

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

March 7th.—In the Senate, the message of President Lincoln, suggesting the passage of a joint resolution providing for co-operation with any state for the abolition of slavery, with pecuniary compensation, was read and referred to the judiciary committee.

The bill to provide for the occupation and cultivation of the cotton lands on the Southern coast was taken up, and passed by a vote of 26 to 14.

The bill provides for the appointment of a board of receivers and guardians to let the lands for a year or less for money or on shares, or cultivate them themselves, the lands to be laid off in lots of from 1,000 to 3,000 acres. The board is empowered to purchase tools, seeds, animals, etc., to the amount of ten dollars an acre, and to employ a superintendent, either at a fixed salary of \$1,200 a year, or at a compensation not to exceed \$3,000 yearly, contingent upon the success of his husbandry. A register is to be kept of all indigent persons who come into the plantation, with a description of each of such persons to be employed at fifty cents a day and properly cared for; money to be advanced to them for clothing and other necessities. Hospitals are to be erected for the sick, and physicians provided and paid by the board.

In the House on the 7th, the bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase coin, and for other purposes was taken up and considered.

Mr. Pendleton inquired of Mr. Stevens whether in his opinion it was necessary to authorize the sale of the five hundred millions of bonds recently authorized, in order to realize sufficient coin for the payment of the interest, which could not be more by next July than forty millions on the six hundred and fifty millions of indebtedness.

Mr. Stevens did not think it necessary, but it was found by the Secretary of the Treasury that these bonds cannot be sold except at a great sacrifice, which he did not choose to make. Hence, he suggested the passage of the bill so that the specie section of the recently enacted United States note law may not be repudiated. Mr. Stevens added, in reply, that the new five hundred million bonds have not yet been issued.

Mr. Pendleton expressed himself satisfied with the explanation, and would vote for it. He, however, offered an amendment, which was agreed to, reasserting that the Demand notes shall be receivable for duties on imports. With this exception the bill passed as originally introduced.

Both Houses adjourned till the 10th.

March 10th, in the Senate, Mr. Harris presented a petition asking that the democratic newspapers now excluded from the mails, whose editors are not convicted of treason, be allowed the same privileges as the abolition newspapers.

Mr. Howard presented a memorial asking Congress to permit no abridgment of the freedom of the press.

Mr. Sumner, from the committee on foreign relations, reported a bill to fulfill treaty stipulations with Hanover, which was passed.

The bill to encourage enlistments in the army was taken up.

On motion of Mr. Sherman the number of cavalry regiments was reduced to thirty instead of forty, and the bill was passed.

The confiscation bill was taken up.

Mr. Browning said he assumed that every Senator agreed in the wish that the war might be brought to a speedy and successful conclusion. He also assumed that all wished to keep within the limits of the Constitution, and preserve it in all its parts for our protection, and for the benefit of posterity forever. He would not prosecute the war to the sad end, if we only succeed in conquering the States by the overthrow of the Constitution. Unless we can save the Constitution with the Union we had better let both go. All the evils the rebels are now enduring, are the legitimate fruits of the violation of the Constitution. The Constitution says that no bill of attainder shall be passed; but it seems to be admitted that this is practically a bill of attainder. The senator from Maine (Morrill) seems to put the ground to pass the bill on the war power, but all the powers Congress possesses are granted by the Constitution, and they are the same yesterday, to day, and forever. The unlimited power of Congress, as advocated by the senator from Maine, is only the foundation for despotism. The functions of Congress are civil and legislative, and cannot control unlimited war power. He contended that the Supreme Court settled this question, and decided that the power rested with the President. He cited from the case of *Luther vs. Borden*, 7th Howard pp. 43 and 46; also *Martin vs. Mott*, 12th Wheatley. If the President abuse the power there is remedy in Congress; but if Congress usurps the war power, there is absolutely no remedy. He cited further from the case of *Cross against Harvatt* now growing out of the state of things in the State of California. California was conquered in 1856, but Congress had no power to legislate for it at all, and yet the President instituted for it a form of government. But this bill relates to property not captured or expected to be captured, and not restricted to property calculated to aid the rebellion, but strips millions of persons in private life of every thing. The sure and certain effect of this bill will be to make peace and re-union impossible. He contended that if the rebels were public enemies we could not confiscate private property by the laws of the nation, but if they were not enemies, but in-revolutionary citizens, then the Constitution forbids

