

[For the Deseret News.]

THE YEAR 1862.

BY E. R. S.

Adieu, departing Year. The Year goes forth
To join its fellows—to become a link
In the great chain of Time, which now unites
The present and the past.

Escu'cheon'd with
The events of life which weave a check'd garb,
It stands conspicuous upon the file
Of years before and after Noah's flood.

The Year has left its reminiscences
In bold relief. Abroad, on columns by
Our nation rear'd, the supercilious plume of
The Year, is deeply sketched in characters
Of ignominious fraternal strife,
And marked with pencils, dipped in human gore!
But, hush! the Year's successor boldly comes.

Ye, saints of God, take heed—mark well your
steps,
For while Time's hurried changes, like the bolts
Of Vulcan, shake the nations of the earth;
God also has a seive prepared for you:
The gospel net has gathered every kind—
The best—the worst of all in human form;
And while He wields war's crimson besom to
Destroy the wicked—purify and cleanse
The land from wickedness, and thus provide
For righteousness a place; He also will
Prepare a righteous people for a pure
Inheritance, that man may dwell in peace.

The tide of Time heaves up, and on its crest
It bears a presage of all nations' wreck.
Man and his nether majesty have long
Urped the helm and reins of government:
The truthful and the meek have been despised—
The good forgotten and the poor oppressed,
While God and godliness, virtue and truth
Were set at naught—while vice and falsehood ruled,
And pride and folly were exalted high.

A change—a change must come. Prophets de-
clared
That in the latter days, God would set up
His kingdom on the earth, and thus restore
A righteous, pure, and perfect government;
That "He, whose right it is to reign," might reign.
Then, clear the way—the kingdom now is here!
War, famine, pestilence, and all their train
Of desolations, take their post, to sweep
The earth, while free libations are pour'd out,
In streams of human blood, to purify the ground.
"It must be so," for so has God decreed.

God had an everlasting purpose, fixed
For these, the latter days; long, long before
The morning stars attuned their lyres, to sound
The lofty psalm notes that echoed in
Commemorative strains of this world's birth;
And he, to whom the Dispensation of
Time's fulness was committed, has foretold,
In language plain as mortal tongues can speak,
The fearful scenes which daily now transpire.

To these, the deep fastnesses of the rocks;
Where mountain peaks ascend, we have been driven,
That we might have a refuge from the storm,
While God shall vex the nation, and "pour out
The fierceness of His wrath," on guilty men.
But where in peace and plenty now we dwell,
Was late a desert where the serpent hissed,
And the degraded savage wildly roamed—
A land of crickets, grasshoppers and flies,
Now made to bud and blossom as the rose.

The passing Year, with blessing's liberal hand,
Has dealt to us from nature's bounteous stores,
The finest wheat, and the most luscious fruits,
And crowned the labors of the husbandman
With full supplies, to cheer the grateful heart.
Truth and salvation's fountains, to the just,
From God's own presence, here, unceasing flow
In clearest, richest, boldest currents, rife
With exaltations, gemmed with endless life.

G. S. L. City, Dec. 31, 1862.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

On the first day of the present session of Congress, there was but little business done in either House, excepting going through with the usual ceremonies of receiving and reading the President's Message.

Richard S. Fields, of New Jersey; Benjamin F. Harding, of Oregon; Samuel G. Arnold, of Rhode Island, newly appointed Senators, appeared, were sworn in, and took their seats; and the following new members took their seats in the House—Geo. H. Yeaman, of Kentucky; Thos. A. D. Fessenden, of Maine; Amasa Walker, of Massachusetts.

In the House, the naval committee were, on motion of Mr. Conkling, instructed to ascertain the best mode of placing vessels of war on Lake Ontario and of establishing water communication from other waters to the lakes.

Mr. Vallandigham offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the committee on the judiciary, to inquire and report by what authority of the Constitution or the laws, if any, the Postmaster-General decides what newspapers may and what may not be transmitted through the United States mails.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, offered a resolution condemning arbitrary arrests and declaring that they shall cease, and that all persons so arrested shall have a prompt and public trial,

according to the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the United States, which was tabled by a vote of 80 to 40. Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, also offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the House how many citizens of Illinois were confined in United States forts, the charges against them, and by whose order they were arrested, which was tabled by a vote of 74 to 40.

