

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, May 24th. — In the Senate Mr. Benjamin called attention to the necessity of doing something at once with the bill from the Judiciary committee to provide for the negroes now at Key West. It authorizes the President to enter into a contract with any person or corporation to receive from the United States authorities the Africans seized on the vessels engaged in the slave trade and to support them for six months from the date of their landing on the coast of Africa; provided the cost of the same shall not exceed one hundred dollars for each person. The President is also authorized to use the vessels of war to transport them to Africa. Two hundred thousand dollars are appropriated for the purposes of the bill.

Mr. Pugh offered an amendment to extend the period during which the negroes are to be supported, to not less than one year, instead of six months. Adopted, by yeas 25, nays 17. The bill was strongly opposed and several other amendments offered, but finally passed, yeas 41, nays 14.

Mr. Davis's Territorial resolutions were taken up and the three first adopted.

The House proceeded to act on the amendments to the Civil Appropriation bill. Among those concurred in was one appropriating \$60,000 for seeds and cuttings, to be distributed by the Patent office. The bill was passed. Among its appropriations is \$1,000,000 for making the census.

The Pacific Telegraph bill passed, 110 to 73.

The Secretary of the treasury is to advertise for proposals under the direction of the President; the line is to be constructed within two years from some point or points on the west line of Missouri, to unite Washington, New York, Boston, New Orleans, Charleston and other Atlantic cities to San Francisco; the parties contracting are to have the right of way for ten years; the government is not to pay more than \$40,000 annually, and to have priority of the line; the rates to the public are to be three dollars per ten words.

The Pacific Railroad bill was taken up and made the special order for Monday and Tuesday following.

25th, in the Senate, Mr. Gwin moved to take up the overland mail bill; carried.

The Chair called up the special order, being the private calendar, and it was postponed.

Mr. Davis's resolutions were taken up, and the balance of them passed.

In the House, some 24 private bills were passed.

May 26th.—In the Senate, the bill relating to patents and the Indian Appropriation bill were taken up and passed.

In the House, the bill appropriating \$3,000 to Mr. Portman, who acted as interpreter of Commodore Perry during the Japanese expedition, was passed. A number of private bills were also passed.

May 28th.—In the Senate, a large amount of routine business of no general interest was transacted.

The bill making appropriations to complete the geological surveys of Oregon and Washington was taken up and passed.

An executive session was had on the reopening of the doors, and the discussion of the Post Office bill was resumed.

Without taking the question, the Senate at six o'clock adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Corwin moved to postpone the consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill till Thursday, which was refused by a vote of 118 to 57, and the bill was taken up, and Mr. Phelps' offered amendment to strike out the route through Salt Lake was rejected by 43 against 7.

Pending an amendment to substitute for the first section the Texas or Southern route, the House adjourned.

May 29th.—In the Senate, Mr. Johnson, from the committee on Public Lands, asked to be discharged from the consideration of the bill to cede to the States the public lands within their limits, unsold for five years.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, moved to take up the Homestead bill, which was agreed.

He then moved that the Senate disagree to the House amendment, which was carried, yeas 29, nays 20.

Mr. King presented a petition from the soldiers of the war of 1812, for pensions.

Several bills and resolutions of a private nature were considered.

The House resumed, the consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill.

Mr. Noel offered a substitute, to the effect that the road commence in Western Texas. Rejected.

Mr. Woodson, as a compromise between the various propositions, proposed a main trunk from San Francisco, between the 35th and 42d parallel, north latitude, to connect with the branches from Iowa, Missouri and Texas.

The bill and amendments were recommended to the Pacific Railroad Select Committee, 100 against 87.

The House at five o'clock went into committee for general debate.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, addressed the Committee in reference to the personal and political history of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate for President.

Several other members obtained consent to print speeches on various subjects.

May 30th.—Mr. Seward appeared in his seat, and was warmly greeted by many senators of both parties.

Mr. Slidell reported back the bill for the acquisition of Cuba, but said he would not press it this session. He gave notice that he should call it up at the next session. He also presented a report from a majority of the com-

mittee appointed to investigate the charge of corruption against the printer of the Senate, accompanied by resolutions, which he moved be printed.

Mr. King rose to make an explanation, but was cut short by a motion to take up the Overland Mail bill, which prevailed.

