

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of October.— Political State Conventions have been held as follows: The Nevada Republican, at Winnemucca, September 24, nominating Dr. J. C. Hazelett for Governor; South Carolina Independent Republican, at Charleston, October 3, nominating Judge John T. Green for Governor; South Carolina Conservative, at Columbia, October 8, indorsing the Independent Republican nominations; Massachusetts Republican, at Worcester, October 7, nominating the Hon. Thomas Talbot for Governor; Massachusetts Labor Reform, at Boston, October 9, nominating J. W. Andrews for Governor.

A convention of delegates from the reconstructed States met at Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 13. The object of the convention was to consider the situation of the Southern States and the possibility of establishing order as against outrage, and the political and social equality of the colored race as against the opponents of the Civil Rights Bill. An address to the Southern people was issued, and a permanent committee appointed.

Elections were held October 13 in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, West Virginia, and Dakota. In Ohio the Democratic ticket, headed by William Bell, Jun., for Secretary of State, was carried by a majority of from 18,000 to 20,000, with a Democratic gain of six Congressmen. In Indiana Joseph E. Neff, the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, was elected by a majority of about 15,000, and there was a Democratic gain of five Congressmen. In Arkansas there was no opposition to the Conservative ticket, which was carried by a vote of 75,000; the new constitution was ratified by this vote. In Iowa the Republican majority amounted to 40,000. There was also a Republican majority in Nebraska, where there were four tickets contestant. In Dakota there was a Republican majority on Congress and a Democratic majority on local tickets. The total gain of Democratic Congressmen in these October elections was twelve. In West Virginia the entire Democratic delegation was elected.

The Vermont Legislature, October 20, re-elected George F. Edmonds United States Senator for six years from March 4, 1875.

General Mitre has headed an insurrection against the government of the Argentine Confederation.

The earthquake in Guatemala on September 3 turns out to have been a great calamity. Several towns were ruined, and as many as two hundred lives were lost.

Early in October Count von Arnim, formerly German ambassador at Paris, was arrested by the German government. The charge against him was that he had embezzled documents belonging to the records of the Paris embassy.

A succession of Carlist defeats has been reported. It would appear that there is much disaffection among the Carlist troops, and that the army of Don Carlos is on the verge of dissolution.

The elections in France for the Councils General have resulted in the choice of 672 republicans, 604 monarchists, and 155 Bonapartists. In

the elections to fill vacancies in the Assembly there have been republican gains. In Ajaccio Prince Bonaparte was elected to the Council General over Prince Napoleon.

M. Henri Salles has recently published a book in which he shows that during the last three years there have been eighteen partial elections, with the following results: Of the 184 Deputies elected 152 have been Republicans and 32 Monarchists. In these elections nearly nine millions of voters have taken part, and their votes are divided as follows: Republicans, in round numbers, 5,500,000; Monarchists, 2,000,000; Bonapartists, 700,000; Legitimists, 400,000—giving the Republicans an absolute majority of 2,500,000 votes over all other factions of France voting during the last three years.

Alderman David Henry Stone was, September 29, elected Lord Mayor of London. In the election for member of Parliament for Northumberland Mr. Bradlaugh was defeated. After the election Mr. Bradlaugh's supporters attacked the hotel of Mr. Fowler, the Liberal candidate.

The Feejee Islands have been formally annexed to the British Empire.

A boundary dispute between Switzerland and Italy, which was referred to Hon. George P. Marsh, the United States minister at Rome, for arbitration, has been decided by him in favor of Italy, which thereby acquires 1800 acres of territory.

The Lincoln Monument was unveiled at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, October 15. An oration was delivered by the Hon. Richard J. Oglesby, United States Senator from Illinois.

DISASTERS.

September 28.—Terrible gale at Charleston, South Carolina. Damages \$250,000.

September 30.—Collision on the Alleghany Valley Railroad near New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Three persons killed and three seriously injured.

October 8.—Collision on the North Pennsylvania Railroad. Four persons seriously injured.

October 2.—A barge-load of gunpowder, weighing four tons, exploded on Regent's Canal, near the Zoological Gardens, London, killing twelve persons and injuring many others, besides destroying much property. Houses and bridges—some of the former being two miles distant—were shattered, and a number of animals in the gardens were killed. The noise of the explosion was heard at a distance of twenty miles. Among the houses destroyed was that of the artist Alma Tadema.

October 13.—The Turkish town Akhiolyi, containing 5000 inhabitants, on the Gulf of Burchaz, Black Sea, was totally destroyed by fire.

October 15.—Collision of two ships in the British Channel. Eleven persons drowned.

OBITUARY.

September 26.—In Davenport, Iowa, the Right Rev. Henry Washington Lee, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of the diocese of Iowa, in his sixtieth year.

October 7.—In New York, the Rev. Thomas M. Eddy, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in his fifty-second year.

The keels of all three vessels have been laid. No less than 2000 men are now engaged on the hulls and engines. The first of these vessels is to be completed in May next, and the two others respectively one and two months later.

The Bessemer anti-seasickness saloon steamer was recently launched at Hull, England, and will shortly go into service. Her speed is estimated at from eighteen to twenty miles per hour. The Bessemer vessel will, however, find a rival in the *Castalia*, recently constructed at great expense for the same traffic. The last-named is a twin ship, propelled by paddle-wheels placed between the connecting girders. By the latest advices she was lying at Dover for a heavy sea to thoroughly test her capabilities.

Although great improvements in operating railroads have been introduced within the past few years, there is still much room for improvement, and in no direction is this felt to be more desirable and necessary than upon the question of signals. Many efforts have been made from time to time to introduce uniformity in signaling practice, and in consequence of these efforts the Western and Southern Railway Association (now the Railway Association of America) adopted in 1872 a uniform code of signals, rules, and regulations for operating railways. Notwithstanding these efforts there still exists such diversity of practice upon the railways of the United States and Canada as to produce considerable confusion, and to lead at times to deplorable accidents. To secure reform in this important subject the American Society of Civil Engineers, at their recent convention, passed a resolution appointing a committee of three to inquire into it and report to the society with appropriate recommendations. In consequence of this action the committee have issued a letter of inquiry to the railroad managers of the country, requesting the fullest information in each instance of the practice which obtains with them.

So far as the Centennial Exposition is designed to represent the condition of American arts and manufactures its success seems to be assured from the fact just made public that the number of applications from intending American exhibitors already made call for more space than that set apart by the commissioners for American exhibits. The total amount of available space for exhibition purposes will be about 350,000 square feet, of which about 100,000 were thought sufficient for American exhibits. It appears, however, that applications are already in which call for no less than 150,000 square feet. These facts will of course necessitate much curtailment

of the space desired by many, who have doubtless asked for more than they actually require.

In *Technology* we can record the successful introduction of the Henderson process for purifying iron by the use of fluorine (fluor-spar being the agent) at the New Jersey Steel and Iron Company's works at Trenton. Some remarkable results of its employment are recorded in the English technical journals, which almost realize the claims of the inventor that, through its agency, the purest steel or wrought iron can be made from the most inferior pig, the silicon, phosphorus, and sulphur being thoroughly eliminated. In the trials reported from Trenton the most inferior cinder pig-iron that could be obtained was used to test the process, and it afforded bar-iron of the best quality. The introduction of the Henderson process in other quarters is announced to take place shortly.

