

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 21st of October. —The Ohio State election, October 12, resulted in the election of Hayes, the Republican candidate, by a majority of nearly 5000. Elections were held the same day in Iowa and Nebraska, the Republican majority in the former State being over 30,000, and in the latter about 10,000. The new Constitution of Nebraska was ratified by the people.

The Massachusetts Republican Convention at Worcester, September 29, nominated Alexander H. Rice for Governor.

At the reunion of the Army of the Tennessee at Des Moines, Iowa, September 30, President Grant made a speech memorable for its length and for the stress laid upon the question of sectarian schools. He said:

"If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon's, but between patriotism and intelligence on the one side, and superstition, ambition, and ignorance on the other. Now the centennial year of our national existence, I believe, is a good time to begin the work of strengthening the foundations of the structure commenced by our patriotic forefathers one hundred years ago at Lexington. Let us all labor to aid all needful guarantees for the security of free thought, free speech, a free press, pure morals, unfettered religious sentiments, and of equal rights and privileges to all men, irrespective of nationality, color, or religion. Encourage free schools, and resolve that not one dollar appropriated for their support shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian schools. Resolve that neither the State nor the nation, nor both combined, shall support institutions of learning other than those sufficient to afford to every child growing up in the land the opportunity of a good common-school education, unmixed with sectarian, pagan, or atheistical dogmas. Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church, and the private school supported entirely by private contributions. Keep the church and the state forever separate."

The President has appointed ex-Senator Zachariah Chandler, of Michigan, Secretary of the Interior, to succeed Mr. Delano, resigned.

In the town elections of Connecticut, October, the constitutional amendments changing the time of holding the State election from spring to fall, making the term of office of the State officers two years instead of one, and empowering the Legislature to restore forfeited rights to an elector, were carried by a large majority.

The Constitutional Convention of North Carolina has completed its work and adjourned. The proposed amendments number thirty-one. Among these are the following:

The number of Supreme Court judges is reduced from five to three; of Superior Court judges from twelve to nine—all to be elected by the people. Both Supreme and Superior Court judges are to be elected for eight years. The principle of rotation of judges is adopted, and no judge can hold the courts of any district twice in succession, except at intervals of four years. The General Assembly is empowered to allot and distribute the judicial power, regulate the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, all matters of appeal, practice, etc. The provision in the constitution of 1776, by which, upon a two-thirds vote of each House of the General Assembly, judges of the Supreme and Superior courts may be removed from office for physical or mental inability, is re-enacted. This power is in addition to that of removal by impeachment. The article on suffrage and eligibility is amended in one important particular. Hereafter persons convicted of felony or other infamous crimes are denied the right to vote until restored to respectable citizenship by due

course of law. The article on education is so amended as to retain all fines, penalties, and forfeitures in the hands of the respective county officers, together with the poll-tax, and such property tax as is collected on that behalf. Separate schools for the two races are to be provided. The article on penal institutions, punishments, etc., is so amended as to give the Legislature power to farm out penitentiary convicts on public works, public roads, etc. Intermarriage between whites and negroes is prohibited to the third generation.

The English Admiralty, in obedience to the indignant demands of the people of England, have suspended the circular of July 31, ordering the surrender of fugitive slaves found on board of British ships.

A violent debate occurred, October 14, in the Bavarian Chamber of Deputies on the address introduced on the 8th by the ultramontane party calling for the dismissal of the ministry. Deputy Freitag (ultramontane) reproached the government with displaying insufficient independence in its relations with the Imperial government. He stated, also, that if the government displayed less fear of being domineered, they would easily find allies in the Federal Council in opposition to Prussia. Finally, the address was passed by a vote of 79 to 76. The king refused to accept the resignation of the ministry.

The Spanish note in reply to the Vatican insists upon the maintenance of the constitutional provision for religious toleration.

The Old Catholics in Germany have decided to abrogate the celibacy of the priesthood.

DISASTERS.

September 26.—A dummy train near Philadelphia was run into by an excursion train on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Five persons killed and about twenty injured.

September 17.—Advices from St. Thomas of a severe hurricane. The British ship *Codfish* went ashore on St. Vincent, and twelve of her crew were drowned.

September 26.—The steamer *Adler* came in collision with the Swedish steamer *King Oscar II.* near Grimsby, England. The latter sunk, and fourteen persons on board were drowned.

September 28.—At Sorel, in Canada, a train on the Richmond, Drummond, and Arthabaska Railway ran off the track. Eleven persons killed, and twenty-four seriously injured.

October 4.—The Swedish steamer *L. J. Poager*, running between Lübeck and Copenhagen, burned in the Baltic. Twenty-four of the passengers and eleven of the crew perished.

OBITUARY.

September 28.—By drowning, at Sea Cliff, the Rev. George B. Porteaux, pastor of All-Souls Church, Brooklyn, about forty-five years of age.

October 7.—Near Charlottesville, Virginia, Colonel Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson, aged eighty-three years.

October 21.—At Concord, Massachusetts, Frederic Hudson, the well-known journalist, aged fifty-six years.

October 13.—In Paris, France, Jean Baptiste Carpeaux, the sculptor, aged forty-eight years.

October 20.—In Paris, France, Sir Charles Wheatstone, F.R.S., aged seventy-three years.

leather, and possesses great strength and elasticity, besides being extremely light and quite impermeable to moisture.

An enameled water-pipe is a novelty introduced by the National Tube-works Company.

