

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Jan. 6th, 1862. In the Senate Mr. Nesmith presented the credentials of the Hon. Benjamin Stark, who was appointed a Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Baker.

Mr. Fessenden moved that the administration of the oath be suspended for the present, and the credentials of Mr. Stark, together with certain papers which he (Fessenden) held in his hands, be referred to the Judiciary Committee. The papers were well attested by many of the most respectable portions of the inhabitants of Portland, and state that Mr. Stark is understood to be an open and avowed secessionist; that he defends the cause of the South, and had given utterance to statements at war with the Government; such as approving the attack on Fort Sumter, and declaring that in case of war he would sell his property and go South and fight for the rebels.

Mr. Bright said there was no precedent to such a motion. He never knew of a case where a Senator had been refused the oath. He thought that the Senator had better be sworn and then let the Senate take cognizance of the latter properly. Never had baser falsehoods been offered than these in regard to himself which had been sent to the Senate here.

Mr. Fessenden said it was true there was not a precedent, but the state of the country was without precedent, and we had now to make precedents. These papers in reference to Mr. Stark were well attested by his neighborhood and townsmen.

Mr. Sumner said the case was unprecedented. The Senate is now examining the loyalty of certain members.

Mr. Bayard said that there were men in the Senate in 1812 that were opposed to the war with Great Britain and with the action of the Government.

Mr. Bright said that he supposed he was referred to by the Senator from Massachusetts, (Mr. Sumner). At any rate he was in the category. He (Bright) was glad to hear the Senate was examining, and, so far as he was concerned, he was only sorry that they were so slow. He was anxious for a result.

The credentials of Mr. Stark, and the papers presented by Mr. Fessenden, were laid on the table.

Mr. Wilson presented a petition from citizens of Pennsylvania, that John C. Fremont be appointed Lieut. General; also, a petition in reference to Gen. McKinstry, representing that he was confined in prison closely, in violation of the rules of war.

In the House, on the 6th, Mr. Roscoe Conkling rose to a question of privilege, and called attention to the fact that, on the second day of the session, a resolution was adopted with reference to the battle of Ball's Bluff. The resolution proposed no investigation into any future transactions whatever. It simply requested the Secretary of War to inform the House whether any steps have been taken to ascertain who are responsible for the disastrous affair at Ball's Bluff. The resolution was handed to the Adjutant-General, who submitted it to the Commander-in-chief. He (Conkling) was unwilling to believe that the Commander-in-chief had read the resolution, because he could not impute to him a design to trifle with the House and return an evasive answer.

The answer to the resolution did not inform the House that steps had been taken to show who was to blame for the Ball's Bluff disaster. The response was evasive. Now, this was a disregard of the privileges of the House, which ought to receive, and requires a prompt notice, unless we consent to a trampling on of our rights. We should watch with jealous eye the right of wholesome inquiry. The inquiry related to a great national calamity, to the most atrocious military murder ever committed in our history, to the most humiliating triumph of the rebellion—a blunder so gross that every man can see it, and no one has ever dared to deny or defend it. Besides the defeat and the large loss of arms and munitions of war, there was a sacrifice of nine hundred and thirty men. It was to inquire, whether the military authorities have taken any steps whatever to ascertain who is responsible for the slaughter of the sons of New York of Massachusetts and of Pennsylvania. General Stone, who was at the time in command, is a member of the regular army. Col. Baker was a volunteer. The respective friends of these generals have raised a question as to the merits of the case involving the efficiency of regulars and volunteers.

Mr. Conkling, in the course of his remarks, said that the government is spending \$2,000,000 a day, with over six hundred thousand men in the field. Whenever we have made an advance we have been outnumbered and ignominiously defeated, and yet the House and the country are denied the right of knowing who are responsible. If we can't have immunity for the past, in the name of humanity let us have security for the future. Let us know who is responsible for the disgraceful disaster at Ball's Bluff. Mr. Conkling proceeded graphically to describe the military movements in connection with the battle of Ball's Bluff, and its repulsive features, saying, among other things, the scene was a "hell of fire."

Mr. Richardson inquired whether this was a question of privilege.

The Speaker submitted the question to the House, which decided that it was.