Of general interest is the statement that steam is now being applied for the purpose of extinguishing the fires in the mines near Wilkesbarre, and, as far as learned, with success. It is worthy of note that the same agent has been successfully applied abroad where every other had failed.

Our *Necrology* for the month embraces several eminent names among the men of science and invention. In England we have Dr. F. E. Anstie, a distinguished physician and physiologist; Mr. T. Marr Johnson, Sir John Rennie, and Mr. Charles Fox, engineers; and Professor Robert E. Grant, the veteran comparative anatomist. In Belgium, Count du Bus de Guisignies, well known both as an ornithologist and statesman. In Germany, Dr. W. Lühders, who escaped all the perils of the German arctic expedition of the *Hansa* to fall a victim to African fever on the Cameroons. France has experienced a great loss in the death of the veteran geologist Élie de Beaumont. Sweden mourns the decease of Professor A. J. Angström. In our own country we have to mention Mr. Hiram G. Bloomer, the curator of the California Academy of Science, and Mr. Hardick, a well-known mechanical engineer.

CURING CROUP WITH BROMINE.

Dr. Schultz, of Prague, has, it is said, been very successful in treating croup with bromine; for which purpose he uses half a gram of purified bromine and half a gram of bromide of potassium in ninety parts of water. This is inhaled as well as applied by means of a brush. Dr. Gottwell also, who has repeated these experiments, thinks that by the use of bromine the diphtheritic membrane loses its consistence, and is readily removed.

Editor's Historical Record.

OUR Record is closed on the 24th of November.—On the 3d of November elections were held in twenty-three States, the result indicating a reaction against the administration. In New York, on the vote for Governor, the Democratic majority was 50,309; the next Assembly will consist of 53 Republicans and 75 Democrats; of the members of Congress elected 15 are Republican, 1 Independent, and 17 Democrats; and the constitutional amendments sub-

mitted were ratified by a large majority. The purport of these amendments is, that new and stringent safeguards are provided against bribery at elections, and public officers are compelled to swear that they have used no money for the purpose of influencing votes; no person shall be eligible to the Legislature who holds other office; the compensation of members of the Legislature is fixed at \$1500 a year; various classes of special legislation are entirely prohibited; the term

of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor after 1876 will be three years; the Governor will have a salary of \$10,000 a year, with a suitable residence, and the Lieutenant-Governor of \$5000; the Governor may veto parts of a bill and approve the rest; he must act upon all bills within thirty days from the adjournment of the Legislature; no extra compensation can be made to any contractor; the Legislature may dispose of the lateral canals; the sinking funds of the State must be kept inviolate; the public money shall not be loaned or given for any private or sectarian purpose; no locality shall give or loan its property or credit in aid of any corporation.

In Virginia the Congressional delegation stands 2 Republicans and 8 Democrats. In West Virginia the 3 delegates are all Democrats. In Maryland also the entire delegation is Democratic. In New Jersey the Democratic majority for Governor was 13,233, the Congressional delegation consisting of 5 Democrats and 2 Republicans. In Wisconsin the Congressional delegation consists of 6 Republicans and 2 Democrats. In Kansas the Republican majority for Governor was over 14,000. In Florida the Congressional delegation is Republican, and the State Legislature has a Republican majority on a joint ballot. In Nevada the Democratic candidate for Governor was elected, but there is a Republican majority in the Legislature. In Missouri the Democratic majority for Governor was over 40,000, and the entire Congressional delegation is Democratic. In Illinois the Republican majority for State Treasurer was 34,805, and the opposition majority for Superintendent of Public Instruction was 30,506, the Congressional delegation consisting of 7 Republicans, 12 Democrats, and 2 Independents. In Massachusetts the Democratic majority for Governor was 7032; the other State officers elected were Republicans; General Butler was not returned. In South Carolina Chamberlain's majority was 11,667. In Michigan the majority was Republican; the constitutional amendments were defeated. In Tennessee there was an overwhelming Democratic majority. In Minnesota the Republican majority was over 5000, and the Legislature is Republican by 27 majority on a joint ballot. In Alabama the Democratic majority for Governor was over 15,000. In Pennsylvania the Democratic majority for Lieutenant-Governor was 4679; of the Congressmen 10 are Republicans and 17 Democrats; and the Legislature has a Democratic majority of 9 on a joint ballot. In Arkansas the entire Democratic Congressional ticket was elected.

Turkish outrages against the Christian population of the Danubian Principalities have occasioned remonstrances from the great powers, Austria, Germany, and Russia have made treaties with Roumania independently of the Porte's consent.

The Carlists were defeated before Irun, November 10, and compelled to raise the siege.

The Russian government has resolved to introduce the Prussian system of compulsory education, beginning at St. Petersburg.

The German Reichstag was opened by the Emperor William in person October 29. Forckenbeck was elected President. The German project of government for the conquered prov-

inces of Alsace and Lorraine has been promulgated in an imperial decree dated October 29. There will be a Representative Assembly, composed of 10 delegates from each district diet, to be elected for three years. It will express its views upon the budget and upon bills not reserved for imperial legislation, and also upon bills which are not subject to discussion by the district diets. The sittings will be private, and will be fixed as to time and place by the Emperor. The Assembly in expressing its views to the imperial government must also give the views of the minority.

The trial of Kullmann for attempting to assassinate Prince Bismarck began at Warzburg October 29. The prisoner admitted his guilt. After a formal trial he was convicted and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment, ten years' suspension of civil rights, and to remain under surveillance for life.

Mr. Disraeli has been re-elected Rector of the University of Glasgow by 700 votes, against 500 for Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The difficulty between China and Japan about Formosa has been amicably arranged, China paying an indemnity of 500,000 taels—about \$750,000.

In the great typhoon at Hong-Kong, September 22-23, there were lost 30,000 lives and \$50,000,000 worth of property.

DISASTERS.

November 17.—Boiler of tug-boat *Lily* exploded at Hell Gate, New York; captain, steward, and deck hand killed.—The coast packet *Empire* foundered while approaching her dock at New Orleans; fourteen passengers and several of the crew lost.

October 28.—Burning of a cotton mill in Over, Chester County, England; ten lives lost.

November 19.—Explosion in a chemical factory at St. Denis, France; three persons killed and fifteen injured.—A boat belonging to the English war steamer *Aurora* was run down in the Clyde, and seventeen men were drowned.

November 20.—Explosion in a colliery at Warren Vale, Yorkshire, England; twenty-four miners killed.

OBITUARY.

October 23.—Commander Austin Pendergrast, commanding the receiving-ship *Potomac*, New York.—In Philadelphia, Commodore William Inman, the oldest retired officer of the United States navy.—In Westmoreland County, Virginia, the Right Rev. Dr. Payne, late Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Africa.

November 13.—In Boston, Daniel H. Haskell, editor of the *Boston Evening Transcript*.—In New York, Colonel William Wilson (Billy Wilson, of the Sixth New York Volunteers).

November 29.—At Cooperstown, New York, John H. Anthon, P. G. M. of Freemasons.

October 28.—In Rome, Italy, William H. Rinehart, an American sculptor.

October 29.—Death announced in England of John Laird, M. P., the well-known ship-builder.

November 8.—In London, Thomas Miller, author of *Gideon Giles*, etc., aged sixty-seven years.

November 20.—In England, Tom Hood, editor of *Fun*, and son of the famous humorist of the same name, aged thirty-nine years.

finds them to be quite constant with the same oil.