M. Lecoq, a French chemist, is reported to have discovered, with the aid of the spectroscope, a new metal closely allied to zinc and cadmium. The discoverer has named the new substance gallium, in honor of France.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of November. Elections were held, November 2, in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, and Mississippi. In New York, John Bigelow, the Democratic candidate, was elected Secretary of State by a majority of 14,902. The Democratic majority in 1874 was over 50,000. The next New York Legislature has a Republican majority of 8 in the Senate and 14 in the Assembly. —The election in New Jersey was not for State officers; 8 State Senators and 60 Assemblymen were chosen. As a result of the election, the Legislature has a Republican majority in both branches. —In Pennsylvania, Governor Hartranft was re-elected by a plurality of 12,030. —In Massachusetts, Alexander H. Rice, the Republican candidate, was elected Governor by a majority of 4979 over Gaston. The Democratic majority in 1874 was 7000. The Legislature has a Republican majority in both branches. —In Maryland, John Lee Carroll, the Democratic candidate, was elected Governor by a majority of from 8000 to 10,000. —In Wisconsin, Harrison Ludington, the Republican candidate, was elected Governor by a majority of 843. In the Legislature the Republicans have a small majority in both branches. —The Democrats carried Mississippi, where a State Treasurer was chosen, by a majority of about 10,000. —In Minnesota, J. S. Pillsbury, the Republican candidate, was elected Governor by a majority of about 12,000. The Legislature is two-thirds Republican. —As a result of the election in Kansas, the Republicans carried all but three of the seventy-two counties in the State.

In New York city, the entire anti-Tammany ticket was elected.

In Nebraska, the Republican candidates for Supreme Judges were elected. The new Constitution was carried by a majority of nearly 25,000.

Joseph Guibord was buried in the Catholic cemetery, Côte des Neiges, in Montreal, November 16. The coffin was laid in a bed of cement, to preclude the possibility of its removal. Guibord died in 1869. He was a printer, and, as a member of the Institut Canadien, had been excommunicated from the Church. His remains were refused admission to consecrated ground. His wife applied to the Superior Court for an order to compel the Church to allow his burial in his own lot in the cemetery above named. The order was granted finally by the Queen's Privy Council, November 28, 1874. On the 2d of last September an attempt to execute the order occasioned a riot, and the burial was postponed.

The Prince of Wales, who is visiting India in royal state, was accorded a magnificent reception on his landing at Bombay, November 8. Over 200,000 spectators witnessed the procession

escorting him to the Government House, and the city was splendidly decorated.

The German Parliament was opened October 27. The Emperor was absent, on account of indisposition, and his speech was read by the Minister of State. The Emperor's speech declares that peace is now more assured than at any time during the twenty years preceding the reconstruction of the empire.

The French Assembly re-assembled November 4. One of its first acts was the adoption of M. Buffet's motion to discuss the Electoral Bill on the 8th. The debate was accordingly opened on that day, and is still continued. On the 11th the ministerial party gained a triumph in the vote relating to the method of voting. Gambetta unsuccessfully urged the adoption of universal suffrage. The clause passed provided for elections by districts instead of on a general ticket.

DISASTERS.

October 26. —Great fire in Virginia City, Nevada. The business portion of the city completely destroyed. Estimated loss, \$4,000,000.

November 4. —The steam-ship *Pacific* foundered between San Francisco and Portland. Nearly two hundred lives lost.

November 9. —The steam-ship *City of Waco* burned off Galveston Bar. Nearly seventy lives lost.

October 21-23. —Severe gales off the Scottish coast. Five vessels lost, with their crews.

November 7. —Wreck of the British ship *Caltutta*, from Quebec to Liverpool, on Grosse Isle. Twenty-three lives lost.

November 11. —Explosion of fire-damp in a Belgian colliery. Over forty lives lost.

November 15. —News in London of the wreck of the British ship *Astrida*, near Boulogne, France. Nine persons drowned.

November 18. —Railway disaster between Stockholm and Malmo, Denmark. Sixty passengers killed or severely injured.

OBITUARY.

October 27. —At Newtonville, New York, the Rev. Dr. William Arthur, author of a work on *Family Names*, aged seventy-nine years.

October 29. —In North Brookfield, Massachusetts, the Hon. Amasa Walker, the well-known publicist, aged seventy-six years.

November 4. —At Cumberland, Rhode Island, the Hon. Thomas A. Jenckes, author of the Civil Service Bill, aged fifty-seven years. —In New York city, William T. Blodgett, a prominent merchant and art collector, aged fifty-two years.

November 21. —In Norwalk, Connecticut, the Hon. Orris S. Ferry, United States Senator from that State, aged fifty-two years.

November 22. —In Washington city, Vice-President Henry Wilson, in his sixty-fourth year.

Editor's Historical Record.

OUR Record is closed on the 23d of December. —The Forty-fourth Congress assembled at noon, December 6. In the Senate there is a Republican majority of 11, in the House a Democratic majority of 63. There are twenty-two new Senators. Ex-Governor James E. English succeeds O. S. Ferry, deceased. The House was organized by the election of Michael C. Kerr, of Indiana, for Speaker. The standing committees of the Senate were appointed on the 9th. The names of the chairmen of the leading committees are as follows: Foreign Relations, Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania; Finance, Mr. Sherman; Commerce, Mr. Conkling; Military Affairs, Mr. Logan; Naval Affairs, Mr. Cragin; Judiciary, Mr. Edmunds; Post-office, Mr. Hamlin; Indians, Mr. Allison; Railroads, Mr. West; Civil Service and Retrenchment, Mr. Clayton. In the House, twenty-two of the chairmen of standing committees represent the Southern States, seven represent the West and Northwest, two New York, two Pennsylvania—New England and New Jersey being unrepresented. Mr. William R. Morrison, of Illinois, is chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. S. S. Cox, of New York, of that on Banking and Currency; Mr. Randall of that on Appropriations; and Mr. Swann, of Maryland, of that on Foreign Affairs.

