

existing in the state government will speedily be recognized, and that the wrongs committed in the last eight days will be set right, I give the pledge requested, that no effort will be made on the part of the lawful State government to forcibly disturb the existing state of affairs without further communication with you."

NEW YORK, 17.—The *World's* Washington correspondent says it can be authoritatively stated that the conference committees of the two houses, on a plan to verify and count the electoral vote, have virtually agreed. At yesterday's meeting the main feature was adopted by a decided majority. This feature proposes a tribunal of arbitration, to be composed of the first five judges of the Supreme Court, to be selected in order of their length of service on the bench. To this arbitration is to be referred all questions of law and equity arising out of the contested returns for decision as to which is the proper return to be counted. This decision, however, is not to be final, as has been foreshadowed in some quarters, but to be left to revision by Congress. The two houses are to briefly debate it, and then vote upon it. If both do not agree to reject it, then it is to remain, and the return submitted for such vote is to be canvassed for a valid electoral vote. The arbitrators are to act co-ordinately and directly with the two houses of Congress, through the President of the Senate, and the decision submitted by the former is to be passed upon separately by each house, but announced to a joint convention. If both the Senate and House decide to reverse, then the return involved in it is not to be counted. The whole plan is expected to be submitted to Congress.

CINCINNATI, 17.—The river is rising four inches per hour. Houses immediately on the river bank are partially submerged.

The cashier of the Union Trust Bank, to-day, discovered a forged check for \$64,000, which he had certified to the day before, and which had been used by a forger to purchase \$48,000 in gold. The forger is undiscovered.

WASHINGTON, 17.—Assistant Secretary French, of the Treasury, says he has advices from the Hawaiian minister, that the following articles are admitted free of duty from the United States: Silks, satins, and silk velvet and linens, if made of a combination of wool, cotton, silk or linen, or of any two or more of them, other than ready-made clothing. The minister remarks that while the pure article of silk or linen in piece goods pays duty, the mixed goods pay none, if of the growth, produce or manufacture of the United States, and that wooden clocks, toys made of wood, and fire arms, if made of wood or wood and metal, and nothing else, free; and also playing cards as a manufacture of paper, and cigars, cheroots and cigarettes. He holds that matches are subject to duty.

The executive committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company has been summoned before the committee on the powers and privileges of the House.

TROY, N. Y., 17.—An explosion of five tons of powder this morning demolished three buildings of the Schaghticoke Powder Mills. The shock was felt for twenty miles around. A large quantity of the powder was for the Prussian Government.

CHICAGO, 17.—On the occasion of Mr. Moody's final services at the tabernacle last night, that building was crowded to overflowing. It was announced that a considerable sum of money was needed to pay off the debt on Faneuil Hall which is occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association, to continue these meetings, and to meet certain other obligations incurred during the services here. A subscription, taken on the spot, amounted to about \$67,000, nearly the amount asked for.

NEW YORK, 17.—Wall Street, to-day, was excited by the news that a bogus check for \$64,000, purporting to be drawn by the New York Life Insurance Company on the Union Trust Company, and bearing the same number and date as another for \$150,000, had been presented and paid, and subsequently found to be a clever forgery. The stranger presenting it, after securing his money, bought \$40,000 in gold of Maxwell, a broker on Broad Street, and disappeared. The Trust Company assumes the loss. Detec-

tives are busily working up the case.

Hatch Brothers, in a card, caution the public against negotiating their check, No. 10,392 for \$9,500 gold, on the bank of New York, and certified by the bank, payment having been stopped on account of fraud.

WASHINGTON, 17.—The silver disbursements since April 18th, 1876, for fractional currency, re-deemed \$16,009,000 on currency checks, and on obligations \$10,680,000.

The director at the Mint at Brussels, Belgium, has made a proposition to coin silver for the United States Government. He states that the mints of Europe are closed against silver, and the European market is in a deplorable condition. He thinks that by using his bullion houses in Brussels, Paris and London for purchasing bullion and coining it at his mint, great stability would be given to the silver market, and the United States would thereby be able to coin trade dollars to an extent sufficient to control the India and China exchanges. He is further of the opinion that the American silver mining interests would also be promoted by the acceptance of his proposition.