Nothing especially new has presented itself in the department of *Therapeutics and Hygiene* since our last report, although considerable stress is laid upon the value of intra-venous injection of chloral for the purpose of producing anaesthesia. It is said that it is practicable, without the slightest injury to the patient, to produce absolute unconsciousness for a period of even twenty-four hours without any of the ill effects which some-

times follow when anaesthesia is only maintained during the limited period of a surgical operation.

Among the *Deaths* that have been announced since the last report we may mention those of Leger de Libessant, of France; Dr. F. Hesseberg and Dr. E. M. Dingler, of Germany; Mr. Bryce M. Wright, Mr. John Grantham, Dr. Thomas Anderson, Dr. Edwin Lankester, Rev. W. H. Hawker, Commander R. M. Kester, R. N., and Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt-Drake, of England; and of the veteran Dr. Gideon Lincecum, of Texas.

Editor's Historical Record.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of December.—The final session of the Forty-third Congress was opened December 7, 1874. In the House four new members took their seats, viz., Richard Schell, *vice* D. B. Mellish, deceased; S. B. Chittenden, *vice* Stewart L. Woodford, resigned; Wm. E. Finck, of Ohio, *vice* H. J. Jewett, resigned; and L. Cass Carpenter, of South Carolina, *vice* R. B. Elliott, recently elected Speaker of the State House of Representatives. The standing committees of the Senate were announced December 9, and those of the House on the 10th. No material changes were made in either.

On the 7th the President sent to the Senate the nomination of Hon. Marshall Jewell to be Postmaster-General. The choice was confirmed on the 15th. S. B. Axtell was confirmed as Governor of Utah Territory December 21.

The bill to amend the customs laws, known as the "Little Tariff Bill," which comes over from the last session, was taken up in the Senate December 14, and a committee of conference was appointed. It provides for a commission of seven—one Senator, two Representatives in the next House, two officers of the customs service, and two citizens familiar with the customs laws—to report to Congress before December, 1875, a revised system of customs laws. The commissioners are to be allowed necessary traveling expenses, but no compensation.

Several financial bills were introduced into the House and referred to committee. Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, on the 8th offered a bill for the exchange of greenbacks into 3.65 convertible bonds. The proposition was discussed on the 10th, when Mr. Willard offered an amendment to the effect that greenbacks should not be a legal tender in payment of debts contracted after July 1, 1875. No definite action was taken. Mr. Roberts, of New York, proposed to amend the Constitution so that Congress shall not make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of individual debts, and shall pass no law impairing the obligations of contracts. Mr. Farwell introduced a bill removing all limitations on the number and circulation of national banks, and allowing bank-notes to be issued to the extent of ninety per cent. of the full value of bonds deposited, that from the 1st of July next a million a month of greenbacks shall be withdrawn and canceled, to continue until the greenback is at par with gold, and that the Secretary of the Treasury may sell bonds to get funds for retiring the greenbacks. On December 21 Senator Sher-

man from the Finance Committee introduced a bill for the resumption of specie payments. It provides for the redemption of legal-tender notes, beginning January 1, 1879, silver coin being meanwhile substituted for fractional currency. Free banking is authorized and legal tenders retired to the amount of eighty per cent. of the new bank-notes issued till the legal-tender circulation is reduced to \$300,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury may sell bonds in 1879 for gold if he has not enough of a surplus to meet demands for specie. Bill read twice, and placed on calendar.

The House Committee on Appropriations reported, December 7, in favor of the following sums: Legislative, \$19,653,434; Navy, \$16,976,000; Army, \$27,701,500; Indians, \$4,881,507; Fortifications, \$850,000. The first item was passed by the House on the 18th.

The postal telegraph scheme came up before the House on the 8th in a new form. Mr. West introduced a bill for the construction of a government telegraph line from Washington to Boston, *via* Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Hartford, to be operated in the post-offices of those cities, under the charge of the Postmaster-General, and to be open to all at a uniform rate. The bill was ordered to be printed.

A supplementary Civil Rights Bill was reported by the House Judiciary Committee on the 16th, and recommitted. It is substantially the bill passed by the Senate at the last session, but with a compromise clause striking out the mixed school section and substituting a requirement for equal school facilities for the children of both races. The penalty may be enforced by either civil or criminal suit.

Representative M'Crary on the 8th presented a bill to extinguish the Indian title to the Black Hills reservation in Dakota.

The first step taken this year toward increasing the public revenues was the introduction of a bill into the House by Mr. Dawes on the 8th restoring the duties on tea and coffee to the old rates existing before the repeal of March, 1872.

The Senate on the 14th, and the House on the 18th, passed a bill for the relief of settlers on the public lands who were obliged by the ravages of the grasshoppers to leave their homes in 1874, and those who may be obliged to vacate in 1875 for the same reason.

Senator Conkling proposed an amendment to the Geneva Award Bill, December 14, allowing insurance claimants excluded by the present law to present and prove their claims.

The fourth annual report of the Southern War Claims Commission was sent to the House on the 15th. It embraces 2407 cases, claiming \$5,242,706 46, of which 1244 are wholly disallowed, and 1163 allowed in whole or part, to the extent of \$770,711 37.

The commission appointed to investigate the affairs of the Freedman's Bank report liabilities \$2,879,031, and assets at face value \$2,693,095. Thus far only four per cent. of the amount of deposits has been realized in cash.

On the 15th Senator Wright submitted a joint resolution for the amendment of the Constitution, providing for the election of President and Vice-President by the direct vote of the people, the election returns to be canvassed by the United States Supreme Court. Referred to the Civil Service Committee.

The Railroad Committee of the House on the 18th reported a bill as a substitute for the Hurlbut bill of last winter, chartering a double-track freight railway from tide-water on the Atlantic coast to the Missouri River. It must transport all cars and any freight offered on equal terms for all persons or corporations, at rates which are minutely prescribed. Bulk freight, such as grain, coal, timber, etc., received in cars without handling by the company, must be transported at the following rates: Five mills per ton per mile for all distances exceeding 750 miles, six mills for distances between 400 and 750 miles, seven mills for distances between 300 and 400 miles, seven and a half mills for distances between 150 and 300 miles, and eight mills per ton per mile for less distances, provided that in the winter months, from November 1 to May 1, these rates may be increased one mill per ton per mile. A commission of five members, of whom three shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and two by the company, are to have power to classify freight and fix the maximum rates for such classes as are not specifically described or named in this bill, and who are also required to proportionately reduce all rates whenever the net earnings of the road exceed eight per cent. per annum on its actual cost. The bill proposes in return for these considerations that the United States government shall guarantee five per cent. interest on thirty-year construction bonds of the company to the extent of \$20,000 per mile of equivalent single track, or about \$60,000,000 in all. The House, December 21, rejected a sweeping resolution against the granting of subsidies during the present session. The vote on its adoption was 149 to 75, less than the required two-thirds.

The House resolved to take a recess from December 23 to January 5.