A resolution was adopted by the House, December 15, by a vote of 232 to 18, declaring against the third Presidential term of office. The same day a resolution was adopted, 223 to 33, against granting subsidies to associations or corporations.

Mr. Blaine, in the House, December 14, proposed an amendment to the Constitution forbidding legislation by the States for sectarian appropriations.

President Grant's seventh annual Message, sent to Congress December 7, is the longest and most elaborate that he has written. The paper opens with a brief but comprehensive summary of the progress of the nation during its first century, now so nearly closed. In the education of the people the President finds the only real safeguard of our institutions. It is of the greatest importance that all the people should be possessed of education and intelligence enough to cast a vote with a right understanding of its meaning. It is therefore recommended that "a constitutional amendment be submitted to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, making it the duty of each of the several States to establish and forever maintain free public schools adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birth-place, or religion; forbidding the teaching in said schools of religious, atheistic, or pagan tenets; and prohibiting the granting of any school funds or school taxes, or any part thereof, either by legislative, municipal, or other authority, for the benefit, or in aid, directly or indirectly, of any religious sect or denomination, or in aid or for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever." Attention is then called to the evil of the accumulation of vast amounts of untaxed church property, which has risen from \$83,000,000 in 1850 to \$1,000,000,000 in 1875, and unless checked will reach \$3,000,000,000 in 1900. "So vast a

sum, receiving all the protection and benefits of government without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses of the same, will not be looked upon acquiescently by those who have to pay taxes. In a growing country, where real estate enhances so rapidly with time as in the United States, there is scarcely a limit to the wealth that may be acquired by corporations, religious or otherwise, if allowed to retain real estate without taxation. The contemplation of so vast a property as here alluded to without taxation may lead to sequestration, without constitutional authority and through blood." The President therefore recommends the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exempting only the last resting-place of the dead, and possibly, with proper restrictions, church edifices.

In his review of our foreign relations the President deals largely with the Cuban question. While deprecating the continuance of the ruinous conflict on that island that is now in its seventh year, he finds nothing in the condition of things to justify a recognition of the independence of the Cubans or a concession to them of belligerent rights. In the earlier days of the contest the good offices of the United States as a mediator were tendered to Spain, but she declined them, with the declaration, however, that at a future time they would be indispensable. "I shall be ready at all times, as the equal friend of both parties," continues the President, "to respond to a suggestion that the good offices of the United States will be acceptable to aid in bringing about a peace honorable to both. It is due to Spain, so far as this government is concerned, that the agency of a third power, to which I have adverted, shall be adopted only as a last expedient. . . . Persuaded, however, that a proper regard for the interests of the United States and of its citizens entitles it to relief from the strain to which it has been subjected by the difficulties of the questions, and the wrongs and losses which arise from the contest in Cuba, and that the interests of humanity itself demand the cessation of the strife before the whole island shall be laid waste and larger sacrifices of life be made, I shall feel it my duty, should my hopes of a satisfactory adjustment and of the early restoration of peace and the removal of future causes of complaint be unhappily disappointed, to make a further communication to Congress at some period not far remote, and during the present session, recommending what may then seem to me to be necessary."

On the question of finances the President urges the importance of prompt and effective legislation to consummate the provisions of the act of the last Congress, so as to bring about specie resumption on and after the 1st day of January, 1879, at the furthest. In this connection he makes three recommendations: a repeal of so much of the Legal Tender Act as makes these notes receivable for debts contracted after a date to be fixed in the act itself—say, not later than January 1, 1877; the authorization of the Secretary to redeem not to exceed two millions monthly of legal tenders by issuing instead a long bond, with interest at the rate of 3.65 per cent., in denominations of from fifty to one thousand dollars; and giving the Secretary power to accumulate gold by in-

creasing the revenue, curtailing expenses, or both. Considerable addition might be made to the revenues by restoring the tax on tea and coffee.

Referring to postal matters, the President declares that "there is no branch of the public service which interests the whole people more than that of cheap and rapid transmission of the mails to every inhabited part of our territory. Next to the free school the post-office is the great educator of the people, and it may well receive the support of the general government." It is suggested that merchandise of all descriptions shall be excluded from the mails.

From the department reports accompanying the Message we present a few points briefly. The Secretary of the Treasury reports net revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, \$288,000,051 10, and the ordinary expenses (including the award of \$1,929,819 to British claimants), \$274,623,392 84. Of the receipts \$157,167,722 35 were from customs, and \$110,007,493 58 from internal revenue. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, it is estimated that the revenues will reach \$297,456,145 14, and the ordinary expenditures \$268,447,543 76, leaving a surplus revenue of \$29,008,601 38; but as \$32,293,692 32 will be required for the Sinking Fund, the revenues will probably fall short \$3,285,090 94 of the appropriations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, the estimated ordinary receipts are \$304,000,000, and ordinary expenditures \$269,265,000. The public debt was reduced by \$14,399,514 84 during the year ending June 30, 1875. The resumption of specie payments on an early day is strongly urged, and Congress is asked to provide by further legislation, if necessary, for the fulfillment of the pledge made at the last session.

