argued at length against the policy of expanding the currency in any way, as not only not calculated to relieve the people, but rather to add to the present results. Every consideration of good faith and sound policy, he declared, urges the U. S. to put an end to this iniquitous system. He especially criticized the plan for resumption proposed by Ferry, of Mich., which he said was to extend the currency until the country was prosperous, and then resume payment; he also criticized the plan of Boutwell, which he characterized as the "know nothing" policy, of which the country had had too much already. The return to specie payment must be preceded by severe retrenchment in public and private expenditures, by prudence in business enterprises, and by a recognition of the truth that honest and productive labor is the true source of wealth. He argued that the West and South had never been, and never would be, benefited by the expansion of the currency, but would be greatly benefited by a resumption of specie payment. He argued that the present was an auspicious time to begin resumption, as one of the greatest difficulties in the way, the shrinkage of prices, was now less than ever before. In conclusion he announced his intention of voting for the resolution of the minority, offered by Bayard, and if that failed, for that of the majority, as the next best, and he expressed a hope that a bill would soon be prepared providing for a return to specie payments.

At the close of Schurz' speech the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House took up the Senate substitute for the salary bill. Hurlbut, who introduced the bill for which this was a substitute, declared his willingness to accept the substitute as a satisfactory solution of the vexed question; he yielded the floor, however, to Hale, chairman of the select committee on the subject, who moved a concurrence in the substitute, and called for the previous question.

Butler and Dawes wanted to offer or indicate an amendment, and Cox said that himself and others wanted a more perfect bill; but Hale stood firm, declaring that he would not risk the subject being opened again. He believed that the bill was as good as the House would get. The previous question was then seconded, 126 to 57, and the substitute was adopted, yeas 226, nays 25. The bill now

In the house the report of the committee on the revision of the laws was received. It is a ponderous document, containing three thousand printed pages, and it was agreed to hold two evening sessions each week until it was disposed of. The house then went into a committee of the whole on the same, and after some discussion adjourned.

AMERICAN.

BOSTON, 13.—Fleming's bookbindery, on the upper floor of 74 Sudbury street, was burned this morning; also the stock of the other occupants. A number of publishers had valuable works in the bindery; the loss is not stated.

The loss of Fleming & Co., book binders, by the destruction of their establishment in Sudbury street, to-day, is, on their stock, between forty and fifty thousand, only partly insured. They had on hand for binding about \$100,000 worth of books belonging to publishers in Boston and New York. Among the losers are J. Osgood & Co., Lee & Shephard, Jno. L. Sperry, the Congregational Publishing House, R. S. Daly & Co., Estes & Sauriat, Armstrong & Co. The loss of Woolworth, Ainsworth & Co., publishers, N. Y., is about \$10,000, insured.

The Boston Congregational Publishing Society lost \$10,000, insured; Lee and Shephard lost about \$25,000, insured. The total loss will probably be \$150,000.

Misses May and Peabody, two of the women recently elected on the school committee, were admitted to seats in that body last night pending the question of the legality of their election.

AUSTIN, Tex., 13.—Both branches of the legislature met to-day and organized without opposition. A committee was appointed to inform Governor Davis of their organization, and of their readiness to receive any message from him.

CHARLESTON, S. C., 13.—At a meeting of property holders at Columbus, yesterday, it was resolved to ask the taxpayers' convention, which meets on the 17th of Feb., in view of the ruinous rate of taxes imposed by the State Legislature, to petition Congress to remand the State to a Territorial condition, or to place it again under military rule.

NEW YORK, 13.—Sidney McLeod, a ship carpenter, has been arrested in Jersey city, charged with causing the death of his wife by violence.

Ex-Senator Graham, the defaulting president of the Walkill National bank, was, to-day, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the Albany penitentiary.

Reuben M. Murdoch, a special policeman, shot his wife dead, to-night; she had been out to a neighbor's, and returning at ten o'clock she entered the back door; her husband, thinking it was a burglar, fired; he was arrested.

MANCHESTER, N. J., 13.—The engineers and train and track hands of the New Jersey Southern R. R., quit work last evening; the locomotives are in the shops partly disconnected and taken out. The track has been torn up in different places, preventing the trains from running.