The President's annual Message is an important document of unusual length. Special attention is called to the desirability of an early return to specie payments, and the duty of Congress to legislate in that direction. To this end the legal-tender clause in the law authorizing the issue of currency by the national government should be repealed, to take effect as to all contracts entered into after a day fixed in the repealing act, except as to government salaries or for other expenditures now provided for by law to be paid in currency. In the interval pending between the repeal and final resumption pro-

vision should be made by which the Secretary of the Treasury can obtain gold as it may become necessary from time to time from the date when specie redemption commences. To this should be added a revenue sufficiently in excess of expenses to insure an accumulation of gold in the Treasury to sustain redemption. With resumption free banking may be authorized with safety; this would give proper elasticity to the currency. The experience and judgment of the people can best decide just how much currency is required for the transaction of the business of the country, and it is unsafe to leave the settlement of this question to Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Executive. Congress should make the regulation under which banks may exist, but should not make banking a monopoly by limiting the amount of redeemable paper currency that shall be authorized. During the year nothing has occurred to disturb our friendly relations with foreign governments. In view of the payment of the Geneva award by the British government, the President renews his recommendation, made at the opening of the previous session of Congress, that a special court be created to hear and determine all claims of aliens against the United States arising from acts committed against their persons or property during the rebellion. The commission for the survey of the boundary between the United States and the British possessions from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains has completed its work, and the line is now definitely marked. Attention is called to the failure of the Spanish government to put down the insurrection in Cuba after a six years' war, and it is suggested that the other powers should take some steps in the matter, on the ground of self-necessity. The settlement of the *Virginias* difficulty with Spain has been delayed by the unhappy civil war in that country, but an early adjustment is hoped for. The expatriation laws are in a very unsatisfactory condition, requiring immediate action. On the tariff question a re-adjustment is suggested, so as to increase the revenue, and at the same time decrease the number of articles on which duties are levied. In reviewing the report of the Postmaster-General the President remarks that "next to the public school the Post-office is the great agent of education over our vast territory. The education of the people entitled to the exercise of the right of franchise I regard as essential to general prosperity every where, and especially so in republics, where education or previous condition does not enter into account in giving suffrage."

Considerable space is devoted in the Message to the unsettled condition of affairs in the Southern States. The President defends his action with reference to the Louisiana election, and repeats what he said in his special message of February 13, 1873, that in the event of non-interference by Congress he must continue to recognize the existing government. He has declined to take any action in the Arkansas trouble, leaving that to Congress to settle. Referring to the Ku-Klux and White League outrages upon the negroes before the recent elections, the President declares that he felt it to be his duty under the Fifteenth Amendment and the Act of May 31, 1870, to protect colored citizens in the exercise of their right to vote. Complaints are made of

this interference by Federal authority, but if said amendment and act do not provide for such interference under the circumstances stated, then they are without meaning, force, or effect, and the whole scheme of colored enfranchisement is worse than mockery and little better than a crime. "While I remain Executive," continues the President, "all the laws of Congress and the provisions of the Constitution, including the recent amendments added thereto, will be enforced with rigor, but with regret that they have added one jot or tittle to the Executive duties or powers." Referring to Indian affairs, the Message upholds the "peace policy," declaring its results to be most beneficial, and confidently hoping that in a few more years depredations on the frontiers will cease. The Homestead laws should be extended to the Indians, and a Territorial government established in the Indian Territory.

Speaking of civil service reform, the President announces that if Congress adjourns without positive legislation on the subject, he will regard their non-action as a disapproval of the system, and will abandon it. To encourage American ship-building he suggests not a direct subsidy to home lines, but "ample compensation for carrying the mails between Atlantic sea-board cities and the Continent on American owned and American built steamers, and would extend this liberality to vessels carrying the mails to South American states and to Central America and Mexico, and would pursue the same policy from our Pacific sea-ports to foreign sea-ports on the Pacific."

The department reports accompanying the Message are very full. The Treasury exhibit is as follows: The total net receipts of the government for the last fiscal year were \$289,478,756, and the expenditures \$287,133,873. The reduction of the public debt during the year amounted to \$5,762,447 65. It is estimated that there will be a deficiency of \$11,920,914 in the revenues of the current fiscal year. The Secretary of the Treasury strongly urges an early return to specie payments; recommends economy in appropriations; calls attention to the loss of revenue from repealing the tax on tea and coffee without benefit to the consumer; recommends an increase of ten cents a gallon on whiskey; and further, that no modification be made in the Banking and Currency Bill passed at the last session, unless modification should become necessary by reason of the adoption of measures for returning to specie payments.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue reports a decrease in the revenues of 1874, as compared with the previous year, of \$11,430,709 10. Over \$5,000,000 of this decrease is in the single item of past-due taxes, under repealed statutes, which are constantly lessening. The number of brewers engaged in the production of fermented liquors was, in 1873, 3554, and in 1874, 2524—a decrease of 1030.

The Life-saving Service reports eighty-two stations in operation during the year. Forty-eight vessels were driven ashore during the season of 1873-74, with cargoes valued at \$2,231,606, and having on board 1166 persons. Of the amount of property jeopardized only \$457,282 worth was lost, and only two persons perished.

The Secretary of War estimates the expenses of the military establishment for the next fiscal year at \$53,144,499, or a reduction of \$7,036,424

compared with the previous year. He condemns the reduction of the army to 25,000 men, and shows that nothing was saved by it during the year. The Secretary indorses the suggestion of the Inspector-General of the Army that desertion be constituted by legislative enactment as a felony, cognizable by our civil courts of criminal jurisdiction, the offenders to be arrested like other criminals, but this jurisdiction to be concurrent with that of military courts.

The Secretary of the Navy reports 160 vessels now in the service, with 1254 guns, or two vessels and fifteen guns less than the previous year. During the last two years the whole fleet of our single-turreted monitors has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, their sides raised up, their rotten wooden beams and decks replaced by iron, and their turrets and machinery put in complete order, so that they are now efficient to their utmost capacity, and ready to go to sea at any time, as soon as crews can be put on board and organized. These, with the *Dictator* and *Roanoke*, also in good order, make a fleet of sixteen iron-clads, efficient for any naval purpose which does not require long voyages or great speed. Two powerful iron torpedo vessels have also been completed, and are ready for service, fully equipped with this most effective weapon of modern warfare. Four of our double-turreted monitors, viz., the *Terror*, *Miantonomoh*, *Monadnock*, and the *Amphitrite*, by far the most formidable vessels ever in our navy, are now in hand undergoing repairs, and the plans are also being matured for the repair of the *Puritan*, the only one of our efficient iron-clads which remains untouched.

The appropriations applicable to the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, including the unexpended balance of the appropriations for the building of new sloops, and the special appropriations to reimburse the bureaus for their extraordinary expenditures during the threatened complications with Spain, amounted, in the aggregate, to \$27,147,857 68; and the actual expenditures for the same period, to wit, from July 1, 1873, to June 30, 1874, from these appropriations, amounted to \$26,254,155 82, or about \$900,000 less than the whole amount. The appropriations made available for the current year commencing July 1, 1874, amount, in the aggregate, to \$19,263,731 27. The amount of these appropriations for the current year drawn for the five months since July 1 up to December 1, 1874, is \$11,854,446 87, which, reduced by the amount refunded during the period, and that remaining in the hands of the paymasters and agents of the government, will leave a little less than \$9,000,000 as the sum actually expended from the current appropriations during the five working summer months of this year.

