

hour expired and the Chair before the Senate the unfinished business, being the resolution of Morton in regard to the recent election in Mississippi.

Morton said his health was in such a condition that he would not be able to continue his remarks to-day.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for a commission on the subject of the alcoholic liquor traffic.

Sherman said this bill had been fully debated at the last session of the Senate; the expense involved in the proposed investigation was over \$10,000, and the result of it would be a vast amount of useful information. No State could make an investigation because none had a demand of statistics to prosecute an inquiry.

Bayard said that in his opinion this was not the way, nor was this the proper place, to investigate the subject. If the investigation was to be made to procure information regarding the taxation of liquors, it was unnecessary, as the Secretary of the Treasury already had the full information in regard to the matter. He argued that the matter was within the province of the State governments and could not be investigated by the U. S., and said that the absorption of the powers of the States by the federal government was one of the radical evils of our age. He would vote against the bill, believing that legislation to form the vice of intemperance had increased the evil. He submitted an amendment instructing a commission to inquire whether the use of opium as a substitute for alcoholic drinks had not become general in consequence of legislation.

Sherman said it seemed to him that Congress might give the subject a full and fair examination. It was not in favor of prohibitory laws, but he believed the passage of this bill would promote the common good, and that Congress had a duty to pass it.

Bayard said any physician could tell where where coercive laws had passed to prevent the sale of liquor as a beverage the use of it had become more general, and that was far more injurious than liquor.

House spoke in favor of the bill, and hoped the Senate would not desire to make the small appropriation asked for. He thought the amendment of the Senator from Delaware (Bayard) premature, as this was not a bill to prevent the sale of liquor.

The amendment of Bayard was rejected.

Mr. Correll spoke in favor of the bill, pending the discussion the matter went into executive session and soon adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 25.—Senator Sar presented a petition, from a number of ladies, asking that a government be established in the District of Columbia which would confer upon woman the right to vote. He alluded to Wyoming, where woman suffrage is endorsed by the judiciary, press and people generally. He knew of no better way to make this experiment than that of the nation, and asked that the petition be referred to the committee on the District of Columbia, to be considered in connection with any bill to provide a government for the District; it was referred.

From the committee on Indian lands, reported favorably on the Senate bill granting 640 acres of land to the widow and heirs of Mrs. Sinclair, deceased; passed.

Mr. Correll introduced a bill to establish an educational fund and to apportion a portion of the proceeds of the lands to public education, to provide for the more commendable and support of normal colleges for the advancement of a scientific and industrial education; referred.

Mr. Correll submitted a resolution directing the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate the aggregate number of organized military units of the several States; agreed to.

After the expiration of the morning hour the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the appointment of a commission on the subject of alcoholic and distilled liquor traffic and manufacture, and it was passed, yeas 37, nays 20.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 24.—Will offered a resolution instructing the committee on civil service to inquire what legislation is

necessary to prevent the solicitation of appointments to office and removals therefrom by Senators and members of Congress.

Kelly offered the following, which was adopted—

"Resolved, that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to this House what amount of specie was in the Treasury on the 31st of December, 1875, designating the amount of gold and silver respectively; also the amount of silver purchased under the provisions of the act approved Jan. 14th, 1875, entitled an act to provide for the resumption of specie payments, stating the date of the several purchases, the price paid for each, and what amount of cost of any such purchases of silver has been paid for from the surplus revenue in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and what amount of the five per cent. bonds bearing gold interest have been sold or disposed of for the purpose of providing means of payment for said silver; the date of the several issues of said bonds respectively, the amount of interest that has been paid thereon, and the amount that will have accrued but remain unpaid on the day preceding the date of the report made in response to this resolution."

Morrison, from the committee of ways and means, reported a resolution directing that the papers laid before the House, and the testimony taken before the committee of ways and means last Congress in regard to the Pacific Mail subsidy be taken from the Speaker's table and referred to the judiciary committee, with instructions to enquire what action should be taken by the House in reference to persons, now members of the House, who are charged with complicity in the corrupt use of money for that purpose, or with giving false testimony in relation thereto; adopted.