In the Senate on Dec. 2d, Mr. Grimes offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of the Navy for copies of the majority and minority reports of the board of officers appointed in accordance with the act authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to accept the title to League Island. Mr. Powell offered a resolution declaring all arrests made without any charges being preferred, as has been the case, to be a violation of the Constitution, and that all persons thus arrested shall have a prompt and impartial trial; and Mr. Davis offered a resolution declaring that it is recommended that all the States choose delegates to meet in convention at Louisville on the first Monday of April next, to take into consideration the present condition of the country and the proper means to be pursued for restoring the Union, and that the Legislatures of the different States take such action as they may deem fit for this purpose at the earliest possible dates, both of which were laid over.

In the House, on the 2d, a bill was introduced by Mr. Hooper, from the committee of ways and means, which was passed, providing that all judgments recovered by the United States in suits now pending, or which may hereafter be brought for the collection or recovery of duties on imports or money due the United States from collectors or other officers, shall be paid in gold and silver coin of the United States.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a bill annulling and abrogating all treaties between the United States and certain bands of Sioux Indians, and for the relief of the sufferers by the Indian outbreaks in Minnesota.

Mr. Holman introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the committee on military affairs to inquire and report on the propriety of increasing the pay of soldiers to \$15 per month, and making such reduction in the salaries of officers of the army not actively engaged as may not impair the efficiency of the public service.

Mr. Richardson offered a resolution, which was laid over, requiring the pay of each private and non-commissioned officer to be paid in gold and silver.

In the Senate, on Dec. 3d, on motion of Mr. Lane, the committee on patents were instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the Department of Agriculture.

In the House, on the 3d, Mr. Calvert offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Commissioner of Patents to inform the House what amount of the agricultural fund had been expended since the first of January last to the time when the accounts and books were transferred to the Commissioner of Agriculture, specifying the items; and whether any contracts are unsatisfied; if so, what is the amount due, and for what; also that the Commissioner of Agriculture inform the House what amount of the agricultural fund had been expended under his direction, specifying the amounts.

On Dec. 4th, in the Senate, Mr. Clark offered a joint resolution approving the policy of the President of setting slaves free in the insurrectionary districts, which was ordered printed.

Mr. Hale introduced a bill repealing the act to establish and equalize the grades of line officers in the Navy, which was referred.

Mr. Sherman offered a resolution requesting the President, if compatible with public interest, to communicate to the Senate all correspondence, telegrams and reports concerning the military operations of the army of the Potomac, and relating to the surrender of Harper's Ferry, and the testimony taken before the investigating committee upon such surrender.

In the House, on the 4th, Mr. Wickliffe offered a resolution instructing the committee on judiciary to enquire and report under what law has been appointed a military Governor for the District of Columbia; what power he possesses, and under what law it is derived; what is his salary, and under what appropriation; what is the entire annual expense of said Governor, including sums paid for guard-houses, house rent, &c.; whether said officer

has interfered with or obstructed the administration of justice by civil or judicial tribunals, and report the facts of such obstruction.

Mr. Biddle offered an amendment, which was accepted, also inquiring under what authority the Military Governor extended his power to Pennsylvania, or any other State. The resolution was then tabled by a vote of 81 to 46.

Mr. Hutchins offered a resolution instructing the military committee to inquire and report as to the propriety of dispensing with the West Point Military Academy, and instead thereof aiding in the endowment of military schools, in the several States, which was rejected by a vote of 49 to 78.

Mr. Stevens submitted a resolution, which on his motion was postponed, declaring the Union must be and remain one and indivisible forever, and denouncing as guilty of high crime any executive or legislative department who shall propose or advise the acceptance of peace on any other basis than the integrity and entire unity of the United States as they existed at the time the rebellion commenced.

In the Senate, on the 6th, Mr. Wilkinson offered a resolution requesting the President, if compatible with the public interests, to furnish the Senate with all the information in his possession touching the late Indian barbarities in the State of Minnesota; also the evidence upon which some of the principal actors and head men were tried and condemned to death. He said there seemed to be a deal of sympathy in the East for these Indians, and he wanted the facts to go before the Senate and the people so that they could understand the matter fully. He said the people of Minnesota had always been a law-abiding people and he wanted them to continue so—but if these Indian wretches are not hung according to law, they will be killed by the citizens without law. If the Government will not protect the people of Minnesota they must protect themselves. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Powell called up his resolution respecting arbitrary arrests, which was adopted with an amendment.

In the House, on the 5th, Mr. Fenton offered the following, which was agreed to:

Whereas, The number of sick and wounded soldiers have increased to an alarming extent, sixty thousand of whom are unfit for active service, and many more would much sooner receive their health at home, therefore considering the slow methods of furloughs and discharges,

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs inquire whether some method cannot be adopted by the Secretary of War and Surgeon-General by which furloughs and discharges can be more speedily effected.