A lengthy discussion followed, which was participated in by many members; after which Mr. Blair moved that the whole subject be

laid on the table, which was disagreed to—yeas 57, nays 77.

Mr. Richardson offered an amendment to Mr. Conkling's resolution, that the Secretary of War also report to the House, if compatible with the public interests, who is responsible for the defeat at Wilson's Creek, near Springfield and Lexington, which was also disagreed to; 49 against 81.

Mr. Conkling's resolution was adopted; 79 against 64.

Jan. 7th. In the Senate Mr. Chandler presented a petition for the exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Wilson from the Military Committee, reported back the bill in regard to the appointment of sutlers, with amendments which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hale offered a resolution that the Naval Committee be instructed to inquire how the practice was prevailed in the navy of making purchases through other than recognized agents, and if any such has been made, whether larger prices have been paid, which was agreed to.

Mr. Hale also gave notice that he should introduce a bill to punish frauds on the Treasury.

Mr. Powell introduced a bill to abolish the franking privilege.

On motion of Mr. Sherman the bill to increase the number of cadets at West Point was taken up.

The question was, on the amendment, that the cadets be dismissed if deficient in their studies, which was disagreed to.

Mr. Trumbull opposed the passage of the bill. He believed it was owing to West Point officers that the war has languished as it has. If West Point was abolished military tactics would be taught all over the country.

Mr. Clark said that he should not vote for the bill now, but he could not join in the tirade against West Point. Treason has been taught in the Senate of the United States more than it has at the school at West Point.

Mr. Grimes said there never was a greater mistake in supposing that the West Point nursery was treason. The facts showed the reverse. For twelve years the leaders of the rebellion had control of the army, and the government itself taught the rebellion the manner in which it conducted the army affairs.

Mr. Lane said the greatest trouble was that we have no board to separate the stupid from those who have brains. The greatest trouble we have is the stupidity of the army officers, and their want of common sense.

Mr. Doolittle thought the best reform that could be introduced was to see that promotions come up from the ranks of the army. One objection he had to West Point, was its exclusiveness.

Mr. Nesmith was glad to hear an argument for the sake of economy. We had the gratifying spectacle of half a million of men ready to make war on the rebels, and another half million waiting to steal something. He thought it would be better to emulate the example of Napoleon and elevate the thieves on the Treasury by the neck.

Mr. Hale said there was an army ready to make war on the Treasury, and they had already made a brilliant campaign. He (Hale) said it with shame, that many of the highest officers of the government were not exempt from the census which ought to rest on this army. He thought it would have to come to punishing the thieves on the Treasury by death. We must practice economy. He (Hale) would do anything to wake the government to the sense of the evil of the attacks on the Treasury. Something must be done to purge the government of the thieves and robbers on the treasury, or else we shall have a rebellion in the North. He declared that if the war was not against the rebels on the other side, it should be against the plunderers on this side. He called on every man who thought he had a country, to defend it against blows more deadly than those struck by the rebels. The peril is at home among ourselves.

The discussion continued at some length, when the Senate refused to pass the bill by yeas 12, nays 25.

On the motion of Mr. Wilson the bill in relation to the arrest of persons who claim to be held to service or labor, by officers of the army or navy, was taken up.

Mr. Saulsbury moved to postpone it indefinitely, which was disagreed to.

The bill provides that any officer detaining such persons be discharged from service.

On motion of Mr. Carlisle the bill was postponed for the present.

In the House on the 7th. A Message was received from the President communicating the papers in the Trent affair.

A motion was made to refer them to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Vallandigham said, I avail myself, Sir, of this the earliest opportunity offered to express my utter and strong condemnation, as one of the representatives of the people, of the act of the administration in surrendering up Messrs. Mason and Slidell to the British government. For six weeks, sir, they were held in close custody as traitors, in a fortress of the United States, by order of the Secretary of State, and with the approval and applause of the press, of the public men, of the navy department, of this House, and of the people of the United States, with a full knowledge of the manner and all the circumstances of their capture; and yet in six days after the imperious and peremptory demand of Great Britain, they were abjectly surrendered upon the mere rumor even of the approach of a hostile fleet, and thus for the first time in our

national history have we strutted insolently into a quarrel without right and then basely crept out of it without honor, and thus for the first time has the American eagle been made to cower before the British lion. Sir, a vassal or flattered and terror-stricken press, or servile and sycophantic politicians in this House or out of it, may applaud the act and fawn and flatter and lick the hand which has smitten down our honor into the dust. But the people now or hereafter will demand a terrible reckoning for this most unmanly surrender.