The Secretary of War reports that the army is reduced to 25,000 men. The actual expenditures of the department for the year ending June 30, 1874, including river and harbor improvements, were \$42,327,314 71, while the same for the year ending June 30, 1875, were \$41,277,375 28, a reduction of \$1,049,939 43. The estimates for the military establishment for the ensuing fiscal year, ending June 30, 1877, are \$33,452,396 50; those for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1876, were \$32,488,969 50, being an increase of \$963,427.

The Secretary of the Navy reports the number of vessels of every class and description now on the navy register as 147, of 152,492 tons measurement, and carrying 1195 guns. Of these 26 are iron-clads, 95 steam-vessels (including 25 tugs), and 26 sailing vessels.

The Postmaster-General reports that the ordinary receipts of his department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, were \$26,671,218 50, an increase of \$299,344 80 over the receipts of 1874. The expenditures of all kinds were \$33,611,309 45, an increase of \$1,484,894 87 over those of 1874. The estimated expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1877, are \$36,839,805 99, and receipts \$28,658,203 80. The number of stamps sold during the year was 973,275,025, valued at \$25,477,511 24. The Dead Letter Office received during the year 3,628,808 letters of all kinds, or 11,878 for each working day. The number of domestic money-orders issued during the year was 5,006,323, valued at \$77,431,251 58. It is recommended that postage on transient newspapers

and periodicals, books, printed matter of all sorts, lithographs and maps, sheet music, photographs, and manuscripts designed for publication shall be reduced to one cent for each two ounces.

William M. Tweed escaped from the custody of the Sheriff of New York County, December 4.

General Jovellar has been appointed Captain-General of Cuba to succeed Valmaseda.

The British government has purchased from the Khedive of Egypt his shares (177,000 out of 400,000) of the Suez Canal Company, paying £4,000,000 for them.

The French Assembly, November 30, finally adopted the Electoral Bill, including the clause providing for voting by *arrondissements*, by a vote of 532 to 87. An amendment forbidding the government to suggest candidates to the electors, and another to insure secrecy in voting, were defeated. The right of representation is granted to all the colonies except Cayenne and Senegal. On the 9th of December the members of the Assembly began balloting for the election of seventy-five Senators who are to hold office for life. The balloting was closed December 21. Of the seventy-five Senators elected, twenty-four are classed with the Left (avowed republicans), thirty-two with the Left Centre (supporters of the republican constitution and opponents of the Bonapartists), eleven with the extreme Right (monarchists), six with the Centre Right (Orleanists), and one is a Bonapartist.

DISASTERS.

December 1.—Sinking of the steamboat *Sunny-side*, on the Hudson River, above Poughkeepsie. Eleven persons drowned.

December 5.—Mine explosion near Tredegar, England. Twenty miners killed.

December 6.—Mine explosion in the Swaith Main Colliery, England. One hundred and thirty lives lost.

December 7.—Wreck of the North German steam-ship *Deutschland* on Kentish Knock, off the English coast. Fifty persons drowned.

December 11.—Explosion of a case of dynamite on the quay at Bremerhaven. The steamer *Mosel* lay at the wharf, ready to sail. One hundred and eighty-four persons injured, of whom one hundred and twenty-eight were killed. One of the passengers then on the steamer *Mosel* soon afterward committed suicide. Before his death he confessed that he had constructed the infernal machine, and timed it by a clock-work mechanism to explode in mid-ocean, his motive being to destroy the vessel and recover large insurances. He intended to leave the steamer at Southampton. He was known as Thomassen, but afterward he stated that his real name was William King Thompson, of Brooklyn, New York.

OBITUARY.

November 24.—In New York city, William B. Astor, son of the late John Jacob Astor, aged eighty-four years.

December 8.—At Oakland, near San Francisco, California, J. Ross Browne, traveler and author, aged fifty-eight years.

November 8.—At Peking, the Hon. Benjamin P. Avery, United States minister to China, aged forty-six years.

December 1.—In Paris, France, Pauline Virginie Dejazet, the actress, aged seventy-seven years.

its. The main building will be ready in a few days more.

The industrial exhibitions at Santiago, Chili, and at Melbourne, Australia, are both in progress, and, report says, most successfully. Many of their exhibits will find their way to Philadelphia.

The *Société Industrielle de Mulhouse* will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its existence, next May, by holding an exhibition of the industrial resources of Alsace.

The German government has decided upon opening an exhibition of arts and manufactures at Berlin in 1878. This exhibition will be strictly national in character.

The Inman Company has decided to establish a regular line of steam-ships between Philadelphia and Liverpool. The steam-ship *City of Limerick* arrived at the first-named port a few days ago.

The *Engineering and Mining Journal* gives the following approximate figures of the production of anthracite coal for the year 1875, as compared with 1874, to wit:

Region.	1874.	1875. (Approx.)
Wyoming (tons of 2240 pounds) ..	10,204,764	11,550,000
Lehigh " " ..	4,712,280	5,475,000
Schuylkill " " ..	6,715,074	6,400,000
Sullivan " " ..	86,268	16,000
Total	21,688,386	21,441,000

It is yet too early to give a reliable review of the coal trade of the United States for the year 1875, but our contemporary affirms the indications to be "that the aggregate production of coal has increased, notwithstanding the continuance of an unparalleled depression in every branch of business during the entire year."

