

## DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Jan. 28th. In the Senate Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to define the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army, which was referred.

Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to provide for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of the United States. The bill provides for the appointment by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, of three persons learned in the law, to revise, simplify, arrange, and consolidate all such statutes of the Congress of the United States in force at the present session as are general and permanent in their nature, by bringing together all acts and parts of acts which, from similarity of subject, ought to be so brought together; and arranging the same under titles, articles, and sections, or other suitable divisions and sub-divisions.

On motion of Mr. Wade the Senate then took up the bill reported from the special committee on the conduct of the war, to authorize the Government to take possession of certain railroad and telegraph lines; the provisions of which were debated by Messrs. Wade, Trumbull, Cowan, Sumner, and Pearce. The bill passed by a vote of 23 to 12.

In the House, on the 28th Mr. Roscoe Conkling introduced a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States, which was referred to the special committee on that subject.

Mr. Potter made a report on the subject of disloyal employees of the government, the consideration of which was postponed for two weeks.

The House again took up the Judicial, Legislative and Executive Appropriation Bill, to which sundry other amendments were made, but no conclusion was arrived at.

Jan. 29th. In the Senate Mr. Wilson presented the credentials of John B. Henderson, appointed Senator from Missouri, to fill the vacancy caused by the expulsion of Mr. Polk, which were read, and Mr. Henderson took the oath.

The joint resolution on the secret sessions of either house was taken up and Mr. Sherman offered the following as a substitute for the first section:

"During the present rebellion, if any member of the Senate or House of Representatives shall arise in his place and state that the President desires immediate action on any matter pertaining to the suppression of the rebellion, the galleries shall be cleared and the member state the action desired, and his reasons for such, and the House shall then determine without debate whether to proceed to the consideration of the subject. If decided in the affirmative the debate shall be confined to the subject matter and limited to five minutes for each speaker, and a vote taken before the adjournment, unless two-thirds shall otherwise decide, provided this rule does not interfere with the previous question in the House."

On the suggestion of Mr. Collamer, Mr. Sherman's amendment was modified so as to strike out the clause requiring the final vote to be taken before the adjournment of the secret session.

Mr. Sumner had some doubt about any restriction of the debate to five minutes for each speaker.

Mr. Hale thought that if anything was required it was this very restriction. As far as he knew, executive sessions were not favorable to short debate. He recollected one member who occupied the floor three weeks, and the columns of the *National Intelligencer* were filled with the report of this speech which took three weeks to deliver.

Mr. Sherman's amendment was adopted.

Mr. Collamer moved to amend the second section, as follows:

"If a senator or member of the House of Representatives betray, publish, disclose, or reveal any debate, conversation, or any of the proceedings in the secret session, he shall be expelled."

This was adopted, and the resolution as amended was then passed.

The case of Mr. Bright was taken up, and in the course of the lengthy discussion which followed, Messrs. Davis and Bright became considerably excited, and were called to order by the chair.

In the House, on the 29th, the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill was passed.

Mr. Lovejoy, from the committee on agriculture, reported a bill, which passed, appropriating three thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for the purchase of upland cotton seed, for general distribution through the Patent Office.

The bill authorizing the President in certain cases to take possession of railroads and telegraph lines was taken up and passed by a vote of 113 to 28.

The House took up the Senate joint resolution providing for secret sessions on war questions, and imposing penalties for disclosing the proceedings of the sessions, which was ultimately passed.

Jan. 30, in the Senate, Mr. Grimes presented a petition of citizens of Iowa for a general bankrupt law.

Mr. Chandler offered a resolution that the committee on commerce inquire into the expediency of requiring captains of vessels sailing to foreign ports during the present rebellion to take the oath of allegiance, which was adopted.

A resolution to print four thousand eulogies upon the death of Senators Baker and Bingham was rejected, yeas 13, nays 27.