it to be done. The bill is as inexpedient as it was unconstitutional, and would only serve to consolidate our enemies and make them desperate. He was willing, on their return to allegiance, to grant an amnesty to the deluded masses of the people, but would have the leaders suffer the extreme penalty of the law on the gallows. He would concede to loyal men all the rights over their property they ever had under the Constitution; but, if it should ever come to a question between slavery and the Union, then he was ready to wage utter extermination against slavery. He thought the loyal men South were as ready to yield as much as any one for the sake of the government, and, if it were necessary, were even willing to give up their slaves; but, unless necessity demands such a course, they should be protected in property as other citizens. In regard to the property of rebels—the movable property—he thought such property might be taken as the property of enemies under the rules of war, and we might take the negro like any other movable property, and needed no further legislation. No law was needed to indicate the confiscation of the property of an enemy.

In the House, on the 10th, Mr. Roscoe Conkling, of New York, asked leave to offer the following:

"Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolition of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State, in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

The rules were suspended for the purpose by a vote of 86 to 35.

Mr. Conkling's subsequently demanded the previous question, which the House refused by a vote of 59 to 67.

The bill providing for the appointment of sutlers in the volunteer service and defining their duties was taken up.

Mr. Blake made a motion to abolish such sutler ships.

Mr. Aldrich favored this, alluding to what he had heard of sutlers swindling the soldiers.

Mr. Blair (Mo.) was opposed to legislating against any class of men. If there had been swindling, the fault was with those who appointed them, and whose business it was to prevent such practices.

The bill passed, after being amended. It requires a schedule of the articles permitted to be held, together with the prices thereof, to be prominently posted; sutlers are prohibited from farming out their offices, nor are they allowed to sell to soldiers an amount exceeding one-fourth their monthly pay, nor shall the sutler have a lien on the same.

March 11th, in the Senate, Mr. Wilson offered a resolution that the committee of naval affairs be instructed to inquire into the late engagement with rebel steamers near Fortress Monroe, and the destruction of property there, and all the circumstances.

Mr. Hale said he did not wish to make any objection, but so far as he knew or had reason to believe, that since the commencement of the rebellion, no matter what disasters occurred, on sea or land, neither the War or Navy Department, except in a single instance, have made the least inquiry in regard to the matter.

Mr. Wilson said from his absolute knowledge the attention of the department has been called to the attention of this rebel ship. It has been known for months that she was fitting out, and merchants and underwriters every where felt anxious, and the attention of the government was called to it over and over again, and he thought the matter ought to be looked into.

Mr. Grimes said in regard to the disaster at the mouth of the Mississippi, the government had done all it could. The responsibility of this late disaster rests on the government for not long ago sending a military expedition against Norfolk. Officers of the Navy have been ready at all times to break the Potomac blockade, and the flotilla was under orders for several days for that purpose, but the superior military officer who had command of all the forces forbid the expedition and the responsibility did not rest on the Naval Department at least.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, the bill providing for the purchase of coin was taken up.

Mr. Fessenden's amendment in regard to the amount of deposits was adopted, and the bill passed.

In the House, on the 11th, Mr. Baker introduced a bill, which was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, for the establishment of a national foundry at Chicago, Ill., and at Pittsburg, Pa., and at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., for the fabrication of cannon and projectiles for the government.

It proposes the appropriation of a half a million of dollars for each foundry. It also provides for the establishment of an armory and arsenal at Columbus, Ohio, appropriating half a million dollars therefor. It also provides for the establishment of a depot for saltpetre, powder factory and magazine at Indianapolis, Ind., and for a powder factory at Trenton, N. J., appropriating two hundred thousand dollars for each.

Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill for the establishment of naval depots and navy yards on the lakes, which was referred to the select committee on lake defenses.

Mr. Walton reported from the committee on printing a resolution, which was adopted, that there be printed for the use of the House 50,000 copies of Washington's Farewell Address, General Andrew Jackson's Nullification Proclamation, and the Declaration of American Independence.

The House concurred in the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing amendments to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill.

Mr. Stevens reported back from the committee on ways and means the bill to establish a branch mint at Denver City, which was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The Speaker announced that the next business in order would be the motion to postpone until Thursday the resolution introduced yesterday, providing for co-operation with any State for the abolition of slavery with pecuniary compensation, etc.

The House refused to postpone the resolution until Thursday by one majority, and then by two majority refused to postpone the resolution until Monday next.

A spirited debate ensued, in which Messrs. Blair, Pendleton, Wickliffe, Diven, Biddle, Crisfield, Fisher, Olin, Covode, Thomas, Crittenden, Webster, Richardson, Hickman and Rosere Conkling.

Mr. Wickliffe moved to table the resolution, which was negative 34 to 81. The resolution then passed under the operations of the previous question moved by Mr. Rosere Conkling 83 to 31.

On the 12th, in the Senate, the bill to define the pay and emoluments of the army was taken up and passed.

A vote was taken on a motion to strike out the ninth section of the bill, which provides for a deduction of ten per cent on the salaries paid by the Government, excepting those of the President, Vice-President, Judges, non-commissioned officers and privates, which resulted yeas 20, nays 20. The Vice-President voted nay, and so the provision was returned.

The bill for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia was taken up and several amendments agreed to.

In the House, on the 12th, a joint resolution appointing J. Woolly, Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, vice Prof. Felton, deceased; expressing the recognition of Congress of the energy and forecast of John Ericsson in completing his steam battery, and of the bravery of Lieut. Worden in his engagement with the Merrimac; and instructing the Secretary of the Navy to inquire into the circumstances of the failure of certain contractors to furnish steam machinery according to contract, were introduced and referred.

A bill amendatory to an act to increase the proficiency of the Navy, was passed.

Mr. Ashley, from the committee on territories, reported a bill providing for temporary provisional Governments over the districts of country in rebellion against the United States. The President is authorized to take possession and institute such governments with the aid of the military and naval powers; Governors, &c., to be appointed, a legislative assembly and courts established, and continue till the people form new State Governments.

Mr. Pendleton said, Mr. Speaker: This bill ought to be entitled, "A bill to dissolve the Union, and to abolish the Constitution of the United States." As I am unalterably opposed to the destruction of either, I move to lay the bill on the table. Result, yeas 65, nays 57.

March 13th, in the Senate, the resolution expressing the thanks of Congress to Captain A. H. Foote, his officers and men of the western flotilla, was taken up, and passed.

The resolution of thanks to Lieut. Worden, and the officers and seamen of the Monitor, was then taken up and passed.

The report of the Judiciary committee on the case of Mr. Powell was taken up and discussed, but no action taken.

In the House, on the 13th, Mr. Dwell introduced a joint resolution, which was passed, tendering the thanks of Congress to Gen. Curtis, and the officers and men under his command, for their late brilliant victory in Arkansas, and sincerely sympathizing with the relations and friends of the officers and soldiers of the army who so bravely fell at Pea Ridge.

The House, in committee of the whole, then resumed the consideration of the tax bill.

The first section of the bill was amended by giving the commissioner of internal revenue the franking privilege.

A proposition to collect the Federal tax through State machinery, was for a long time discussed—one side arguing that this would be cheaper and better, and the other that it was wholly impracticable and worthless.

The proposition was subsequently withdrawn.

March 14th, in the Senate, Mr. Wilson, from the military committee, reported a joint resolution authorizing the President to assign the command of troops in the same field or division without regard to seniority. It also gives the President power to dismiss any officer from the service, if he sees fit, without a court-martial.