The Western Union and Atlantic and Pacific telegraph companies are introducing the system of pneumatic tubes from their offices in Broadway, New York, to their branch offices, which are expected to be ready for working at an early date.

A disastrous explosion of fire-damp, attended with loss of life, has just occurred in one of the numerous coal mines in the neighborhood of Wilkesbarre.

We glean from foreign exchanges that steam

street engines of improved patterns have lately been experimented upon in Brussels and Paris, with promising results.

A locomotive operated by compressed air has lately been invented, which is described as being applicable where steam or gases under pressure are employed to produce motive power.

The recently published report of the Light-house Board shows that extensive and careful experiments have been made with regard to the merits of the mineral oils of the United States for the purpose of light-house illumination, as likewise elaborate experiments with regard to sound as applied to the system of warning signals for mariners in foggy weather. The report affirms that even at this stage of the experiments the results obtained have been gratifying, and by pursuing these inquiries the Board hopes to arrive at conclusions not only valuable to science, but of inestimable practical value to the mariner.

At the meeting of the French Academy, held December 6, M. Wurtz submitted a specimen of the newly discovered metal, gallium, in the metallic form. It is described as a beautiful metal, possessing a lustre intermediate between platinum and silver. It was obtained by electrolysis of the aqueous solution of its ammoniacal sulphate, the precipitate being submitted to the burner. The new substance appears to stand between zinc and aluminum. It is so closely allied to the former that its separation is effected with extreme difficulty, and its analogy to the latter is indicated by the fact that the sulphate of gallium unites with alkaline sulphates to form an alum which crystallizes in cubes.

Deaths.—Numerous deaths among scientific men have been reported since our last necrological summary, the details of which have been published in *Harper's Weekly*. Among these we may mention, for the United States, Professor Samuel D. Tillman, Dr. L. Bradley, and Captain James Long, the discoverer of Wrangell's Land; for Great Britain, Sir Charles Wheatstone, Mr. C. B. Vignoles, R. C. Carrington, T. E. Edwards, and Commander Goodenough, R.N.; for France, Professor G. P. Deshayes; and for Germany, Dr. O. Peschel, Dr. Karl T. Andree, Dr. Carl Scheerer, and Professor Reslhuber.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 28th of January. —Congress re-assembled, after the holiday recess, January 5. In the House, the bill for universal amnesty introduced by Mr. Randall was the subject of an exciting debate. Mr. Blaine offered a substitute excepting Mr. Jefferson Davis. The bill was finally rejected, January 10, failing to receive a two-thirds vote.

The Pension Bill, appropriating \$29,533,500, was passed by the House, January 14.—The Centennial Bill, appropriating \$1,500,000, was passed by the House (146 to 130), January 25. An amendment to the bill provides that the money appropriated shall be repaid into the United States Treasury before any dividends are made to stockholders.

Several financial bills have been introduced in the House. One of these, brought forward by

Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall retain, for the redemption of United States notes, the coin received from all sources in excess of the requirements of the public debt, until it shall amount to thirty per cent. of the United States notes; and that until that time the act for the resumption of specie payments shall be suspended. The bill also provides for the accumulation in the national banks of coin equal to thirty per cent. of their circulation for the redemption of their notes.—All measures looking to the absolute repeal of the act of 1875 for the resumption of specie payments January 1, 1879, have failed.

On January 26 the House repealed the law passed during the last hours of the last session increasing the postage on third-class mail matter.

Eulogies on the late President Johnson were

delivered in both Houses of Congress January 11, and on the late Vice-President Wilson January 21.

On January 18 S. J. Kirkwood was elected United States Senator from Iowa, James B. Beck from Kentucky, and L. Q. C. Lamar from Mississippi.

The National Republican Committee met at Washington on January 13, and decided to hold the next Republican Presidential Convention at Cincinnati, June 14.

The Republican State Convention of New Hampshire, at Concord, January 5, nominated P. C. Cheney for Governor. The Democratic State Convention, at the same place, January 11, nominated Daniel Marcy for Governor.

The Republican State Convention of Texas, January 12, nominated Judge William Chambers for Governor of that State.

The Gray Nuns Act of 1875 has been repealed by the New York Legislature. The especially obnoxious clause of the act was one authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a certificate of qualification as a teacher in the common schools to any graduate of its seminaries to whom the Roman Catholic Sisterhood of Gray Nuns may have awarded a diploma.

The Brazilian Exposition was opened, December 2, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Emperor Dom Pedro's birthday. The choicest products in this Exposition are to be forwarded for exhibition in our Centennial Exposition.

On the 13th of January President M'Mahon, of the French Republic, issued the following proclamation, addressed to the French people:

"For the first time in five years you are called upon to participate in a general election. Five years ago you desired order and peace, and at the price of the most cruel sacrifices and after the greatest trials you obtained them.

"You still desire order and peace. The Senators and Deputies you are about to elect must co-operate with the President of the Republic to maintain them. We must apply, with common accord and sincerity, the constitutional laws, the revision whereof I alone, until 1880, have the right to propose.

"After so much agitation, discord, and misfortune, repose is necessary for the country, and I think her institutions ought not to be revised before they are honestly tried. But to try them as the salvation of France requires it is indispensable that the conservative and truly liberal policy, which I always intended to pursue, should prevail.