Banning offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for information as to the pay and allowances of army officers stationed in Washington since March, 1869; adopted.

Whitehouse offered a resolution instructing the committee on civil service reform to inquire into any abuses or frauds which may exist in the administration and execution of existing laws affecting any branch of the public service; adopted.

Holman offered a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire whether improper and fraudulent means were resorted to to influence legislation on the Texas Pacific railroad bill on the 3d of March, 1871, and whether contracts and combinations were subsequently entered into by the company in violation of that act; adopted.

WASHINGTON, 25.—The Speaker called on the committees for reports.

Cox, from the committee on banking and currency, reported back adversely three bills proposing to repeal the ten per cent. tax on the circulation of banks that are not national banks; laid on the table.

Cotton, from the committee on military affairs, reported a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for copies of the orders and instructions under which Quarter Master General Meigs is acting during his absence from the U. S.; adopted.

Jenks, from the committee on invalid pensions, reported a bill supplementary to the pension act, providing that except in case of permanent, specific disabilities no increase of pensions shall be allowed to commence prior to the date of the examining surgeon's certificate; also repealing the law which makes bounty land warrants personal property. After a discussion the bill passed.

Rusk, from the same committee, reported a bill to increase pensions in certain cases. It provides that persons who, in the military or naval service, have lost one hand and one foot, or have been totally or permanently disabled, shall be entitled to a pension for each of those disabilities.

After the call for the committees was concluded the House went into a committee of the whole, Wood of N. Y. in the chair, on the centennial appropriation bill.

Thompson advocated the bill, while Southard opposed.

Robbins, of North Carolina, followed. He said when the war broke out, a North Carolina farmer had six sons grown up to manhood who, at the first tap of the drum, went to the field

to fight in the cause of the South, they fought from Bull Run to the Appomattox. One of them was sleeping at Antietam, one at Chancellorsville, one at Chickahominy, and another in Kentucky; but two of them were at Appomattox. They had seen the flag go down which they had followed with unflinching devotion; one of those survivors was he who now addressed the committee, and who now said that he had seen enough of war and wanted peace; he wanted reconciliation and brotherhood all over the country. That was why he proposed to vote for the bill, for he thought that the tendency of the celebration was to promote peace. The soldiers had fought out the war with bayonets, muskets and cannon, and now that they had ceased fighting the reason why there was not peace was because a few selfish, restless, political agitators still wanted to keep up the fight, and their weapons were asses' jaw bones. He was opposed to participation in that kind of warfare; he wanted peace, and his people had sent him here to talk peace, and to help bring about reconciliation and a good understanding.

The debate was continued by Williams, of Wisconsin, and Lamar in favor of the bill, and by White and Goodin against it.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 24.—In the Supreme Court, to-day, the following decision was rendered—

"Williams vs. U. S., on appeal from the District Court for California. Some fifteen years ago the claimants obtained judgment from the land commissioners confirming their title to a tract of land known as the Arroyo La Saquina, in Santa Cruz Co., Cal., and in the proceeding the word sites was translated 'league' instead of 'place,' hence the title was for a league of land, etc., with a boundary given. They now petition to have the word corrected so as to give them the place known by the name stated without being limited to a league, claiming that the grant was for the entire place. The court held that the decree of the land commissioners was never legally transferred to the district court, so as to give it jurisdiction of the case, and that the claimants, having acquiesced for so long in the decree made, were without legal remedy, and this court affirm this decree, finding no error." Justice Clifford delivered the opinion.

Sargent's bill fixing the time for holding circuit courts, passed by the Senate to-day, provides that terms shall be held for California the first Monday in February, the second in July, and the fourth in November. For Oregon, the second Monday in April and the first in October. For Nevada, the third in March and the first in November in each year, said terms to be instead of those now required. This act is to take effect Feb'y 1st, provided that a term previously commenced in any district may be continued until the time of the commencement of the first in said district to be held under the provision of this bill.