The Indian appropriation bill, as completed by the committee and reported to the House, to-day, contains items of \$300,000 for the subsistence of the Apaches in Arizona, and \$100,000 for the Apaches in New Mexico. The amounts provided for the general expenses of the Indian service are as follows: For California \$30,000; Arizona \$20,000; New Mexico \$15,000; Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Utah \$10,000 each.

The bill introduced by Lane, to-day, provides that any settlement made by the person entitled to the benefits of the homestead or pre-emption laws, shall give him vested right, forfeitable only by his failure to comply with the law under which he claims, and that in case such settlement is on surveyed land his right to enter a quarter section shall date from the actual settlement, but without requiring papers to be filed until the survey is made.

Secretary Chandler, to-day, decided to adhere fully to his decision in the case of the Last Chance mineral claimants against the Sacramento Mining Co., of Utah, which he recalled at the request of the Land Office authorities, who sought its modification. The decision thus maintained establishes general principles to the effect that whenever the courts have acquired jurisdiction over any mining contest, all proceedings in the Land Department must be stayed to await the Court's final decision, even though the party applying for the patent shall have filed an abandonment of the surface ground in the conflict.

NEW ORLEANS, 17.—Gen. Auger, in replying to Gov. Packard's letter, last night, mentions the fact that it was given to the papers and telegraphed north before he (Auger) could see it, and says but for some errors affecting the writer personally, it would not be necessary to answer it. He says that the order to which Packard referred in his letter, as being issued on the 9th instant, and which he considered as commanding that the *statu quo* had been preserved, was not received until the supreme court, arsenal and police stations were surrendered, and it is quite a new thing to the writer that it should be constituting a maintenance of *statu quo*, as he (Packard) repeatedly expressed the intention of recovering the lost ground at any favorable opportunity, and had demanded of Auger, through his sheriff, the court room; and applied for troops to assist in its recovery. These threats have furnished an excuse for Nicholas party to keep a guard ready to resist any attempts to recover. The writer had inquired, through his staff officers, yesterday, of both Nicholls and Packard, if some agreement could not be made for the preservation of the *statu quo* until the President should make his decision, thus obviating the necessity for armed men and conduce to peace. This was a suggestion, not a request, and was intended to give moments of quiet to this excited city, but neither party thought it advisable to accept it, and there it ended. He adds that he made no request that both parties give assurance that residents' wishes be respected in this matter, as Packard asserted he did.

In the democratic Senate, Eus-

tace introduced a resolution setting forth that one Packard, falsely assuming to be governor, had, by means of a scandalous and libellous publication purporting to be a proclamation, addressed to the general assembly and lawful authorities, and calculated to bring them into contempt, etc.; therefore be it

Resolved, That the committee on judiciary be instructed to inquire whether said Packard, by authorizing the said scandalous and libellous publication, has not committed a breach of the privileges of their body, and what means, if any, should be taken to punish said Packard for contempt, and to maintain the dignity and authority of this body. So ordered.

The House bill in reference to the protection of colored people, was passed unanimously.

KEOKUK, Iowa, 17.—Eight prisoners escaped from the county jail, to-night, who were all in for petty offences, except one for murder.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., 17.—James Gordon Bennett and four friends arrived here this morning, by a Macon & Augusta sleeper, and went to the St. James Hotel, but left shortly after and went on board Astor's yacht.

CHICAGO, 18.—The *Tribune's* Washington special gives the following intimations of what is the plan agreed on by the House and Senate electoral committee: The court will meet as usual, House tellers will be appointed, the Vice-President will open the returns, and those not objected to will be counted; if objected to, the return be referred to the commission announced in the press report. The justices of the Supreme Court named are Clifford, Strong, Miller and Field, two republicans and two democrats, with a fifth chosen in a way unknown. The Senate will have three republicans and two democrats and the House three democrats and two republicans. No Ohio or New York justice will be chosen. As the fifth one Bradley or Davis will doubtless be the man chosen. This plan gives the greatest satisfaction to both parties to-night, and yet the ultra-democrats regard it as a surrender to the republicans. The plan thus nearly unanimously presented will be, without doubt, readily adopted in both houses.