"To uphold it I appeal for union among those who place the defense of social order, respect for law, and patriotic devotion above their recollections, aspirations, or party engagements. I invite them to rally around my government. It is necessary that the sacred rights which survive all governmental changes, and the legitimate interests which every administration is bound to protect, should enjoy a full security under a strong and respected government.

"It is necessary not only to disarm those who might disturb the security now, but to discourage those who threaten its future by the propagation of anti-social and revolutionary doctrines.

"France knows that I neither sought nor desired the power I am invested with, but she may rely upon my exercising it without weakness.

"In order to fulfill to the end the mission intrusted to me, I hope God will aid me, and that the support of the nation will not fail me."

The Press Bill was adopted by the French Assembly December 29. Prefects are, by a provision of this bill, deprived of the power of summarily forbidding the sale of journals in the streets. The same day the Assembly decided to maintain martial law in a modified form in all the large cities and towns of the republic.

The statue of Napoleon I. was replaced on the new Vendôme Column December 27.

Lord Lytton has been appointed Viceroy of India, in place of Lord Northbrook, who has resigned.

The financial article in the London *Times* for January 4 reports that great stagnation prevails in the grain trade of Southern Russia, the assigned cause being the keen American competition. In 1867 Russia sent out forty-four one-hundredths of the British grain imports, and America fourteen. In 1873 the proportion was exactly reversed.

Austria, with the approval of the other European powers, has, through Count Andrassy, urged upon Turkey certain definite reforms in the government of her Danubian Principalities, especially religious toleration, personal freedom, and a fair adjustment of taxation. The Sultan, however, rejected foreign mediation, promising that the Sublime Porte would give the peoples of the provinces all necessary guarantees for reform.

DISASTERS.

December 28.—Fire-damp explosion in the Hutchinson Mines, near Kingston, Pennsylvania. Three men killed and others severely injured.

November 30.—Terrible hurricane in the Philippine Islands. Two hundred and fifty lives lost and 3800 dwellings destroyed.

December 8-9.—Destruction of the town of Arecibo, Porto Rico, by earthquake.

December 20.—Collision of the *Louisiane*, of the General Transatlantic Company, with the *Gironde* on the river Gironde, France. Sixteen lives lost.

December 22.—Burning of the British training ship *Goliath* at Gravesend, England. Twenty boys perished in the flames.

December 25.—In Hellikon, Switzerland, during the celebration of Christmas festivities in a school-house, the flooring gave way, and eighty persons were killed and fifty wounded.

December 31.—The British steamer *Dante* sunk after a collision in the English Channel. Twenty-three lives lost.

January 9.—Railway accident near Odessa, Russia. Sixty-eight persons killed and fifty-four wounded.

January 22.—Railway collision near Huntingdon, England. Thirteen lives lost. Among the killed was a son of Dion Boucicault.

OBITUARY.

January 1.—On Staten Island, the Rev. Henry Boehm, the venerable patriarch of the Methodist Church, aged one hundred and one years.

January 2.—In New Bedford, Massachusetts, ex-Governor John H. Clifford, aged sixty-seven years.

January 9.—In South Boston, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, the distinguished philanthropist, aged seventy-four years.

January 10.—At Santa Fé, New Mexico, General Gordon Granger, aged fifty years.

January 28.—In Washington, Henry H. Starkweather, member of Congress from Connecticut, aged fifty years.

December 24.—In England, Philip Henry, Earl Stanhope, author and statesman, aged seventy years.

January 5.—In London, England, Sir Anthony Rothschild, Bart., aged sixty-six years.

January 27.—In France, Frédéric Lemaître, the celebrated actor, aged seventy-seven years.

January 28.—In Hungary, Francis Deak, reformer and statesman, aged seventy-three years.

rary. For comparison we present the authentic totals of production and stock on hand for 1874, viz.:

Ascertained production of 1874, 2,689,413 net tons; estimated production of 1875, 2,068,696 net tons; stock on hand unsold, December 31, 1874, 795,784 net tons; ditto, December 31, 1875, 636,360 net tons. Whole number of furnaces, 1874, 701; whole number of furnaces, 1875, 713. Number of furnaces in blast December 31, 1874, 365; number of furnaces in blast December 31, 1875, 345. Number of furnaces out of blast December 31, 1874, 336; number of furnaces out of blast December 31, 1875, 363.

The above figures indicate a reduced production of pig-iron in 1875 of 620,717 net tons as compared with the production of 1874, and a reduction of stocks at the close of 1875 of 109,424 net tons as compared with the stocks at the close of 1874. We may notice here incidentally that the British Iron and Steel Institute is about to add to its organization an association similar in character and purpose to the American Iron and Steel Association. This supplemental body will collect and tabulate the statistics of the iron trade, and discuss questions affecting the trade interests of the iron industries of the United Kingdom.

The *Railroad Gazette* has published the following estimate of the number of miles of new railroad constructed in the United States during the year 1875, as compared with the ascertained figures of former years. It estimates the total mileage constructed in 1875 at 1483, against 2025 constructed in 1874, 3833 in 1873, and 7340 in 1872.

The New York and Philadelphia New Line has nearly completed the laying of its tracks, and will immediately complete the necessary arrange-

ments for its freight and passenger traffic. The length of the new line from Liberty Street, New York, to Berks Street, Philadelphia, is stated to be eighty-eight miles. The opening of the road will take place about the beginning of next April.