Mr. Gwin appealed to Mr. Hale to withdraw his substitute, for the present, in order to perfect the original bill.

The chair called up the special order, being the Houmas land bill.

Mr. Gwin moved to postpone it, in order to continue the consideration of the California Overland Railroad bill. The motion was carried by yeas 27, nays 22.

Mr. Hale withdrew his substitute.

Mr. Latham offered an amendment authorizing the Postmaster General to contract with the contractors on the routes between St. Joseph, Mo., and Great Salt Lake, and between Salt Lake and Placerville for a semi-weekly, the distance to be done in twenty days, at not more than \$462,000 annually; also to contract for the transportation of printed matter and franked documents by steam-ships at not over \$40,000 per year; also to contract for a daily mail by coach from April 1st to Dec. 1st, and tri-weekly for the balance of the year, from Sacramento to Portland, Oregon, at not over \$100,000 per annum; also, to contract for a weekly mail from St. Paul, Minnesota, to the Falls of Oregon, at not over \$200,000.

On motion of Mr. Hale the bill was postponed till twelve o'clock on Saturday.

The House bill for the admission of Kansas was taken up, but on motion of Mr. Lane the bill was postponed till Monday at 12 o'clock.

The Oregon War Debt bill was taken up.

Mr. Grimes offered an amendment that all moneys payable under the act be paid to persons who actually rendered service, and not to assignees. Agreed to.

The bill as reported from the Committee on Military Affairs, appropriates \$3,000,000 to pay the troops called out in the Indian wars of Oregon, and Washington Territories in 1855 and 1856. The bill passed by yeas 31, nays 27.

The House passed a bill for the removal of the Arsenal of St. Louis to Jefferson city.

Mr. Fenton reported a bill providing that all invalid pensions shall commence from the date of disability, the object being to place all army and navy pensioners on an equality, and remove from Congress the numerous applications continually made for back pay. He said this measure would require about a million and a half of dollars for arrearages.

Several efforts were made to defeat the bill, which finally passed, 98 against 80.

On motion of Mr. Grow, the House insisted on its disagreement to the Senate's amendment to the Homestead bill, and asked for a committee of conference.

Mr. Haskin called up the special order—being the resolutions reported by him from the committee on Public expenditures, providing that hereafter no person shall be elected Printer, either to the Senate or House, who is not a practical printer, and of fair reputation for skill and ability; that the printer elected to either branch shall give bonds as security, for \$25,000; that the present prices shall be reduced forty per centum, and that the resolution shall take effect from its passage.

A discussion followed but no question was taken.

May 31st, in the Senate, several petitions and memorials were received.

Mr. Slidell, from the committee appointed to investigate into the payments made by the public printer to various papers, and for electioneering purposes, etc., made a majority report, giving a history of the public printing, and stating, in effect, that the payments made by Wendell to various papers were made in compliance with a bargain by Wendell.

The subject was postponed till to-morrow.

Executive session followed.

Mr. Dixon presented the credentials of the re-election of Mr. Foster.

In the House, Mr. Reynolds, from the committee on Judiciary, reported back, with an amendment, the Senate bill providing for the return of the captured Africans. There were now one thousand five hundred of them at Key West. It was important that the bill be passed at the earliest practicable day.

Mr. Smith, did not want to force them back in chains, but give them the privilege to stay in this country.

Mr. Reynolds gave notice that he would call up the bill next Monday. The House resumed the consideration of the subject to reform in the public printing.

A protracted discussion ensued and much warmth was manifested by the speakers. After further proceedings, the House passed the bill for the establishment of a Government Printing office, 120 against 56.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union and discussed the "nigger" question at length.

The Post Office appropriation bill for the ensuing fiscal year being under consideration, Mr. Colfax, from the Post Office committee, moved the various retrenching propositions.

The maximum pay of the route agents on railroads was made \$800 instead of \$1,000.

Mr. Colfax moved to further amend so as to reduce the per centage of the Postmasters whose offices yielded over \$400 postage per quarter, to the rates established by the act of 1851; an average reduction in those offices of about ten per centum, and also repealing the section allowing the Postmaster General to give extra pay to Postmasters over their salary, making a saving of nearly \$200,000 per year.

It was opposed by Messrs. Barksdale, Sin-

gleton and Clark, (Mo.) and after repeated votes, the Committee rose without a quorum.