A prolonged discussion followed, in which some warm expressions were uttered.

Mr. Stevens moved the previous question, under the operation of which the documents were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Direct Taxation.

For the first time in the history of this country, it has become necessary for the government to levy direct taxes, on a scale of gigantic magnitude. Besides the revenue from taxes upon imports, the government requires at least one hundred millions of dollars a year to be raised by direct taxation. To enable the country to realize this vast amount, every thing taxable should be taxed. All professions, all incomes, all real estate, all personal property, should be taxed within due limits, but to an extent hitherto unprecedented on this side of the Atlantic. The government may not find it necessary to levy such minute and exorbitant taxes as those of England, where, according to Sidney Smith, people have been taxed upon every conceivable necessity, comfort, convenience and luxury, from the cradle to the grave; where the school boy whips a taxed top; where the youth rides a taxed horse over a taxed road; where the old man is medicined with taxed drugs, makes his will on taxed paper, dies on a taxed bed, and is buried on a taxed coffin; but still, as the remedy is necessary and unavoidable, we hope the government will make it strong enough to be completely efficacious.

Receipt stamps, window lights, gold watches, books, newspapers and new-paper advertisements, horses and carriages, lottery dealers, grogshops, banks, insurance companies, incorporations, brokers' stalls;—every thing and every body taxable should be taxed.—Those who can afford to drive or ride fine horses about the Central Park should be made to pay one hundred and fifty dollars a year for each animal and the privilege. Those who can afford to keep cats and dogs should pay a dollar per head for the enjoyment. Those who can afford to carry watches and be independent of the City Hall clock should pay for their conveniences. To say that the people will pay these taxes is but saying that they will do what it is impossible to avoid. To say that they will pay these taxes cheerfully and willingly is but to say that they love their country; that they are grateful for past immunities, benefits and blessings derived from their country, and that they desire to have their country preserved and perpetuated. We should be grateful that the government affords every man an opportunity to do something for his country—to make sacrifices—to submit to privations for his country's sake. The country has never asked any such thing before. Direct taxation now affords every stay-at-home patriot a chance to be a hero.

It will do all of us good to be obliged to pay cash down for our privileges. It will teach us to prize, to appreciate, to enjoy, to cherish them more. We shall learn to guard them better from corrupt politicians and swindling lobbyists, who sow the seeds of treason. Ballots will seem more valuable after we have fairly paid for the balls and bullets which careless, wrong or neglected votes have rendered necessary. The rebels are learning to appreciate the preciousness of a good and free government by the sacrifices they have to endure in their insane effort to destroy the Union. We will learn precisely the same lesson by the sacrifices we shall be obliged to endure to preserve the Union. North and South we shall have better patriots, better men, better Americans and a better country, when the war is over and peace again brings plenty.—[New York Herald.]

—At the World's Horse Fair, to be held in Chicago in September next, there will be premiums of \$1,000 for running horses, 3,000 for equestrian performances by women, and others for different classes.

—The passport system is most strictly carried on in Poland. To get a passport to leave the country costs a Pole four hundred rubles, which is about two hundred and eighty dollars.

—The Earl of Aberdeen has abolished the game laws on his estate, allowing his tenants to hunt game as they please.

—The Chicago Tribune accounts for General Phelps' strange proclamation by saying that "he was aware how wide a range his predecessors in proclamation had traveled over, and he desired to occupy the rest of the ground."

—A man who applied for relief for himself and family at Hartford, a few days since, was found to have been married 13 years, during which time he had been blessed with 13 children, including one set of triplets and four sets of twins.

—Don John of Bourbon, the Spanish Pretender, has issued a "decree" for a loan of twenty million dollars, promising to repay it tenfold as soon as "the vote of the nation shall call him to the throne of his ancestors."

A Husband turning Crusty.