The practicability of establishing telegraph stations in mid-ocean is a subject which is said to be attracting the attention of several European naval powers. The practical realization of this suggestion would enable messages to be sent from any part of the ocean along the line of a cable to the terminal points on shore, and *vice versa*, so that communication with iron-clads, mail steamers, and other vessels when out at sea could be established.

The adaptability of the bamboo as a source of paper stock has recently been prominently advocated. It is urged that the bamboo can be made to furnish excellent fibre cheaply by simply using the plant when young and green. When mature, the stalks become too hard and dense in texture for this purpose. Excellent samples of paper have been made from it; and as the plant is of very rapid growth, and flourishes with little or no care in every tropical country, the suggestion to utilize it in the manner proposed is worthy of notice.

The electric light has lately been applied for lighting the mills of the Messrs. Heilmann, Dugommun, and Steinlein, in Mulhouse, Alsace.

Professor E. J. Houston, in a paper on "The Phenomena of Induction," urges, with regard to the alleged discovery by Mr. Edinson of an "etheric force," that all the experiments adduced to support the assumption of a new force can be satisfactorily explained by the presence of induced electrical currents.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 22d of February. In the House of Representatives, Mr. Morrison introduced a bill for the revision of the tariff, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill reduces the taxes on all articles except cigars, the duty on which is increased. The tax on tea and coffee is re-imposed.

The proposed constitutional amendment (sixteenth), providing that "no person who has held or may hereafter hold the office of President shall ever again be eligible to said office," was defeated in the House, February 2, failing of a two-thirds majority. The vote stood 144 to 106. The amendment to the amendment, extending the term to six years after 1881, and the minority substitute providing for one term of six years after 1885, were previously considered, and did not even secure a majority vote.

The Senate, February 7, passed a bill providing for the payment of the *Alabama* claims awarded by the Commission.

The House, February 8, passed a bill, 178 to 58, repealing the bankrupt law. The first section repeals the Bankruptcy Act of March 21, 1867, and all laws and parts of laws amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto. The second section provides that all suits and proceedings now pending in the United States courts wherein an adjudication in bankruptcy has been made

shall be proceeded with and governed by the provisions of existing laws, which are continued in force only for the purpose of closing up suits and proceedings now pending. The act is to take effect from and after the 1st day of January, 1877.

The Centennial Appropriation Bill was passed by the Senate February 11. The President, on the 16th, signed the bill with a quill from the wing of an American eagle shot near Mount Hope, Oregon.

The House, February 11, passed the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill. The amount appropriated, \$914,000, is less by \$470,000 than the sum appropriated last year.—On the 15th, the House appropriated \$315,000 for repairing, arming, and improving the harbor defenses of the United States. On the same day the Senate passed the Pension Appropriation Bill.

The bill reorganizing the Judiciary was passed by the House February 21.

Mr. Jenks, chairman of the Committee on Pensions, February 21, reported to the House a bill for the transfer of the Pension Bureau from the Interior to the War Department. The bill was accompanied by a statement of considerable importance. The Pension Bureau, according to this report, disburses annually \$30,248,660 to about 234,000 persons. Of this sum, \$1,071,778 (over four per cent.) is consumed in office expenses. The number of pension agents in the country is fifty-

eight, each receiving a salary of \$4000 besides fees. Each agency costs annually about \$7700, while several of the agents disburse less than the average salary. By disbursements directly from the bureau there would be a saving of \$459,541. Under the present system the adjudication of a claim may be delayed from ten to fifteen years, unless it is through powerful influence taken out of its order. This delay arises from two causes—the location of the bureau and the mode of its administration. The bureau, located in the Interior Department, is unnaturally divorced from the source whence the greater part of its evidence comes. During the year 1875, 37,126 requisitions were made on the Adjutant-General for evidence from the War Department Office, and 19,196 from the Surgeon-General's office. The mere writing and transmission of these requisitions would in themselves occasion a great waste of labor and material, but in addition to this and to the labor necessary to make searches on army rolls and hospital records, an answer much more voluminous must be written and transmitted. All waiting which is complained of by the Pension Bureau could be obviated if the bureau were placed in charge of the department whence the records must come. There is also much inefficiency, and in some cases fraud, in the administration of the bureau. The officials are subject to removal for political reasons, and for like reasons persons are employed and draw pay without performing any duty.

A postal treaty has been signed by the representatives of the United States and Japan, agreeing that the rate of letter postage between the two countries shall be five cents, and on newspapers not over two ounces, two cents.

A bill abolishing the death penalty has been passed by the Maine Legislature.

The British Parliament was opened by Queen Victoria in person February 8. The Queen's speech declares that she has united with friendly powers in urging on the Sultan of Turkey the expediency of adopting such measures of administrative reform as may remove all reasonable cause of discontent on the part of his Christian subjects; that she has agreed to the purchase of the Suez Canal shares belonging to the Khedive of Egypt; and that, in connection with the loyal reception by her Indian subjects of her son, the Prince of Wales, the present is a fitting opportunity to make the formal addition to the style and titles of the sovereign (as Empress). Among the new bills announced by the Queen as about to be laid before Parliament are the following: a bill to punish slave-traders who are the subjects of native Indian princes, and bills for regulating the ultimate tribunal of appeal for the United Kingdom, and for the amendment of the merchant shipping laws; also, legislation would be proposed relating to the universities and primary education.