A resolution was passed instructing the

committee on military affairs to inquire into the management of the government hospitals. There was some considerable debating on the subject, during which Mr. Hale said he thought it was time the truth was told about these things. There is a sort of a list of medicines which a doctor may prescribe, and this list was fixed thirty or forty years ago, and the doctor can prescribe no other, no matter how much light he may have got since that time. If somebody could only be put to death by partaking of the dose of forty years ago, then the doctor was at liberty to give it. There is a perfect jam of dead logs at the head of the medical department. The old foggy notion of promoting doctors who had dosed and dosed for forty years in the same old way ought to be discarded, and we ought to call in to our relief the best medical talent of the country.

The case of Bright occupied the balance of the time till the Senate went into executive session.

In the House, on the 30th, the House resumed consideration of the bill to pay the expenses incurred by the States in enrolling, subsisting, clothing, arming and transporting troops. In the course of the debate which followed, Mr. Richardson was glad to state that Gov. Yates, of Illinois, was not concerned in any fraudulent transaction, but he had nothing to say in exculpation of others against whom grave charges lie. Thieves were engaged in plundering the Treasury in every possible way. We have more to fear from them than we have from the rebels. By the passage of this bill we would open the door to all the thieves on earth. A law is already in existence authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to pay all properly authenticated claims. We should reduce the pay of the army and make them fight for something else than money. Another thing we have got to do, namely: bring all incompetent officers, from Gen. Fremont down, before a court-martial. Fremont should be convicted because he did not support Gen. Lyon, the worst military blunder that ever was made.

Mr. Kellogg mentioned the fact that his State had furnished 80,000 volunteers to crush this devilish and hellish rebellion, and therefore it would be strange if some improvidence had not occurred. His colleague's wholesale charge of dishonesty and fraud against officers of Illinois should be sustained by some kind of proof. He had a regard for the public press, but it was to some extent debauched and demoralized, and public officers could be shielded from insidious attacks at a time when the nations tremble and men turn pale. The bill was tabled.

Mr. Worces'er, from the committee on elections, reported resolutions declaring that Chas. H. Upton, of the seventh Congressional district of Virginia, is not entitled to a seat in this House.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the army appropriations.

Mr. Cox responded to the attack of his colleague (Gurley) upon the conduct of the war and Gen. McClellan. He said there were hypocrites in religion, quacks in medicine, pettifoggers in law, mushrooms in vegetation, secession in government, and military critics in Congress. He inveighed against the fledgling Congressional critics whose experience was mostly confined to Bull Run. It seemed to be considered necessary for a military critic to know at least that the rear rank is just behind the front, and that he should at least be a militia officer with the bloody experience of a training day; but we have a reverend civilian, whose thoughts ought to be more on the dove than on the eagle; whose experience has been confined to conventions and caucuses, criticizing one of the most accomplished officers in the military service of any nation.

The bill was passed as originally reported.

Jan. 31st, in the Senate, Mr. Foster, from the committee on pensions, reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension roll all names of persons who take up arms against us, or aid the rebels, which was passed.

The joint resolution appropriating thirty-five thousand dollars for carrying out a former resolution in relation to the Industrial Exhibition, was taken up and rejected, yeas 17, nays 22.

The bill to prohibit the coolie trade by American citizens was taken up and passed.

The balance of the time was consumed in the debate on Bright's case.

In the House, on the 31st, on motion of Mr. Fessenden, an editorial in the Chicago Tribune, stating that one-third of the cartridges furnished to the Burnside expedition contained no powder, &c., was referred to the government contract committee.

On motion of Mr. Alley, the committee on commerce was instructed to inquire into the expediency of the passage of a law prohibiting the exportation of oak timber.

The report of the committee of conference on the consular and diplomatic bill was agreed to.

Feb. 3d, in the Senate, Mr. Sumner presented a petition from the president, professors, and students of Harvard College asking Congress not to diminish the number of chaplains in the army, or to reduce their salaries.

Mr. Harris presented a petition from 1,300 citizens of Brooklyn asking that homeopathic surgeons be employed in the army; also, a petition from citizens of New York asking that Congress take speedy measures to repeal the present reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Harris also presented resolutions from the legislature of New York, asking a modification of the law for raising revenue, so that

any amount may be raised by any State by any mode of taxation except duties on imports. That each State be allowed to assume the amount of tax, and assess for the payment and collect the same according to its own laws and by its own officers, which was referred.