A few days since a boatman who plies his vocation on the bench near Regency Square, having imbibed somewhat too freely, on going home became so offended and rantankerous at an observation that was made by his sober, and therefore his better half, that he smashed all the crockeryware on his meal table, and left the house vowing that he would never return again. For a day or two he kept his horrid resolve, and his house for a treat in consequence, was the abode of peace. Nav, so satisfied was his wife at his absence, that learning his unoccupied time was spent at a beer-shop at the bottom of Queensberry-mews, she the second day of his absence made a pie and sent to him. To him it seemed a species of peace-offering, and the sight of it restoring to his mind many previous proofs of his wife's affection for him, a tear stole involuntarily from his eye, his weather eye; but he had an hunger, which the tempting pie seemed disposed to allay, so, having obtained a knife and fork and asked some of his mates present to partake of his dinner with him, he commenced the process of carving, when, lo, he found the contents to consist of the broken crockery which had been his legacy to his wife and family previous to his departure. The pie is still at the beer-shop; but the stupid fellow has returned home, it is to be hoped, a better and a wiser man. A person who was present at the opening of the "willow pattern" sarcophagus, related an instance somewhat similar that had come to his notice. It was of a man who, on going home and finding his dinner was not ready, gave his wife a beating, a process which she bore with fortitude. It seemed to him, on going home to dine the next day, that the operation which he had performed had had a most beneficial effect, as his pudding was already on the table smoking hot. To his dismay, however upon opening it he found its contents only a rope. He inquired to know the meaning of it, when his philosophical wife informed him that she had more thought for him than he had for her, inasmuch as the previous day he had given her the rope raw, whereas she had gone to the trouble of cooking it for him. Ever after dinners in that line were never required at that house.

IMPAIRMENT OF MEMORY.—In certain morbid conditions of the brain, connected with organic alterations or disordered conditions of the cerebral circulation, the patient loses for a period all knowledge of his native tongue. Patients in a state of delirium have been known to address their physicians in the Latin language. It is said that Dr. Johnson, when dying, forgot the words of our Lord's prayer in English, but attempted to repeat them in Latin. Dr. Scandella, an Italian gentleman of considerable scholastic qualities, resided in America. He was master of the Italian, French, and English languages. In the beginning of the yellow fever, which terminated his life in the city of New York, in the autumn of 1798, he spoke English only; in the middle of his disease he spoke French; but on the day of his death he spoke Italian, the language of his native country.

UNIT OF HORSE POWER.—Answer to queries from several readers of the *Agriculturist*. The average power of a horse is reckoned as equivalent to the raising of 32,000 pounds one foot per minute, and this is the unit of measure in estimating the power of steam engines, &c. A horse walking at the rate of four miles an hour, travels 352 feet per minute. Going at his rate, he would only have to pull on a rope sufficient to draw up a weight of 91 pounds (nearly) to exert the same power as would be required to raise 32,000 one foot in a full minute. If traveling only three miles an hour, the constant weight to lift would be 120½ pounds. If traveling ten miles an hour, the average draught would be about 36½ pounds. By recent enactment, the Austrian Government has fixed the legal horse power for that empire at 32,982.85 pounds, (or nearly 33,000 pounds) raised one foot per minute.

OFFICE SEEKING.—As grasshoppers to young clover—as crows to carrion—as tadpoles to horse-ponds—as dogs to persimmons—as Frenchmen to spoiled meat, and Germans to lager beer—as Yankees to clock-selling or niggers to raising gourds—so, yea, even so, do office-seekers cleave to howl for, crave and "hanker arter," the offices in the gift of the patriarchal Abraham. Al cannot have what they desire, and if one out of every thousand applicants get an appointment with a salary of fifty dollars a year, the old king who made gold of everything he touched, if he butt up against mountains every five minutes in the day, couldn't pay off Lincoln's employees for two weeks in the year.

The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are not few—the offices are numerous, but what are so few among so many?—'Tis like the descent of a drove of starving wolves upon a single bed bug.—Exchange.

—A chemical invention to take the place of steam has been submitted to the Emperor by a French savant, who claims that it is without odor, requires no fuel, and twenty barrels of it will carry a vessel to India.

—The French National Exhibition of 1865 will be the greatest ever undertaken. Sir Joseph Paxton will have charge of the erection of the building, which will be provided with a dome 500 feet high.