It is said the Western Union Telegraph Company will soon formally surrender all the telegrams desired by both parties.

NEW YORK, 18.—The *Tribune* publishes what is called the truth of the duel story. It says May fired before the word was given, and Bennett fired in the air, crying out that he gives May his life. Bennett and his sister sailed for Europe in the *City of Berlin*, and had thirty trunks as baggage.

The *World's* Washington special says Wells and Anderson, members of the Louisiana returning board, reached town, to-day, with all the returns in the late canvass. The two came to Washington to present the situation to Grant and gain his support for the Packard government, but they reached here just in time to go under arrest under the order of the House.

The *World's* Washington special says Jones, of Florida, received, to-day, the following dispatch:

Tallahassee, 17.

Information of *quo warranto* has been decided upon the demurrer in favor of the democrats and against the Hayes electors. This decision is given by Judge White of the Circuit Court. The demurrer being made that the Hayes electors having met and acted, no court could consider their eligibility after the fact by denying this demurrer. The Court decides that it has jurisdiction, and the case will proceed to trial upon the main issue as to the right of the Hayes electors to act at all. Meanwhile the decision on the demurrer will be appealed to the Supreme Court. Dudley Field, who is following the case, regards this decision as of the highest importance, and practically establishing the action of the Court, as it has already decided that the canvass of the vote under the laws of the State must be ministerial.

The true story of the \$8,000 check has been discovered by the New York correspondent of the *Boston Traveller*, who unfolds the tale as follows: Your correspondent has just concluded a long interview with Jordan, cashier of the Third National Bank in this city. He declared the \$8,000 check transaction was undertaken by three members of the democratic national committee, who determined to invest their own funds in the en-

deavor to secure some favor in Oregon. That Tilden knew nothing about it until it appeared in print, and then he denounced it in the most unmeasured terms, sending for Pelton, his secretary, and threatening to dismiss him from his service; also threatening to take away his position as secretary of the national committee. Pelton, thereupon, told the whole story. How Scott guaranteed the money; how he (Pelton) went to Jordan and asked him to go to Martin and Runyon to issue the check; how Runyon handed the check over to the man named Dimond, and that finally the checks were drawn, neither of which succeeded. Tilden denounced them as foolhardy scoundrels, trifling with his interests and reputation, and ended by temporarily suspending Pelton from his service. The difficulty is to make the public believe such a story, as I told Jordan, but he assures me it is an absolute fact, and that he is now suffering Tilden's displeasure because he undertook to get the money sent to Oregon.

Horace E. Brown, broker, has been arrested on suspicion of having been implicated in the forgery of the check for \$62,000, which is purported to have been drawn by the New York Life Insurance Company.

In commemoration of the fast trip across the continent, made by Jarrett & Palmer last June, Samuel Carpenter, passenger agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was, yesterday, presented [with a souvenir in the shape of a book containing facsimiles of the tickets used on various roads, handsomely engraved and enclosed in a massive silver case.

CHICAGO, 18.—Three masked men entered the outgoing express car on the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad last night, as the train stopped at the Burlington crossing, inside the city limits. They hastily overpowered the express messenger and baggage man and went through the safe, which contained about \$25,000 in valuables, but in their hurry did the work so bunglingly that they left behind all except a package for Springfield, Ill., containing about \$145 and some bills for collection. They left the train after it had gone about eight blocks, and have not been discovered.

Later—Three men have just been arrested charged with the robbery. The detectives have been on their track for several hours.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 15.—A dispatch from Constantinople says at to-day's sitting of the conference the Marquis of Salisbury, in the name of his European colleagues, communicated to the representatives of the Porte the last proposals of the powers, whose demands were rendered and softened. The gens d'arme, the division of Bulgaria into two provinces, the restriction of Turkish troops to certain places, are not mentioned in the propositions submitted to-day. The previous propositions for an international commission and making appointment of governors of provinces subject to the consent of the powers, are considerably modified. In addition to these concessions the cession of Sewornik to Serbia is left in suspense. The proposals for the aggrandizement of Montenegro are reduced to limits which the Porte has signified its willingness to accept. Thus all the contested points are relinquished by the powers except the commission of the supervision and appointment of the governors, and even these points are much altered. The powers now propose that the appointment of the governors of provinces be subjected to their approval only during the next five years, and that instead of an international commission a mixed body, composed of Europeans and Turks, be established. After making his communication, Lord Salisbury announced that if the Porte did not agree to the proposals now made, he had instructions to quit Constantinople.