ST. PAUL, Minn., 24.—Special dispatches from Bismarck contain glowing accounts from the Black Hills country. A party carrying the mail between Bismarck and the Black Hills had returned and gave wonderful reports of the richness of the country. The report is vouched for as thoroughly trustworthy. Twelve hundred men are now in that portion of the Black Hills through which Rapid Creek runs; average diggings yield one dollar per hour to each man, and they saw one hundred and thirty-seven dollars taken out in six hours by four men; next day the same force in the same time took out one hundred and twelve dollars. California Joe, a person of renown among gold miners, saw thirty-four dollars taken out of one pan, there being one nugget worth twenty dollars. All of the returning party brought specimens of gold of splendid quality. They all agree in the statements regarding the beauty and richness of the country, and say that Gustav's report was not at all exaggerated. A large party is preparing to start from Bismarck for the Hills, and will take a large amount of goods. Bismarck merchants complain bitterly that the Northern Pacific Railroad refuses to run trains to that place during the present open winter, so that supplies for the Black Hills may be sent forward from that place, which

is much the nearest to the best diggings.

CHICAGO, 24.—The *Inter-Ocean*, to-morrow, will publish an interview with Prof. Bartlett, in regard to the story contained in the *Sunday Mercury*, that a council of forty Congregational churches had been called in connection with the Beecher matter. Professor Bartlett, whose name was mentioned as one of the projectors, denied that any such movement has been made; he says that he has written no such letter as that quoted by the *Mercury*.

ST. LOUIS, 24.—In the McKee trial to-day, Col. Broadhead, for the prosecution, said it was an absurdity to say that the court should at this juncture of the trial stop the proceedings and exclude further evidence, and that the evidence thus far was perjured, and to instruct the jury that they could find no verdict. It is evident to the court that there has been no legal testimony to prove the issue. The counsel then went on to show that a conspiracy had in this case been established, and that the defendant was connected with it. The defense claim that it is incompetent testimony, while the prosecution assert that the conspiracy was a continued act from 1871 to 1875. The court will give a decision to-morrow.

SAN FRANCISCO, 24.—In the suit of Wormser Bros., of New York, vs. the Bank of California, Judge Sawyer to-day rendered a decision sustaining the bank on all points, and denying the motion to enjoin the sale of delinquent stock.

The remains of B. P. Avery, late minister to China, arrived on the steamer *City of Tokio* to-day; a salute was fired from the fortifications as the steamer passed in. A committee took charge of the body and removed it to the undertakers; to-morrow it will be removed to the Unitarian church under a military escort, whence the funeral will take place on Wednesday.

JAPAN.

Christmas festivities have caused a lull in general business and local politics. Nothing can be done in the Korean matter before spring; meanwhile Japan is making ready for an expedition.

The commission sent to the Bonin Islands has returned.

There has been a collision off Siamonoseki, between the steamers *Nagoya Maru* and *Osaka Maru*, of the Mitsu Bishi Company; the latter vessel was sunk and the former much injured.

J. H. Hawes, late U. S. consul at Hakodadi, died in Yokohama.

CHINA.—An extensive fire at Soochow broke out at a large banking establishment; a thousand houses were burned.

Some excitement is said to prevail at Peking about the Japanese quarrel with Corea; Japan evidently does not intend to let the attack upon Unyokuwan pass by. China is inclined to help her dependent in case of war. It is thought likely that the influence of foreign ministers will be exerted in favor of peace. It will be represented that Japan must have satisfaction afforded her, and it is thought that the Peking government will be persuaded to use its influence with the Korean government in this sense.

The latest news from the north gives promise of a very severe winter.

It is now generally understood that the ambassadors designated for England will not leave Peking till spring.

A conversation was overheard by a foreigner between a mandarin who had returned from Yunnan and an official; he described how Mr. Margary was massacred whilst at dinner at given signals, viz., two claps of hands, first to seize him, the second clap to behead him. It is now beyond all doubt that the arranged plan was made by officials to kill him. This has been corroborated by a French priest, who arrived here from Yunnan on Saturday night; this gentleman was in Margary's company. He met the expedition at Hankow, and told Mr. Grosvenor the facts he knew.