The caucus of Republican Senators was called more especially to exchange views relative to the nomination of Cushing for Chief Justice. The meeting of the Senate at noon interrupted the proceedings of the caucus, but after an early adjournment of the session the caucus resumed, when Senators Edmunds, Conkling and Boutwell advocated the confirmation of Cushing. These were his principal advocates, but those who spoke on the other side were far more numerous, and before the discussion ended it was observed that the nominee's friends were in the minority. Finally, it was informally decided to ask the judiciary committee to call upon the President and represent to him the feeling among the Republican Senators against the confirmation. The opposition to Cushing is solely upon political grounds.

TOPEKA, Kas., 13.—The Legislature convened at noon to-day. B. H. McEckson, of Cloud county, was elected Speaker of the House by a unanimous vote. In taking the chair he announced himself an original Republican, but fully in sympathy with retrenchment and reform and opposed to all monopolies. The Senate met and virtually decided not to go into a reorganization of that body, as had been contemplated.

DES MOINES, 13.—Both branches of the Legislature met to-day. The Senate elected the nominees of the Republican caucus for officers, and adopted a resolution censuring severely the members of Congress who voted for, and the President for signing, the increase of salary bill, and demanding its repeal.

SAN FRANCISCO, 13.—The news that the *China* was spoken at sea, all right, Dec. 19th, has done much to allay the anxiety for her safety, but the Chinese, who have on board a full outfit for their new temple, are constantly at prayer for her safe arrival in port.

The weather remains very cold for this locality.

HELENA, Ma., 13.—Yesterday, in digging in the ruins of the International hotel, the body of Konrad Knipper was found, he having perished in the late fire.

The weather is cold, the thermometer three below zero.

CHICAGO, 14.—Washington specials give a lively account of the Cushing caucus yesterday. The *Inter-Ocean's* special says if lightning had struck the room in which the Senate caucus was held it would not have disturbed Cushing's friends more than the letter, produced and read by Sargent, from Cushing to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. When

the caucus met it was fully attended, Cushing's friends feeling confident. Edwards opened and presented the case for the committee, but showed plainly that personally he had little heart in the matter. Sargent opposed the confirmation bitterly, and gave way to Cameron, who said he desired to leave on the noon train, but he wished to indicate his position. He then attacked the nomination with great vigor, and said that if made it would destroy the Republican party.

Sargent, resuming, referred to Cushing's antecedents, and coming down to 1862, produced and read a letter of Cushing to Marcy, of New Hampshire, denouncing the war in a style that would have done credit to Vallandigham.

Scott followed very much in the strain of Sargent and Cameron. He would not support the resolution unless it could be proved to his entire satisfaction that Cushing was sound on the great question growing out of the war, and he must have convincing proof.

Frelinghuysen, of the committee, followed, and endorsed those views.

Scott spoke of the great importance of the office, and said that it was essentially political, and that it would not answer to put a man there if reasonable suspicion existed that he was not in the fullest accord with the settlement of the war. His speech had great effect.

Boutwell next got the floor, but as it was noon he gave way to the motion to adjourn. It was agreed that the caucus should meet again as soon as the Senate adjourned, which it did, very early. Boutwell began, but was considerably embarrassed by the letter which Sargent had read. He went on to say, however, that from his acquaintance with Cushing since the war, he had been led to believe that he was fully committed to and in sympathy with the position of the republican party, and that he believed Cushing had been in favor of the war. He based his belief in this regard on his Newburyport speech in 1861, already printed in the newspapers. He was greatly surprised at the letter to Marcy, which he had just heard for the first time. He closed with feeble words, the letter had evidently stopped his speech. Toward the close of Boutwell's speech Edmunds interrupted him, to say that he had just heard a report that Cushing had written a letter to Jefferson Davis in 1861, and he thought it just and proper to mention it. Boutwell resumed to close his remarks, and while he was speaking Sargent came in, and he was soon noticed to be showing around what appeared to be a letter. Mr. Edmunds' statement created great excitement, but no one knew that such a letter as he alluded to had been seen by anybody. Among others Conkling was observed to take Sargent's letter to the window and read it. He defended Cushing, saying that he was like many other Democrats—at first opposed to the war, but afterwards they were loyal to the Union. After the speech of Conkling there were calls on all sides for Sargent to read the letter he had. He objected, saying he had been requested by Senators not to read it in the caucus, but so many Senators insisted, that finally he read it. It was dated Washington, March 21, '61, and was addressed to Jeff. Davis and began—