The Postmaster-General estimates the total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, at \$36,964,034, and the revenue of the Post-office Department at \$29,148,156, leaving a deficiency to be supplied from the general Treasury of \$7,815,878. In addition to this sum \$1,112,500 are required for mail steam-ship service, and \$986,000 for official postage stamps. The number of ordinary postage stamps issued during the year was 632,733,420, valued at \$17,275,242; of stamped envelopes, 117,047,750, value \$3,661,690 70; postal cards, 91,079,000,

value \$910,790; official stamps, 32,320,085, value \$1,415,845 20; official envelopes and wrappers, 12,900,300, value \$353,456 66. The number of letters received at the dead-letter office was 4,348,473 domestic, and 253,300 foreign. Of these 1,392,224 were delivered, and 2,622,619, containing circulars, or failing in delivery, and being worthless, were destroyed. The reduction of the registration fee from fifteen to eight cents has considerably increased the registered-letter business of the year. The number of post-offices in operation is 34,294, an increase of 1050. The number of domestic money orders issued was 4,420,633, value \$74,424,854 71. Among the foreign money orders were 32,542, value \$701,634 73, issued to Germany, and 20,607, value \$535,216 72, issued in Germany and paid here; orders issued on Great Britain, 77,351, value \$1,491,320 31, and from Great Britain, paid here, 15,992, value \$303,773 66; orders issued on Switzerland, 2721, value \$72,287 28, and orders from that country, paid here, 793, amounting to \$21,222 16. It is suggested that the money-order fees be increased so as to cover the expenses. It is expected that the revenues of the department from postage on printed matter will be increased by the operation of the new act, notwithstanding that the rates are cheaper than before, as now the postage will be prepaid, while heretofore much loss has been occasioned to the department on account of the non-collection of postage at the point of delivery. The Postmaster-General concludes his report with the promise to guard expenditures with strict vigilance, and so to conduct affairs generally that the interests of the public shall be paramount to those of any individual, corporation, or party.

President Grant issued a proclamation December 21 commanding the disturbers of the peace at Vicksburg, Mississippi, to disperse within five days.

The Count von Arnim, ex-minister of the German Empire to France, was tried and convicted in Berlin, and sentenced December 19 to three months' imprisonment, for concealing certain ecclesiastical and political documents intrusted to his official custody while in the diplomatic service of the empire.

In the Prussian Parliament, December 16, a resolution was adopted declaring that in order to uphold the dignity of that body an amendment to the constitution is necessary forbidding the arrest of a deputy during the session. On the 18th a motion was made to strike out the appropriation for the secret service, but it was defeated by 71 to 199.

The whole number of granges in the United States December 1 was 21,472, an increase of 364 during November. There are 266 lodges in New York State.

King Kalakaua of the Sandwich Islands visited the United States, reaching Washington on December 12. He was formally presented to the President on the 15th, and welcomed by Congress on the 18th.

The Italian Parliament was opened by the king November 23.

President M'Mahon presented his message to the French Assembly December 3. He strongly insisted on the necessity of definite legislation with regard to the constitutional powers, and concluded by saying, "It is my duty not to de-

sert the post in which you have placed me—to occupy it up to the last day with unshaken and scrupulous respect for law."

DISASTERS.

November 23.—Nearly half the town of Tusculumbia, Alabama, was destroyed by a storm of wind and rain. Twelve persons were killed.

November 29.—The steamer *La Plata*, from Gravesend for Rio Grande do Sul, foundered at sea. The captain and sixty others were lost.

Eleven persons perished in the snow on the Great St. Bernard, in the Alps, in November.

December 9.—A terrific gale swept the British coast, wrecking several vessels and destroying many lives.

The Pacific mail steamer *Japan*, bound from San Francisco to Yokohama, took fire at sea December 17, and was totally destroyed. One hundred and twenty-three persons are known to have been saved, but a large number of others are missing.

December 21.—Powder magazine in Scutari, West Turkey, struck by lightning and exploded. A portion of the city walls was thrown down, many houses demolished, and two hundred persons killed or injured.

OBITUARY.

November 25.—In New York, Brevet Brigadier-General Thomas J. Leslie, of the United States army, aged seventy-nine years.

November 27.—In Chicago, Sherwood C. Campbell, the vocalist, in his forty-fifth year.

November 28.—In New York city, Jonathan Sturges, merchant, aged seventy-three years.

November 29.—In Philadelphia, ex-Justice John Meredith Read, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in his seventy-eighth year.

November 30.—In his office in the City Hall, New York, Hon. William F. Havemeyer, in his seventy-first year.

December 2.—In Chicago, ex-Judge Edward P. Cowles, formerly of the Supreme Court of this State, aged fifty-nine years.

December 8.—In Jersey City, Hon. Dudley S. Gregory, ex-Mayor of that city and ex-member of Congress, aged seventy-five years.

December 9.—At Ithaca, New York, Ezra Cornell, founder of the Cornell University, in his sixty-eighth year.

December 17.—In Norfolk, Virginia, Hon. John B. Rice, member of Congress from the First District of Illinois, aged sixty-five years.—In Washington, D. C., Commander William B. Cushing, U.S.N., in his thirty-second year. In *Harper's Magazine* for July, 1874, under the title of "One of Many," an account was given of this brilliant young officer's naval exploits during the war.

December 20.—In Washington, D. C., Jefferson Rives, one of the publishers of the *Congressional Globe*, aged twenty-seven years.

November 9.—In Edinburgh, Scotland, James Gall, publisher, aged ninety-one years.

November 11.—In Paris, M. Taschereau, formerly director of the National Library of France, and author of a life of Molière, aged seventy-three years.

November 25.—A dispatch from Kingston, Jamaica, announces the death of Sir Joshua Rowe, ex-Chief Justice of Jamaica, nearly eighty years of age.

chlorine and bromine. The effect, the author says, is so rapid as to seem magical.

Under the head of *Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Hygiene* we may refer to the statement of Dr. Schmidt in reference to the well-known and much-dreaded disease known as *diabetes mellitus*, and the result of a disorganization of the brain—a condition to which students are particularly liable. It is maintained by Dr. Schmidt that in no case coming within the scope of his extended experience and study has this disease been developed excepting as hereditary, and that in every instance a predisposition existed, as the inheritance from some ancestor who had been affected by it within one or two generations.

Laségue, in a paper on therapeutics and hot baths, informs us that the beneficial results of such applications may be secured, without any of the evils sometimes arising, by the precaution of having the bath warmer at the end of the operation than at the beginning, the temperature in no case to exceed 115° to 118° , and the time of exposure limited to a few minutes.

Napier mentions what he considers to be a new process in dental surgery. Taking the ground that the extirpation of the nerve is very objec-

tionable in preparing the stumps for the insertion of artificial teeth, he files down the teeth, with an occasional application of nitric acid to the surface, for the purpose of deadening the nerve. He has found as the result of several experiments that teeth cauterized in this way retain the vitality of the nerve, greatly to the improvement of their general health and condition.

Necrology.—Among the deaths since our last Summary we have to record, for the United States, those of Dr. J. V. Z. Blaney, of Chicago, and Dr. Gideon Lincecum, of Texas; Mr. F. Von Kittlitz and Dr. Friedrich Rochleder, for Germany; Sir William Jardine, Lady Hooker, Dr. Edwin Smith, and Dr. Archibald Campbell, for England; and Ferdinand Bayan and L. P. Rousseau, for France.

We desire to correct an error which through oversight crept into the Editor's Scientific Record published in our December issue. It was there stated that the length of railways throughout the world exceeds 2,000,000 miles. The correct statement would read, "The number of miles of railway throughout the world exceeds 200,000."

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of January. —Congress, after the holiday recess, met January 5. On the 19th of January Senator Sherman submitted a report from the committee of conference to amend the existing customs and revenue laws. The report, which was agreed to by the Senate, was substantially the same as that presented last session, except that the duty on hops had been raised to eight cents per pound, and that the sections relating to tobacco and the sales of bonds had been stricken out. The report was agreed to by the House January 21.