Sir Henry Elliott said he also had been instructed, in that event, to withdraw and leave the British embassy in care of charge d'affaires.

All the other European plenipotentiaries, in succession, made a similar declaration, some of them laying stress on the fact that it was the Porte's interest to accept the proposals.

Safet Pasha replied. He expressed regret that the decision of the powers should require him to refer the matter to the Porte before giv-

ing a final answer, but he would say he did not think it possible for Turkey to yield upon the commission of the supervision and appointment of governors, those proposals which affect the independence of the Porte having already been rejected. The Porte, however, would examine the communication and reply definitely thereto.

The next sitting of the conference will reassemble on Thursday, if the Turkish answer is then ready; but it is more than probable that the meeting won't take place until Saturday. In the meanwhile a grand council of 180, composed of all the great dignitaries of the State, will meet to decide upon an answer.

MONTREAL, 15.—The United States mail bag, stolen while between Philadelphia and Boston, containing drafts and checks to the amount of \$44,000, was found in the express office here by the agent, and has been forwarded to New York.

LONDON, 16.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says the reason each plenipotentiary made a separate declaration to the Porte at yesterday's sitting of the commissioners, was to prevent Russia's future action from being represented as undertaken in behalf of all Europe.

A Belgrade telegraph to the *Times* states that all the Russian wounded are to be sent home immediately. It is evident that there is a breach in the alliance between Russia and Serbia.

A dispatch, dated Cape Town, Africa, Dec. 27th, via Madeira, says alarming news has been received from Zulu land. The Zulu king, Bettywayo, refuses to permit the occupation, by British troops, of the territory which is in dispute between himself and the Transvaal republic. He has returned an unopened letter sent him by the British envoy, and has assembled eight thousand warriors in the disputed territory.

PERA, 16.—The Marquis of Salisbury had an interview with the Sultan, who is disposed to accept all the conditions of the amended scheme submitted to the conference.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, 16.—Gen. Diaz failed to effect a compromise with Iglesias. He attacked the forces of Iglesias on Guana Justo, commanded by General Antillon, on the third instant, and Antillon was defeated, and surrendered his army and all the material of war to General Ignacio Martinez. Iglesias has asked to be allowed to retire to private life.

Gen. Quiroga supported Lerdo until November 30th, then surrendered over 5,000 men and a large amount of war material, and retired to his rancho, was afterwards arrested, tried, condemned and shot on the twelfth inst.

LONDON, 16.—The *Standard's* special from Constantinople says the Marquis of Salisbury, at an interview with the Sultan on Sunday, in order to disabuse his majesty's mind of any idea formed from the reports which had been purposely circulated in Constantinople, to the effect that he, Salisbury, was at variance with his colleagues in the British Cabinet, read a telegram from the Earl of Beaconsfield, which declares that Lord Salisbury has the entire approval and support of the Government, and that Turkey, if she rejects the proposals of the Powers, has nothing to expect from England. The Sultan was much impressed by Lord Salisbury's remarks, but merely said the question must be decided by the Porte.

LONDON, 17.—The *Times* dispatch from Belgrade says the partisans of Russia declare that the Russian volunteers were removed from Serbia on account of insubordination, and will be replaced by regular troops from Russia in the event of war.

It is stated that the Porte has sent a telegraphic dispatch advising Serbia to make peace immediately, as no extension of the armistice beyond the first of March will be granted, and if peace is not then concluded the Turks will march on Belgrade. If this is true it will probably lead Serbia to decide in favor of peace unless Russia gives her positive assurance of a powerful support.

CALCUTTA, 17.—The cost of the relief works and other measures for mitigating the famine in Madras and Bombay is £5,500,000.

BUCHAREST, 17.—The Turkish commandant at Silistria has been ordered to punish the Bashi-Bazouks who crossed the Danube and plundered the Roumanian outposts.