Mr. Sherman and Mr. McDougall objected to the latter portion, as giving the President too much power. The bill was laid over.

Mr. Hale introduced a bill to authorize the building of a steam iron clad ram, and steam gunboats; also to complete Stevens' battery.

The bill appropriates \$1,000,000 for the ram, \$13,000,000 for the gunboats, and \$700,000 for the completion of Stevens' battery. It was referred.

The case of Mr. Powell was taken up and discussed at great length when a vote was taken on the resolution to expel, which resulted yeas 11, nays 28.

In the House, on the 14th, the Senate joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress and the American people to Captain Foote

and the officers and men of his flotilla, for the gallantry exhibited by them in the recent naval victories, was taken up and passed.

The Senate resolution tendering thanks to Captain Worden was referred to the committee on naval affairs.

The House passed the bill authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to meet the commissioners from Great Britain and France for the purpose of the adoption of measures for the protection of the fisheries on the coast of Newfoundland. \$3,000 were appropriated to carry the act into effect.

Mr. Campbell, from the special committee, reported the Pacific railroad bill, which was made the special order of the week from Tuesday next.

The tax bill was under discussion most of the day.

More about Storms.

The storms on Monday and Tuesday, last week, were more severe north than in this county. At Farmington the snow is reported to have been about eighteen inches deep on Monday morning; and in other places in Davis county, there was about the same amount. In Weber and other northern counties, it is said to have as deep or deeper than in Davis. There was less on Tuesday; but, on Wednesday evening, a gentleman from North Canyon reported in our office that there were drifts in that settlement, that afternoon, two feet deep after the melting process had materially lessened the quantity.

In this city, on the morning of the 2d, the ground was covered with two or three inches of snow, but it soon dissolved, although the air was cold and chilly, with snow flying part of the day in the valley, and, from appearances, almost constantly on the mountains. On Thursday morning, at day-light, the snow, which had fallen during the night, was from four to six inches deep, most of which in and about the city disappeared before noon, but late in the afternoon, the hillsides were covered to their base and a snowy mantle was spread far out on the benches towards the lowlands. At Centerville, thirteen miles north, it was reported as being over a foot deep on that morning.

There was another snow storm on Sunday morning; but whether or not it was the last of the season, no one knoweth; but we guess not, from the appearance of the clouds last evening. Later.—It was raining and snowing at the time of going to press.

Vandalism.

A person connected with the telegraph office in this city, on his return from the Big Mountain, yesterday evening, whither he had been to repair the line, reported that some vandal individuals, great or small, had recently been trying their axes on some of the telegraph poles in that vicinity, not enough to fell them, but sufficient to render them liable to be prostrated by high winds. Why any human being should be disposed to destroy whatever they may come in contact with, is somewhat strange, but some will do so regardless of right or consequences. To reform an old man who has been thus inclined for a term of years, might not be an easy matter; but boys and young men can be deterred from such practices by proper instruction and training, which should be given at the right time and in way and manner that will make impressions not to be forgotten.

It is a very common practice, it would seem, to cut wires and destroy telegraph lines in California, and east in other places than where seceders are in the ascendancy, but in Deseret they should enjoy an immunity from the hands of spoilers; and those who interfere with the wires or poles, vengefully or otherwise should be dealt with in a way to prevent a further development of their propensities.

—The French Emperor seems resolved to secure proper respect for his Government in American waters. To the vessels already lying in Hampton Roads—the *Pomre* and the *Catinet*—another bearing the flag of the Empire has been added; making altogether an armament of thirty eight guns.

—The *Louisville Journal* says that on the day of the inauguration of Jeff Davis, about one o'clock p. m., the clouds, which covered the heavens, but did not appear to be thick or heavy, assumed a singular yellow hue, and a seemingly preternatural darkness overspread the land. Candles and gas lights were brought into requisition. The strange phenomena lasted fifteen or twenty minutes, and passed suddenly off.

—The prodigious quantities of petroleum oil thrown on the market by the Pennsylvania oil region, have had the effect of causing a glut and reducing prices below a paying standard.