The House, January 7, passed, by a vote of 136 to 99, the Senate bill for the resumption of specie payments, the provisions of which were given in our last Record. The bill has received the President's signature. On the 12th a bill was passed by the House removing the limitation restricting the capital of gold banks to \$1,000,000.

The Naval Appropriation Bill from the House was passed by the Senate January 18. It appropriates a little over \$16,000,000.

The House Committee on Elections, January 19, reported a resolution recommending the expulsion of George Q. Cannon, Delegate from the Territory of Utah.

A resolution was adopted by the House, December 18, permitting the select committee on the condition of the South to proceed either as a committee or sub-committee to Louisiana to make investigations. In accordance with this resolution, the select committee appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Charles Foster, William Walter Phelps, and Clarkson N. Potter. The committee left Washington on the 26th of December, and were in New Orleans January 4, when the Louisiana Legislature attempted to organize itself. The State-house was guarded directly by the police, and more remotely by United States

troops, under the command of General De Trobriand. The Returning Board had returned fifty-three Republicans and fifty Democrats, leaving five contested seats, the proper occupants of which were to be decided by the Legislature. After the roll-call of members there was an irregular organization attempted by the Conservatives, who, by an informal vote, placed L. A. Wiltz in the chair. The five Conservative members whose seats were contested were in like manner admitted to seats. L. A. Wiltz was then elected permanent Speaker. Some confusion ensuing, the Speaker called upon General De Trobriand to clear the lobby, which the general did. Shortly afterward General De Trobriand received orders from Governor Kellogg to eject the five Conservatives whose names had not been returned by the Returning Board. He ejected these members. The Democrats then retired from the hall in a body. At 9 p.m. General Sheridan assumed command of the Department of the Gulf.

The Congressional investigating committee returned to Washington shortly after the events just narrated, and on the 15th their report was submitted to the House. During their eight days' stay in New Orleans they examined over ninety-five witnesses. The committee report that the acting members of the Returning Board were all Republicans. The returns of the last election made by the Commissioners of Elections gave the Conservatives a majority of twenty-nine members in the Legislature. In three instances there were protests accompanying the returns. The Returning Board, after a session of several weeks, returned fifty-three Republicans and fifty Democrats. In one parish (Rapides) three Conservatives were elected, and the returns were accompanied by an affidavit of the United States Supervisors that the election was in all re-

spects full, fair, and free. The Returning Board gave the seats of that parish to Republican members. In regard to the charge of intimidation of Republican voters, the committee concludes that it is not borne out by the facts before it. The depressed condition of commerce is alluded to, and the blame laid upon the Kellogg government, which is only upheld by the Federal military. The White League of New Orleans, according to this report, is an organization composed of different clubs, numbering between 2500 and 2800, the members of which provide their own arms. The *émeute* of September 14 was caused by the seizure, without process of law, of arms purchased by the members. The report concludes with an account, substantially the same as we have given, of the events of January 4.

This report was indorsed by the full committee, but it was determined to have a more thorough investigation.

Prior to the submission of this report the President had, January 13, sent a message to Congress in reply to a request for information in regard to the Federal interference with the organization of the Louisiana Legislature. The President dwells upon the long career of lawlessness in New Orleans, explains his recognition of the Kellogg government as a necessity in the absence of any definite Congressional policy upon the subject, shows how and why the Federal forces were present in New Orleans January 4, acting presumably under orders already given on the basis of the Governor's application in September, and constituting the only force upon which both parties could rely for the preservation of peace.

"Nobody was disturbed by the military who had a legal right at that time to occupy a seat in the Legislature. That the Democratic minority of the House undertook to seize its organization by fraud and violence; that in this attempt they trampled under foot law; that they undertook to make persons not returned as elected, members, so as to create a majority; that they acted under a preconcerted plan, and under false pretenses introduced into the hall a body of men to support their pretensions by force if necessary; and that conflict, disorder, and riotous proceedings followed, are facts that seem to be well established. And I am credibly informed that these violent proceedings were a part of a premeditated plan to have the House organized in this way, recognize what has been called the M'Enery Senate, then to depose Governor Kellogg, and so revolutionize the State government. Whether it was wrong for the Governor, at the request of a majority of the members returned as elected to the House, to use such means as were in his power to defeat those lawless and revolutionary proceedings, is perhaps a debatable question, but it is quite certain that there would have been no trouble if they who now complain of illegal interference had allowed the House to be organized in a lawful and regular manner. When those who inaugurated disorder and anarchy disavow harsh proceedings, it will be time enough to condemn those who by such means as they have prevented the success of their lawless and desperate schemes."

On the 4th of March the terms of twenty-five Senators expire. Seventeen of these retiring Senators are Republicans, three Independents, and five Democrats. The following new Senators have been elected: Newton Booth, from California; William W. Eaton, from Connecticut; W. P. Whyte and Robert E. Withers, from Virginia; B. K. Bruce, from Mississippi; A. G. Thurman (re-elected), from Ohio; S. B. Maxcy, from Texas; George F. Edmunds (re-elected), from Vermont; William A. Wallace, from Pennsylvania; Francis Kernan, from New York; ex-Governor Theodore Randolph, from New Jersey;

H. L. Dawes, from Massachusetts; Thomas F. Bayard, from Delaware; J. E. M'Donald, from Indiana; General F. M. Cockrell, from Missouri, to succeed Carl Schurz; Hannibal Hamlin (re-elected), from Maine; William Sharon, from Nevada; A. S. Paddock, from Nebraska.

The New Hampshire Democratic State Convention, at Concord, January 5, nominated Hiram R. Roberts for Governor.

The Connecticut State Republican Convention, at New Haven, January 20, nominated James L. Greene for Governor.

The number of immigrants arriving at the port of New York in 1874 was 149,762.

With the new year came a new dynasty for Spain. Alfonso XII., son of the ex-Queen Isabella, was proclaimed king, and was supported by the army and navy. A regency was formed under the Presidency of Canovas Delcastillo. The new king's ministry was announced as follows: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Castro; of Justice, Cardenas; of War, Jovellar; of Finance, Salaverria; of Marine, Molins; of the Interior, Robledo; of Commerce, Orovio; of the Colonies, Ayala.

President M'Mahon sent a message to the French Assembly, January 6, urgently requesting the passage of a bill creating a Second Chamber, provision for the maintenance of the *statu quo* until 1880 in the event of M'Mahon's death before the expiration of his term of office, and, after the organization of the Second Chamber, a decision from both Chambers as to the government which shall succeed the Septennate.

DISASTERS.

December 24.—Colliery explosion in North Staffordshire, England. Twenty miners killed.—Railway accident at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England. Express train thrown down an embankment. Thirty persons killed and eighty wounded.

December 28.—Tidings received in London of the destruction by fire, November 17, of the emigrant ship *Cospatrick*, bound from London to Auckland. Of five hundred souls on board only three are known to have survived.

OBITUARY.

December 23.—In Cambridge, Massachusetts, James Walker, D. D., formerly President of Harvard College, aged eighty years.

December 26.—In Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the Hon. Alvah Crocker, member of Congress from Massachusetts, aged seventy-three years.

December 28.—In New York, the Hon. Gerrit Smith, aged seventy-eight years.

December 29.—In New York, General Morgan L. Smith, aged fifty-six years.

January 12.—In Louisville, Kentucky, Thomas E. Bramlette, ex-Governor of that State.