"My dear friend." Up to a late hour it has been impossible to obtain a verbatim copy, but it read in substance as follows: "My dear friend, This will introduce to you my friend Abraham Powers who has been clerk in one of the departments here for six or seven years. He leaves the service here on account of opinions and being a southern man by birth and education, and devoted to what he regarded as his country and the Confederacy. He has been a contributor to *De Bow's Review*, and is fully acquainted with the questions which undermined and have now broken up the American Union. I commend him to your favorable notice as a man who is worthy of your confidence. (Signed)

"CALEB CUSHING."

The reading produced an immense sensation. Those who had defended Cushing looked blank and amazed. Lewis, of Virginia, cried out to learn whether the political disabilities of Cushing had ever been removed. The caucus was for some time broken up and Senators were in confusion talking the matter over and asking again for the points. At last order was

restored, when it was at once decided, without opposition, that the judiciary committee should wait on the President, and ask him to withdraw the nomination of Cushing on the ground of correspondence with the enemy during the rebellion. The gentleman thus commended to Davis was a clerk in the Attorney General's office here under Caleb Cushing. He was before a midshipman from Texas. With this letter he went to Montgomery, and on its strength was made chief of the Confederate States Produce bureau, and served in that capacity in the confederacy. The committee will wait on the President to-day. The letter was found yesterday by an official of the government and given to the Adjutant-General, who took it at once to Secretary Belknap, and the latter took it over to the President. It was mentioned in the Cabinet to-day, and Senator Sargent, learning of the letter this afternoon, went to the department and procured a copy. The case recalled the letter of Jesse D. Bright, for which he was expelled from the Senate. This letter, dated three weeks before Cushing's, was as follows:

"WASHINGTON,

"March 14, 1861.

"MY DEAR SIR.—Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance my friend Thomas B. Lincoln, of Texas. He visits your capital mainly to dispose of what he regards as a great improvement in fire arms, and I recommend him to your favorable consideration. He is a gentleman of great respectability, and reliable in every respect. Very truly yours, Jesse D. Bright. To his Excellency, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States."

Although the Senate has confirmed Cushing as Minister to Spain, the universal opinion is that he will not be allowed to sail, and that the President will revoke his commission.

The *Tribune's* special says Cushing's letter was found among the captured archives of the Confederacy.

BALTIMORE, 14.—The National Blacklayers' Union, yesterday, rejected a proposition to receive colored men of the craft.

WASHINGTON, 14.—The Cabinet meeting, fully attended, was held this forenoon, to consider the subject of Cushing's nomination for Chief Justice. Subsequently, the matter was settled by Cushing writing, at the President's request, for the withdrawal of his nomination, which was accordingly done in a communication just sent to the Senate.

LONDON, 14.—Dispatches from Cape Coast Castle report that General Woolseley and staff, with two hundred seamen, started for the river Pra, December 27, and that his scouts had gone several miles beyond without encountering the enemy.

BOSTON, 17.—A letter of the late Governor Andrew, dated April, '61, to Caleb Cushing, declining his proffered service, is made public to-day. The governor says, "Your relation to public affairs, your frequently avowed opinion touching the ideas and sentiments of Massachusetts, your intimacy, social and political, and your sympathetic intercourse with the leading secessionists of the rebel States, maintained for years and never, unless at this moment, discontinued, forbid my tendering any place for you in the counsels of the camp."

The national board of trade has endorsed the memorial of the N. Y. Chamber of Commerce to Congress for an international commission of the maritime powers, to devise laws for additional safety to ocean travel.

The resolution of the Boston Board of Trade condemning the system in moieties in the customs laws was adopted.