NEW YORK, 25.—The clerk of the Plymouth church has furnished H. C. Bowen with a written copy of S. V. White's statement of grievances against him. White says that he intended to allow Bowen a reasonable time to reply; if he continues silent, or refuses to tell what he knows damaging to Beecher, or to admit that he knows nothing against him whatever, White will appeal to the church and ascertain whether or not it would not con-

sider it necessary, both to its peace and purity, that all its members, including H. C. Bowen, should be faithful to their covenant obligation to the church.

Barnhard Merlin arrested on suspicion, has been recognized as a thief wanted at Detroit, where he is charged with stealing \$800 in gold.

Letters from Lima, announce the complete destruction of the town of Abancay by an earthquake, on the 4th of December; they state that between 4 p. m. on the 4th and 9 a. m. on the 5th, no less than thirty-seven earthquakes occurred, several of which were very severe. The details are meagre and the extent of the loss of life is not reported.

A large fire is reported in Sun Cook, New Hampshire, Main St. is said to be in ashes.

An Amsterdam dispatch says that King William formally opened, to-day, at the Amsterdam Crystal Palace, the exposition of articles destined for the Philadelphia Centennial.

In the Supreme Court, this a. m., Lucius W. Pond, manufacturer, whose wholesale forgeries created so much surprise and excitement, withdrew his plea of not guilty, and was sentenced to fifteen years in the States prison. There are still thirty-two indictments against him.

CINCINNATI, 25.—Yesterday p. m., while Mike Higgins, an employee of the gas company, was walking up Pleasant street, numbers of children from an adjoining school yard ran before him and somewhat impeded his progress. He seized one of the lads, named F. Steinfeldt, and deliberately threw him into the catch basin of the main street sewer. Wm. Rubl, who was passing, jumped in and rescued the boy, although in so doing he was almost drowned. The excitement among the people in the neighborhood was intense, and Higgins would undoubtedly have been mobbed but for his speedy arrest and imprisonment.

BOSTON, 25.—The *Afternoon Observer* will publish a disclosure affecting E. D. Winslow, the well known journalist and politician, and one of the principal owners of the *Daily News* and *Boston Post*, though it is not believed that either of those papers is affected with this transaction now coming to light. Notes amounting to \$7,000 negotiated in one of the national banks by him are known to bear forged endorsements, and it is alleged that when the amount of his forged paper is fully ascertained by an investigation it will reach over \$100,000. Winslow left last Thursday, with his family, for parts unknown.

The details of the alleged forgeries by E. D. Winslow, published by the *Journal*, represent that it is estimated that the total amount of discounted paper issued by him must be in excess of two hundred thousand dollars, but whether the endorsements are genuine or not cannot yet be determined. It is stated that Winslow sold his interest in the *News* last week. Winslow was educated for the ministry of the Methodist church, and served as chaplain in two regiments during the war. He was also chaplain in several churches. He was formerly publisher of *Zion's Herald*, and was a member of the legislature in '72 and '73 and '75. It is stated that before his disappearance he made several efforts to negotiate paper, but the endorsements were detected as forgeries, and he was threatened with exposure.

CHICAGO, 25.—The *Tribune's* St. Louis special says the prospect is that it will be impossible to begin the trial of Babcock on the day for which it was fixed, the 31st, as the McKee and McGuire cases will undoubtedly cover that date. The rumor that President Grant, ex-Secretary Richardson, and Secretary Bristow will be called to give evidence for Babcock seems authentic, at least Babcock's attorneys say they will be summoned, or their depositions taken. They will testify that Babcock never approached them in behalf of the appointment, removal or retention of any government official in St. Louis.

BUFFALO, 25.—Jno. Steelwagon, a private banker, suspended yesterday p. m.

The Senate committee on privileges and elections, at a meeting to-day, took up the Pinchback and Eustis cases, and discussed them in a general way, and, without coming to any conclusion, adjourned their future consideration until next Friday.