Mr. Morrill offered a resolution which was adopted by a vote of 145 to 1; W. J. Allen declaring that at no time since the existence of the rebellion have the forces and material in the hands of the executive of the government been so ample to and abundant for the speedy termination of the war than at the present moment, and that it is the duty of all loyal American citizens, regardless of minor differences of opinion, and especially is it the duty of every officer and soldier, and of those in every branch of the government, including the legislative, cordially to strike the assassins at once who have conspired to destroy our existence, prosperity, and freedom, of which we are justly proud at home and abroad and which we stand pledged to perpetuate forever.

Mr. Cox offered a resolution which was tabled by a vote of 85 to 31; declaring that the word "assassins" used in the resolution passed this day, offered by the member from Vermont is intended by this House to include all men, whether from the North or South, whether in or out of Congress, who have been instrumental in producing the present civil war, and who have been guilty of flagrant breaches of the Constitution, and who are not in favor of the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was.

Mr. Vallandigham offers a series of resolutions setting forth the restoration of the Union as it was, and declaring that whoever shall affirm that it is competent for Congress or any other authority, to establish a dictatorship in the United States, thereby superseding or suspending the constitutional authorities of the Union, and shall proceed to make any movement toward the declaring of a dictatorship, shall be guilty of a high crime

against the Constitution and the Union and public liberty.

The resolution was laid upon the table by the usual party vote.

Both Houses adjourned till Monday.

In the Senate, on Monday, the 8th, several petitions were presented for the passage by Congress of a general bankrupt law. A bill for that purpose was made the special order of the day of the 18th. On motion of Mr. Wilson the committee on military affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for more effectually suppressing the rebellion and securing tranquility in Maryland. Mr. Davis offered a joint resolution proposing certain amendments to the Constitution to alter the mode of electing the President and Vice-President, which were ordered to be printed. Mr. Wilson offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Secretary of War to report to the Senate the number of major-generals and brigadier-generals now in the service of the United States, and where and how they are employed.

In the House, on the 8th, the bill indemnifying the President and others for suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and for all acts done in pursuance thereof, was passed by a vote of 90 to 34.

On motion of Mr. McKnight the committee of ways and means was instructed to inquire into the expediency of modifying the tax law so as to dispense with the tax law on advertisements; and Mr. Morris offered resolutions, which were adopted amid laughter, instructing the committee on ways and means to inquire into the expediency of amending the tax law so as to require every member of Congress offering a resolution to affix a ten cent stamp. Most of the day was spent in committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

In the Senate, on the 9th, the resolution respecting arbitrary arrests was taken up and debated at great length, but no definite action was taken.

Mr. Hale introduced a bill to abolish the grade of medical officers in the service of the United States, which was referred.

The House, on the 9th, had the bill for the admission of Western Virginia under advisement, but was disposed of. The bill authorizing assessors and collectors and their assistants, under the tax law, to administer oaths, was taken up and passed.

In the Senate, on the 10th, Wilson reported a bill to establish an Arsenal and Ordnance Depot on the tide waters of New York harbor. Mr. Rice offered a joint resolution, which was referred, forfeiting the lands and annuities of certain bands of Sioux Indians, and providing for their removal far away from white settlements.

A bill for the relief of the owners of the French ship Jules et Marie was taken up and passed.

In the House, on the 10th, Mr. Holman, of Indiana, offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the Secretary of War be directed to inform the House how many officers of the army are now absent from their respective commands. The Senate bill for the admission of Western Virginia into the Union passed by a vote of 96 against 55.

In the Senate, on the 11th, Mr. Browning introduced a bill to amend the act establishing the territorial government of Utah, and to facilitate the administration of justice in the territory, which was referred to the judiciary committee; and Mr. Latham, from the committee on post-offices and post-roads, reported a bill to authorize the survey of a route for a telegraphic communication between San Francisco and the Amoor river, in Asia.

In the House, on the 11th, Mr. Wickliffe offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of War to state what number of soldiers, regulars and volunteers, have been placed on the army roll; what regiments have not been paid up to the 1st of December, 1862; what regiments remain unpaid, and how long they have been without pay; whether the money appropriated by Congress for their pay, clothing, and subsistence has been spent for any other purposes.

The House adjourned till Monday.

In the Senate, on Monday the 15th, Mr. Lane introduced a bill to provide for the extinction of the Indian titles in Kansas, and for the removal of the Indians, which was referred. The resolution concerning arbitrary arrests in Delaware was taken up and discussed, but no vote was taken.

In the House, on the 15th, Mr. Blake introduced a bill, which was referred, providing