January 18.—In New York, William H. Aspinwall, merchant, in his sixty-seventh year.

December 8.—In Paris, Baron E. C. G. Wappers, the distinguished Belgian artist, aged seventy-one years.

December 29.—Death announced of the Spanish statesman, Joaquin Baldomero Espartero.

December 31.—In France, Ledru Rollin, aged sixty-six years.

January 1.—In London, England, Mrs. J. Lothrop Motley, wife of the American historian.

formation that the Shah of Persia has granted a railway concession to the Russian General Falkenhagen, notwithstanding his existing concession to the Baron Reuter. A protest has been lodged by the last-named gentleman at Teheran, which, it is stated, will be formally supported by the British minister to Persia, under instructions from his government.

The *Engineering and Mining Journal*, which appears to have been at much pains to obtain correct information, gives the following as the production of anthracite coal in 1874:

	Tons.
Total out-put of Wyoming region.....	10,204,764
“ “ Lehigh “	4,712,280
“ “ Schuylkill “	6,714,074
“ “ Sullivan “	36,268
Total production of all the regions ..	21,607,386

These figures show but a slight falling off from those of 1873, notwithstanding the great depression which prevailed during the year in the iron and manufacturing trades that usually consume so large a proportion of anthracite.

The following table, given on the authority of Mr. J. J. Valentine, general superintendent of Wells, Fargo, and Co., is a statement of the value of the precious metals produced in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, including British Columbia, during the year 1874. The figures show an excess of \$2,142,302 over 1873:

States and Territories.	Value produced.
California	\$20,500,581
Nevada	35,452,233
Oregon	609,070
Washington	155,535
Idaho	1,880,004
Montana	3,439,493
Utah	5,911,273
Arizona	26,066
Colorado	4,191,405
Mexico	798,873
British Columbia	1,636,557
Grand total	\$74,401,055

The following current items in *Mechanics and Technology* are noteworthy:

The Messrs. Baird, of Gartsherrie, Scotland, have built a large establishment exclusively for

the manufacture of coal-cutting machinery. This phase of the coal question appears to be making slow but certain progress abroad.

The experimental trial at Sandy Hook of the altered piece of ordnance, to which subject we made reference in our last month's summary, appears to have terminated satisfactorily. A late message from the President to Congress makes the following allusion: "I herewith inclose copies of a report of the Chief of Ordnance and of a board of ordnance officers on the trial of an eight-inch rifled cannon converted from a ten-inch smooth-bore, which shows very conclusively an economical means of utilizing these useless pieces by making them into eight-inch rifles capable of piercing seven inches of iron. The 1294 ten-inch Rodman guns should, in my opinion, be so utilized."

The Edinson electro-motograph was lately explained and exhibited in operation at a meeting of the Society of Telegraphic Engineers in London, where it produced a marked sensation.

M. Gramme, in a communication to the French Academy, claims to have effected substantial improvements in the electric machines that bear his name, by the employment of the new thin plate magnets of M. Jamin. The new electro-galvanic machines have only one central ring instead of two, and two electro-magnets in place of four in the former machines. They weigh only 390 pounds instead of 1650 pounds.

The discovery of a great *bonanza*, or body of ore, of altogether unprecedented richness is just now the theme of all who are interested in *Mining*. The new developments were made on the famous Comstock lode, and have created a perfect furor in the San Francisco stock market.

Among the deaths of men of science, or of those interested in its advancement, since our last report are those of Professor Zetterstedt, of Sweden, an indefatigable entomologist; Mr. Francis Walker, of the British Museum; Mr. Henry Leste, Mr. H. J. Burkhart, and Mr. Johan H. Platt, known in geographical circles; and Mr. Israel S. Diehl and James S. Roome, in the United States.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 23d of February. —The business actually accomplished by Congress during the month may be very briefly summarized. The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation Bill, appropriating nearly \$19,000,000, was passed by the Senate January 18; also, the same day, the Fortification Bill, appropriating \$750,000, which is the smallest sum devoted to that purpose since the war. The House, February 9, passed the Indian Appropriation Bill, with the Choctaw claim stricken out. The Army Bill, appropriating \$27,000,000, was passed by the House February 19. On the 18th the House passed a bill for the improvement, by the jetty system, of the mouths of the Mississippi River. The Post-office Bill, appropriating \$37,524,361, was reported in the House February 10, an amendment thereto being unanimously adopted repealing the law of 1872 for

additional mail steam-ship service to China and Japan. The Portland, Dallas, and Salt Lake Railroad and Telegraph Bill was rejected by the Senate February 12. The River and Harbor Appropriation Bill was passed by the House February 22.

The new tax bill for the increase of revenues was reported to the House by the Committee of Ways and Means February 10. It proposes to tax all distilled spirits, on which the existing tax shall not be paid at the date of the passage of the bill, \$1 per gallon, whether in distilleries or bonded warehouses or not, and an additional tax of fifteen cents a gallon on all spirits in warehouses, etc., on which the existing tax shall be paid between now and the passage of this act. The tax on imported liquors is to be \$2 50 a gallon. The tax on tobacco is to be increased from twenty to twenty-four cents a pound. The ten per cent. horizontal reduction on manufactured goods is

to be repealed, and the stamp tax on lucifer-matches to be abolished.

No definite action has been taken by Congress in regard to Louisiana, except the tabling by the Senate, February 18, of Mr. Morton's resolution for the admission of Mr. Pinchback to the Senate. The President, February 8, sent a message to Congress relating to Arkansas, taking the ground that Mr. Brooks was lawfully elected Governor in 1872, and that the new constitution adopted in 1874 and the government established thereunder are illegal. The President asked for definite action by Congress "to relieve the Executive from acting upon questions which should be decided by the legislative branch of the government."

The Civil Rights Bill was passed by the House February 5, amended by the omission of that part of the bill which relates to schools.

The proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada was rejected by the Senate February 3.

The House, February 2, by a vote of 171 to 85, adopted the following new rule:

"Whenever a question is pending before the House the Speaker shall not entertain any motion of a dilatory character except one motion to adjourn and one motion to fix the day to which the House shall adjourn; but the previous question on the engrossment and the third reading of any bill or joint resolution shall not be ordered during the first day of its consideration unless two-thirds of the members present shall second the demand: provided, that this rule shall not apply to House resolutions offered in the morning hour of Monday: and provided further, that it shall not apply to any proposition to appropriate the money, the credit, or other property of the United States, except the regular annual appropriation bills."

The Senate, February 8, confirmed the nomination of John L. Roulst, of Illinois, for Governor of Colorado.

President Grant has issued a proclamation convening the Senate in extraordinary session on the 5th of March.

The following new Senators have been elected: I. P. Christiancy, from Michigan; General A. E. Burnside, from Rhode Island; ex-President Andrew Johnson, from Tennessee; Angus Cameron, from Wisconsin; S. J. R. M'Millen, from Minnesota.

The Connecticut Democratic State Convention, at Hartford, February 16, renominated the entire State ticket.

The public debt was increased \$1,397,870 during the month of January.

In the French Assembly considerable progress has been made in the debate on the constitutional project submitted by the Committee of Thirty, known as the Ventavon Bill. An amendment giving the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, power to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies was passed February 2. The next day the clauses making ministers responsible and declaring Versailles the seat of government were passed. The bill for the organization of the Senate came up February 11, and precipitated a crisis. An amendment providing that Senators should be chosen by the same electors as the Deputies in the Lower Chamber, *i. e.*, by universal suffrage, was adopted, 322 to 310. The next day the floor and galleries of the Assembly were crowded. General De Cisse ascended the tribune and declared the dissent of the government from the action of the Assembly on the previous day. A stormy debate followed.