The report of the committee on national finance, which was berated and will be voted on to-morrow, declares against any further issue whatever of paper money, that legal tenders to the amount of those issued from the forty-four millions of the reserve should be at once retired and cancelled, that the strictest economy and the closest retrenchment should be observed in every department of the public service, and asking Congress to amend the national banking law so as to compel banks to keep the coin interest received on their bonds deposited as security for their circulation until it equals at least thirty per cent of the circulation.

NEW YORK, 14.—The Spanish frigate *Arapiles* went ashore at the

foot of Bridge St., Brooklyn, to-day, while leaving the navy yard.

The bedding warehouse of James Flanigan, Chatham square, was burned last night; loss thirty thousand.

Peter Swenson, a Swedish sailor, carved a companion to death last night in a quarrel over cards.

Judge Blachford, of the U. S. district court, denied the motion for the discharge of Joab Lawrence, who is held on a warrant charged with swindling a number of persons in Michigan by means of worthless mining stocks; he is in custody of the sheriff, waiting the action of Governor Dix.

The Spanish frigate *Arapiles*, which went on a reef on east river this morning, was floated off and is now anchored off the battery.

Several communists, arrested yesterday, have been released on bail, to await trial on a charge of having attempted to incite a riot.

The trouble among the coal miners in Pennsylvania continues. In some districts the miners have expressed their willingness to return to work on the old basis, but in many others they demand an advance and assert their ability to hold out until the demand is complied with.

In Jersey, to-night, Joseph Freeman shot and killed his mother, a widow, because in reply to his demand for two thousand dollars she said she had not that much; he was arrested and is supposed to be insane.

INDIANAPOLIS, 14.—Col. Thos. N. Stillwell, minister to Venezuela during Johnson's administration, was shot and instantly killed by Jno. E. Corwin, at Anderson, Ind., this afternoon; they were disputing about some financial matters connected with the Stillwell Bank of Anderson, when Stillwell drew a pistol and fired; the ball struck a silver dollar in Corwin's pocket, wounding him slightly in the leg. Corwin then fired, hitting Stillwell in the temple, the ball passing through his brain. Corwin surrendered himself.

WASHINGTON, 14.—The letter of Caleb Cushing to the President, requesting the withdrawal of his nomination for Chief Justice, indignantly denies any and all the aspersions upon his loyalty to the Union at any time of his life. He declares that he was opposed to secession always, and when it became a fact he stood firmly by the Union and tendered his services in any capacity to uphold its integrity. He asserts that he is and has always been in accord with the constitutional amendments made necessary by the changed condition of the country, and that he has the same respect for them as for the other portions of the constitution, and concludes by saying—"It belongs to my sense of public duty, and it is my right to reaffirm, and dare contradiction, that I have never, in the long course of a not inactive life, done an act, uttered a word, or conceived a thought or tone of disloyalty to the constitution or Union."

The Senate, to-day, confirmed the nomination of General Crook as Brigadier General.

ALTON, Ills. 14.—A fire, this morning, destroyed seven stores; loss \$100,000.

AUSTIN, Tex., 14.—Both houses of the new legislature have appointed committees to confer with each other and with the governor in regard to a settlement of their differences.

SAN FRANCISCO, 14.—In the legislature, to-day, a bill was introduced for the abolition of the death penalty for murder and treason.

Boucicault commences an engagement at the California Theatre on Monday.

The officers of the law seem to have lost all trace of Tiburcio Vasquez and his gang of bandits, since their last exploit at Kingston, Fresno Co.

CHICAGO, 15.—Washington specials give the credit of Cushing's nomination to Butler, of Mass., who desired, in this way, to secure the promotion of a life-long friend, and to revenge himself on Judge Hoar, who opposed him for governor.

The *Tribune's* special says that yesterday the President communicated with Judge Curtis, of Mass., who is now in this city, to know if he would accept the nomination.

BOSTON, 15.—The Cole block in Newton was burned yesterday afternoon; loss \$30,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, 15.—The steamer *China*, from Hongkong and Yokohama, arrived this morning.