The Nineteenth Century.

The nineteenth century, though little more than half run out, will prove one of the most remarkable in the history of the world. As distance grows, many of what are now considered its great events shall, like mountains afar off, fade on the eye, and at length sink out of view. Time will fill up the letters which the sword has carved; new revolutions will throw down the barriers of existing empires; and, some centuries hence, the world will retain no trace of many who are now playing the chief parts on its stage.

The men who have immortalized themselves and their times are those who, amid the din of machinery, or in retreats remote from the bustle of camps, the intrigues of courts, and the noisy combats of public assemblies, have studied the arts—not of war—but of peace.

When the world has lost almost all of Wellington but his name, James Watt shall live in his inventions. His genius shall continue through untold generations to subdue the soil, and triumph over the sea; to employ the hands and fill the mouths of millions.

Among many peculiar features of our age, one of the most remarkable is the expansive and the comprehensive character of its benevolence. Our grandfathers or great grandfathers, though good people, were content to live for themselves. Their religion was contemplative rather than active. To live a holy life, to rear a virtuous and pious family, was the height of their ambition.

Their sympathies were confined to a circle so narrow, that they remind one of the story told of an honest countryman who, away from home, attended worship in the church of the parish where he chanced to be. The preacher was a great orator. The audience were moved to tears; not so the rustic. He sat hard and stolid on the bench beneath him; and replied, when asked how he could possibly sit unmoved by such a flood of pathos, "Oh, you see I don't belong to the parish."

In olden times, what did not belong to the parish, the neighborhood, or the family, excited little interest. With exceptions hardly worth mentioning, the churches of Christ did nothing for the conversion of the heathen, either abroad or at home.

Though there are now five vessels belonging to missionary societies sailing about their work in the Pacific ocean alone, formerly no ships left London, Liverpool, Glasgow, or any other port, with missionaries among their passengers, and Bibles part of their cargo. Foreign, Home, City, Medical Missions; Sabbath Evening, Apprentice, Factory, and Ragged Schools; Bible, Tract, Pastoral Aid, and Total Abstinence societies these and many other such schemes, are the growth and glory of our own age.

Thus, while science and the arts have made unparalleled progress since heads now gray were black, and grown men were boys, the Church has not lagged behind. Pressing forward on her higher career, she has kept abreast of them in the race.

Another remarkable feature of our era is the acknowledgment and practical application of the power of union; of co-operation, as better than individual action. Separate the atoms that form a hammer, and in that state of minute division they would fall on a stone with no more effect than snow-flakes. Weld them into one solid mass, and swung round by the quarryman's brawny arm, they descend on the rock like a thunderbolt. Stand by the falls of Niagara, and as the waters, gathered from a hundred lakes, are rolling with the voice of a hundred thunders over the rocky precipice, fancy them divided into their individual atoms. They might gem with sparkling dew-drops vast tracts of field or forest; in clouds of gold, and amber, and purple, they might hang curtains around the gates of day; but where were the onward, overwhelming power of the majestic flood? Gone; and gone the vaunt with which a New Englander met the boast of a Neapolitan, during a brilliant eruption of Vesuvius. The poor Italian had the glory of Vesuvius, if he had nothing else, to boast of in his priest-ridden country. Directing the attention of his companion to the mountain, as it shot up showers of fiery stones, and licked the sky with long tongues of flame, and poured streams of glowing lava down its riven sides, he exclaimed, "You have nothing like that in your country." "No," said the other, with nasal twang, but thrust quick and sharp as rapier's, "yet, I guess, we have a bit of water that would put it out in two minutes."

Now, as with the combined power of matter, so is it with the combined power of men. They do in masses what they would not attempt, or attempting, could not achieve as individual units.

Bravely and gallantly as our soldiers fought at Waterloo, I doubt if there were twenty men on that field who would have stood up singly for seven long hours to be shot at like targets; yet, massed in solid square and column, how they stood! from morning to sundown, facing the foe, and budging not a foot, till night crowned their brows with victory.

The wise man says that "two are better than one;" and our Lord himself illustrated the advantages of union when he sent forth his disciples two by two.—[Seed-time and Harvest; or, Pleas for Ragged Schools. By Thomas Guthrie, D. D.]