An amendment was adopted providing that each department elect three Senators. This was incorporated with the amendment passed the day before, and the entire amendment was passed, 386 to 253. Finally, a motion to proceed to a third reading of the bill was rejected by a vote of 345 yeas to 357 nays. This was the end of the Senate Bill. The ministers resigned, and it was found impossible to form a new cabinet until definite action should be taken on the Ventavon Bill. The Committee of Thirty, February 22, reported on the new projects for the organization of the Senate. An amendment was adopted providing that the Senate consist of 300 members, of whom the departments and colonies should elect 225 and the Assembly 75.

King Alfonso of Spain is making a vigorous campaign against the Carlists.

The English Liberals on the 3d of February chose the Marquis of Hartington for their leader.—Parliament re-assembled on the 5th. The Queen, in her Speech, recommended the repeal of exceptional statutes in relation to the peace of Ireland, the enactment of laws for the transfer of land, and the reconstruction of the judiciary; also the passage of acts for the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes, for the consolidation of the sanitary laws, to prevent the pollution of rivers, and for the establishment of the office of Public Prosecutor.—Among the members returned to Parliament was John Mitchell, from Tipperary, Ireland. On Mr. Disraeli's motion he was refused admission.

The governments of the various states of the German Empire are investigating the causes of emigration. They will endeavor to remove them by facilitating the acquirement of small estates, and by opposing the action of emigration agents paid by the transatlantic governments.

DISASTERS.

February 15.—Extensive fire at Port-au-Prince, Hayti. Five hundred houses burned.

February 19.—Burning of a match factory in Gottenburg, Sweden. Fifty-one lives lost.

OBITUARY.

January 25.—In Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the Rev. George F. Trask, the well-known anti-tobacco apostle, aged seventy-eight years.

February 4.—In Norwich, Connecticut, William A. Buckingham, ex-Governor of Connecticut, and United States Senator from that State, aged seventy-one years.

February 7.—At Yonkers, New York, Joseph O. Eaton, a well-known portrait painter, aged forty-six years.—In Boston Harbor, Fort Independence, Brigadier-General William Hays, U.S.A.

February 13.—In Washington, D. C., Samuel Hooper, member of Congress from Massachusetts, in his sixty-seventh year.

February 19.—At New Brunswick, New Jersey, Rear-Admiral Charles H. Bell, U.S.N., aged seventy-seven years.

January 12.—Toung-tchi, Emperor of China, aged nineteen years.

January 20.—At Barbison, France, Jean François Millet, a celebrated painter, aged sixty years.

January 24.—In London, England, the Rev. Charles Kingsley, Canon of Westminster, in his fifty-sixth year.

oughness and uniformity of the drying, the naturalness and simplicity of the operations, the less amount of heat required (none being lost by ventilation), the absence of checking, warping, or splitting of the material, its indication of the point when the material is dry, and its inexpensive character.

The United States Patent-office is about pub-

lishing complete alphabetical and subject-matter indices of all patents issued from the office from 1790 to 1873 inclusive. These indices will consist of two sets of three volumes each, and will be of the greatest service to the inventors of the country, of whom a large proportion are from the ranks of the engineering and mechanical trades and professions.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of March.—Congress adjourned March 4. The House, February 23, rejected the Tariff and Tax Bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, and adopted Mr. Dawes's substitute, taxing whisky ninety cents a gallon, tobacco twenty-four cents a pound, cigars six dollars a thousand, increasing the duty on sugar and molasses twenty-five per cent., and restoring the duty of ten per cent. on woollens, iron, and steel. The new bill was passed by the Senate March 2.

The Civil Rights Bill was passed by the Senate February 27, and signed by the President March 1.—The House, February 27, passed the Force Bill, the suspension of *habeas corpus* being limited to Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama.—The Louisiana compromise resolutions—recognizing the Kellogg government and recommending the restoration of seats in the Legislature to the members entitled to them—were passed by the House March 1.—On the 2d the House rejected a resolution to reinstate Brooks as Governor of Arkansas, and passed, 149 to 80, a resolution declaring against interference by the general government with the government of that State.

By an amendment to the Post-office Appropriation Bill, introduced during the closing hours of the session, Congress voted its members the franking privilege until December 1, 1875, and doubled the rates of postage for the people on transient newspapers and periodicals and parcels of merchandise.

The Senate bill for the admission of Colorado as a State was passed by the House March 3.

The Senate of the Forty-fourth Congress met in extra session March 5. Action on the admission of Pinchback as Senator from Louisiana was postponed.—Godlove S. Orth was confirmed as minister to Austria, and Horace Maynard as minister to Turkey.—The new treaty with Belgium was ratified March 10. The Hawaiian treaty was ratified March 18.

Congress having failed to make any appropriation to carry out civil service reform, President Grant has abandoned the system.

The New Hampshire State election, March 9, was so close that it will have to be decided by the State Legislature, in which the Republicans have a majority.

The French Assembly, February 24, by a vote of 448 to 241, passed the bill for the organization of the Senate. The Senators are to be elected by colleges composed of Deputies of the Assembly, Councilors-General, Councilors of Arrondissements, and delegates from municipalities. Senators representing departments and colonies

are to sit nine years, one-third of their number being elected every three years. Those chosen by the Assembly are irremovable. On the 25th the Public Powers Bill was passed, the clause implying a recognition of the republic being adopted by a vote of 433 to 262.

M. Buffet, March 1, was elected President of the French Assembly.

The new French cabinet is announced as follows: M. Buffet, Minister of the Interior; M. Dufaure, Minister of Justice; M. Leon Say, Minister of Finance; M. Wallon, Minister of Public Instruction; Vicomte de Meaux, of the Right, Minister of Agriculture; Duc Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs; General De Cissey, Minister of War; Admiral De Montaignac, Minister of the Marine; M. Caillaux, Minister of Public Works. The Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier succeeds M. Buffet as President of the Assembly.

John Mitchel was re-elected to Parliament from Tipperary, but died March 20, soon after the election.

The Convention between Spain and the United States for the settlement of the *Virginius* affair was signed March 5.

A new ecclesiastical bill has been introduced into the Prussian Diet, receiving its first reading March 16. It withdraws state grants from Roman Catholic bishops, and deprives the priest of any share in the administration of local church property.

DISASTERS.

February 25.—The wall of an adjoining building fell upon and broke through the roof of St. Andrew's Church, New York city, while religious services were being held. By the falling bricks, and as a result of the panic which followed, five persons were killed and thirty wounded.

March 4.—Telegram from London announced the wreck of the steamer *Gothenburg* on one of the Fomrmeaux Islands, in Bass's Straits, between Van Diemen's Land and Australia. Of one hundred and ten persons on board, only twenty-two are reported saved.

OBITUARY.

March 2.—In Washington, D. C., General Lorenzo Thomas, U.S.A., in his seventy-second year.

March 13.—In New York, William J. Hays, the animal painter, in his forty-fifth year.

February 22.—In England, Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent geologist, aged seventy-eight years.

March 7.—In London, England, Sir Arthur Helps, the author of *Friends in Council*, aged fifty-nine years.—In France, Claude Louis Mathieu, an eminent astronomer, in his ninety-second year.