Mr. Simmons, from the committee on patents, reported back the joint appropriation of \$3,000 for the purchase of cotton seed for general distribution, with an amendment appropriating \$1,000 for the purchase of tobacco, which was finally passed.

Mr. Foote called up the resolution directing the removal of the army bakeries from the Capitol, which was adopted.

In the House, on the 3d, on the motion of Mr. Baker, it was resolved that the committee on post-office and post roads be requested to inquire into the propriety of establishing, by law, a system for the free receipt and delivery, by postmen, of all mail matter in cities containing upwards of 10,000 inhabitants, in conformity with the admirable and economical post office system of the principal cities of Europe.

The House went into committee of the whole on the Treasury note bill, upon which lengthy speeches were made by Messrs. Valandigham and Hooper, occupying the time till the hour of adjournment.

## What the Public Journals Say about John W. Dawson.

Since the editor of the *Fort Wayne Times*, who came to Utah in December last as Governor, and chief "representative of Federal power," got fairly under way on his return to Indiana we have not made mention of his name, deeming him "a used-up man," but many of the Eastern journals have handled him roughly without gloves, and, if half they have said concerning him be true, he is and has been a very unpopular man at home, and wherever known, especially among those who have been acquainted with his "manner of life from his youth up."

The following extracts from the *People's Press*, published at Bluffton, Indiana, are fair samples of what the world think and say of the "rejected:"

"John Dawson, in a recent letter to his *'Dear Times'*, very modestly suggests that if the government would give him a little more discretionary power, and increase his salary so as to keep him up in Salt Lake society, he would make a very nice thing out of governing Utah. He felt certain that it would be greatly to the interest of the government to do so. When the department sends on his instructions, enlarging his powers there, it should give him full control over the rape question and date the whole thing back to 'kiver accidents.'"

Subsequently it gave utterance to the following:

"We gave Dawson a short notice last week and briefly hinted at what was then a mere prediction on our part, as to the cause of his troubles in Utah. Since that time further facts have come to light which fully corroborate our guess in the premises. The appendage of 'Excellency' to a name only mentioned to be execrated by all good men, cannot change the felon into a statesman, nor elevate the groveling and besotted appetites of the low and vulgar to those of the philosopher or Christain. It is true the appointment of Governor of Utah went a begging, yet it is to be regretted that good men should be induced to give their influence to impose such a scoundrel upon the Administration for the sake of relieving his old neighbors of so disgusting a presence."

We give below an account of this matter taken from the *Salt Lake News* of January 1st, 1862. We leave the whole matter with our readers and hope to have no occasion to refer to it hereafter. We have no spleen to vent on Dawson. He is a poor, despised and hated ruffian, without a solitary friend of any influence on earth, outside of his own printing office. This is not the first time that community has been sickened and disgusted with the infamy and crime of John Dawson."

A NEW RIFLE.—Rev. J. D. Moore, of Birmingham, Iowa, has invented a rifle capable of firing forty shots a second. Its caliber is nineteen balls to the pound, and it has the Maynard primer attached. The powder and balls are put into two tubes, which extend from the chamber about one foot up the barrel, parallel with each other, both can be filled with ammunition in a few seconds. These serve the purpose of a cartridge box, and the rifle is charged by a partial revolution of the stock, which is quickly reversed, and the gun is ready for firing. The ball is rammed into the chamber with a sliding hammer, by the movement of returning the stock to its place. The manner of handling it may be learned thoroughly in a few minutes.

A FALLING OFF.—Since the beard and moustache followed the wake of lager and meerschaum, and became Americanized, the number of barber shops in Philadelphia has fallen from over 200 to about 80. There are not more than one-sixth as many shaving brushes manufactured, and the importation of razors has declined in a corresponding ratio.