—A lady residing in Chicago, who was recently on her way from that place to New York, was robbed at Michigan city of five thousand three hundred dollars in gold.

The Eclipse of July 18.

This great eclipses embrace, from the Pacific ocean to the mouth of the Red sea on the Indian ocean, more than 175 degrees of Longitude, with an oblique belt of total darkness about 175 miles wide from Vancouver's Island on the Pacific, in 48 or 50 degrees of north latitude, to the Red Sea in Africa below 20 degrees, and a visible width (if the sky should be clear) that can be seen, for a space of near 5,000 miles. In its oblique direction, it passes over Russia and British America, beautifying Hudson's bay, Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, the Atlantic ocean, Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, the Mediterranean sea, Jerusalem, all Africa, and the Red sea, with the sublime fac simile of a 'heavenly union'—while Jupiter, Venus, Mercury and Saturn display their 'brilliance' as guests, and Castor and Pollux sing that lovely song:

"Make your fortune, every one,
While the moon is under the sun."

The meridian of noon of this grand sight will take place in the Atlantic ocean, a little south of between Iceland and Greenland. The grandest obscuration at this city will be about half past 7 o'clock a. m. From the following table the position of the planets and stars can be early imagined:

	R. A.			DECL.			
	H	M	S	°	'	"	
Sun	7	52	00	20	58	00	At conj.
Moon	7	52	00	20	58	00	
Jupiter	7	59	13	21	6	33	At transp
Venus	8	22	49	20	11	56	
Mercury	9	35	19	12	34	30	Nearly
Saturn	9	39	37	14	23	54	
Castor	7	25	41	32	28	9	
Pollux	7	36	46	28	21	38	

All who saw the 'great eclipse of July 16, 1806,' can fancy the appearance of this one, as a 'ditto' of that; and, with the like splendor, it will visit this continent again on the 29th day of July, 1879, to take tea with us, if the 'Union is not dissolved' and if it is, that union will continue:

"Sweetly singing as they shine—
The power that holds us is divine."

From South America.

On the 19th April the city of Callao was visited by a terrible earthquake. There was not a dwelling in Callao, Lima, or Chorillos, which had not been damaged. The walls were cracked, people were wounded, and the churches left in such a condition that the steeples have to be taken down. A correspondent says:

No person can imagine the terrible effects of such a scene who was not here during the time of the panic. More than fifty shocks were experienced in seventy two hours, doing in that short space of time the estimated damage, in Lima, of \$1,000,000, in Callao about \$20,000, and in Chorillos about \$40,000; and destroying several estates in Canete, which may be set down at \$200,000. In Manta, trees were rooted out of the ground, and one of the mountains close by was rent in two, and produced a volcano of hot fetid water.

The latest accounts say: In Lima the shaking and rumbling still continue, and the panic is much greater there than at Callao. The priests are preaching in the open air to the people.

The political condition of Peru would appear to be about the same, but it is evident that a general revolution is not far off.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.—An exchange says: "A pretty seamstress living in New Albany, Ind., and working for tailors in Louisville, had no money to pay her ferriage, and the collector let her pass, saying he would take it out in sewing. Afterwards he called at her home to take her buggy-riding, and extending his hand to her, she took it, with her left, and holding on to it, drew a cowhide with her right, and beat him soundly."

A POSER.—What did the Creator give lords of creation a beard for? Certainly not to support the barbers. The Supreme Being knew better how to make a man than a barber did!—[Jane Swisshelm.]

And so you think, Jane, that he made us men just right. You wouldn't have us altered for the world—would you?—[Prentice.]

HOOPS.—Tell me, thou mighty deep, with waves so blue and clear, is there a good time coming soon, when hoops shall disappear? some foreign, rock-bound shore, some island far away, where the outrageous street balloons shall all be stowed away? The mighty deep, just rippled with a squall, answered; quite low and sadly, "none at all."

RESIGNATION.—Henry Ward Beecher says that "the lesson of resignation should be taught to all men." We think there is more need of its being taught to the office-holders of the present day than to any other class extant.

A FAT OFFICE.—It is much better to be Governor-General of India than President of the United States. To say nothing of minor advantages, the former has £25,000 a year salary, £13,000 a year allowances, and £5,000 for outfit.

The best Remedy for Rheumatism—Hall's Sarsaparilla, Yellow Dock and Iodide of Potass. 8-6m.