## A Fable for the Learned.

A father had heard that children were sometimes sent beyond the sea to be educated, and that one who had been beyond the sea could at once be distinguished from him who had not. So, not to be behind others, the father decided to send his son across the sea, that he might learn something useful; but the boy returned a greater dunce than before. He had fallen into scholastic hands, and had inexplicable things explained to him, but had learned nothing and remained a fool. The dull did not understand him before, but now even the clever could make nothing of him.

One day, seeking the beginning of all beginnings, he was ascending into the clouds, when, as he proceeded along the road, he stumbled, and fell into a pit. His father, who was with him, ran to fetch a rope with which to rescue wisdom from the abyss, and bring him up into the world again.

In the meanwhile, the clever youth sat in the pit, and reflected what could be the reason of his stumbling and falling into it. "The cause," said he to himself "was probably an earthquake, and my rapid fall into the pit may be accounted for by central attraction and the pressure of the air."

The father came back with the rope. "Here," he said, "is a rope for you; take hold of it, and I will pull you out. Hold fast."

"No, do not pull yet; tell me first," said the student, "what manner of thing is a rope?"

The father was not a learned man, but he possessed common sense; and without regarding the scientific side of the question replied, "A rope is a thing for pulling out people who have fallen into a pit."

"For such a purpose some other instrument should be invented," said the learned youth, continuing his mode of talking; "and so that is a rope?"

"Time is necessary for what you propose," replied the father, "and it is lucky we have the rope here at hand."

"And what is time?" re-commenced the son.

"Ah, time is a thing I shall not lose with a fool, remain where you are," said the father. "till I come again."—[Translated from Killoff.]

## A Sociable Governor.

Governor Powell, of Kentucky, was never an orator; but his conversational, story-telling and social qualities were remarkable. His great forte lay in establishing a permanent intimacy with every one he met, and in this way he was powerful in electioneering. He chewed immense quantities of tobacco, but never carried the weed himself, and was always begging it of every one he met. His residence was in Henderson, and in coming up the Ohio past that place I overheard the following characteristic anecdote of Lazarus:

A citizen of Henderson coming on board, fell into conversation with a passenger, who made inquiries about Powell.

"Lives in your place, I believe, don't he?"

"Yes—one of our oldest citizens."

"Very sociable man, ain't he?"

"Remarkably so."

"Well, I thought so. I think he is one of the most sociable men I ever met in all my life. Wonderfully sociable! I was introduced to him over at Grayson Springs last summer, and he hadn't been with me ten minutes when he begged all the tobacco I had, got his feet up in my lap, and spit all over me!—remarkably sociable!"

A GOOD JUDGE.—Judge Cate, in his charge to the Grand Jury of Juneau county, Wisconsin, now in session, made a timely allusion to what constituted treason and secessionism. He said it mattered not what State legislatures or individuals might call treason. The Constitution of the United States plainly defined treason to consist in levying war, and aiding the enemy. A man's opinion, freely expressed against the policy of the Administration, or freely discussing the causes of the war, and locating the blame, did not constitute treason or make a man liable to the charge of secession sympathies. An editor might freely discuss the policy of government, and the acts of the government officials, and in doing so, he was only exercising the privilege of an American citizen.—[*Journal of Commerce*.]

ORDER.—Never leave things lying about—a shawl here, a pair of slippers there, and a bonnet somewhere else—trusting to a servant to set things to rights. No matter how many servants you have, it is a miserable habit, and if its source is not in the intellectual and moral character, it will inevitably terminate there. Children should be taught to put things back in their places as soon as they are old enough to use them. If each member of the family were to observe this rule, the house would never get much out of order, and a large amount of vexation and useless labor would be avoided.

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE.—A clergyman in Scotland, being engaged in catechizing a number of his parishioners, asked a man of the name of Peter, "How many years did the children of Israel sojourn in the wilderness?" to which he replied "Forty." "But, can you tell me, sir," said Peter, how many knives the children of Israel brought back with them from Babylon to Jerusalem?" The clergyman paused and pondered, and was at length obliged to confess that he could give no answer. "Well," said Peter, they just brought back twenty-nine knives; you will find it stated in Ezra, 1st chap., 9th verse."