A bill was introduced in the House of Commons, on the 10th, providing that every contract for conveying persons or goods on shipboard shall contain an implied warranty that the ship is seaworthy. The effect of this will be to place passengers on the same footing as cargo in regard to the liability of ship-owners for their safety. Mr. Plimsoll refrained from expressing a definite opinion, but said his present impression was that the bill fell lamentably short of securing a satisfactory settlement of the question.—On the 14th the

Chancellor of the Exchequer asked for £4,080,000 to pay the Khedive for the Suez Canal shares.

Señor Castelar has been elected a Deputy to the Spanish Cortes from Barcelona. He will be the only moderate republican in that body. Of the 406 Deputies, 80 are supporters of Sagasta, 10 are clerical, and 364 are ministerialists.

The elections for a new Assembly were held in France February 20. If the republicans are as successful in these as they were in the Senatorial elections, M. Gambetta will be the most powerful man in France. In the Senate, of 300 members, over one-half can be depended upon to follow Gambetta's lead in all vital questions, for the radicals are certain to unite with the republicans upon any issue that would bring against the latter the combined forces of the monarchists and imperialists. M. Buffet failed of his election as Senator; M. Dufaure likewise, and M. Ollivier. Among the successful candidates were the Duc de Broglie, Admiral Roncière (dismissed last year from command of the Mediterranean fleet), M. Léon Say, M. De Freycinch (Gambetta's friend, and former War Minister), ex-President Thiers, Marshal Canrobert, and Victor Hugo. M. Louis Blanc was rejected in favor of M. Peyrat, another radical. We have not, as we write, full returns of the elections of the 20th for the new Assembly. It is certain, however, that M. Buffet has been defeated in all the four districts which he contested; and this has led him to tender his resignation as Vice-President of the Council. M. Ollivier was defeated. M. Rouher and M. Dufaure are elected.

Count Andrassy's note proposing certain reforms in the Turkish administration of government in the Principalities was read to the Grand Vizier, but no copy was left with the latter, thus making the presentation of the note informal.

DISASTERS.

February 5.—In Cincinnati, the gallery in Robinson's Opera-house, during a Sunday-school festival, gave way. Twelve lives lost, and between fifteen and twenty persons injured.

February 8.—Destructive fire on Broadway, New York city. Loss about \$3,000,000.

February 12.—Explosion in a colliery at West Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Four men killed and several wounded.

February 4.—Fire-damp explosion in the Jabin Colliery, St. Etienne, Belgium. One hundred and sixty-six miners believed to have been killed.

February 17.—Collision of the Hamburg steam-ship *Franconia* with the Glasgow steam-ship *Strath-Clyde* in the English Channel. Fifty persons drowned.

OBITUARY.

February 7.—In Brooklyn, New York, Rear-Admiral Silas H. Stringham, U.S.N., in his seventy-eighth year.

February 10.—In Annapolis, Maryland, the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, the distinguished jurist, in his eightieth year.

February 17.—In Hartford, Connecticut, the Rev. Horace Bushnell, D.D., author of several religious works, aged seventy-three years.

February 18.—In Boston, Charlotte S.ushman, the actress, aged sixty years.

February 1.—In England, John Forster, the author, and formerly editor of the London *Daily News*, aged sixty-four years.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 21st of March.—

In the United States Senate, February 29, the Military Academy Appropriation Bill was passed. The House bill appropriated \$259,231; this amount was increased by over \$40,000 in the Senate bill. The House refused to concur with the Senate amendments, and a committee of conference was appointed, March 20. A bill was introduced in the Senate, March 1, appropriating \$3,200,000 for repairing and in part rebuilding the levees of the Mississippi River. In the House, March 8, the Legislative and Executive Appropriation Bill was reported; the sum appropriated was \$12,799,883, being a reduction from last year of nearly \$8,000,000. The appropriation for the Bureau of Education was reduced from \$35,570 to \$16,000.

Resolutions of impeachment against William W. Belknap, Secretary of War, were passed by the House, March 2, and the next day the Senate was notified of the appointment by the House of a committee to impeach him at the bar of the Senate. The ground of impeachment was the charge that General Belknap had profited by a post-tradership appointment. General Belknap had already resigned his position, and his resignation had been accepted by the President.

An important bill was passed by the House, March 1, recommending the people of the several States to assemble in their respective counties or towns on the approaching Centennial anniversary, and to cause to be delivered a historical sketch of the county or town from its formation, copies of which are to be filed in the County Clerk's office and in the Library of Congress, so that a complete record may thus be had of the progress of the republic.

The Senate, February 25, passed a bill amending the acts for refunding the national debt (July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871), so as to increase the amount of bonds bearing four and a half per cent. interest to \$500,000,000, and to make them payable after thirty (instead of fifteen) years.—A bill was introduced in the House, March 2, appropriating \$163,000 to provide for engraving and printing United States notes, and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue silver coinage for the redemption of fractional currency.—The Senate, March 6, adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish information as to the annual product of gold and silver in the United States from 1845 to 1875; also the amount of gold and silver in other parts of the world for the same period, and an estimate of the gold and silver in the United States at the present time.—A bill to repeal the Resumption Act of last year failed in the House, March 20, the vote to suspend the rules and pass the bill standing 109 to 108.

The Senate passed a bill, March 7, authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to gather information concerning insects injurious to agriculture, in order to devise methods for their destruction.

The House passed the bill for the re-organization of the judiciary, February 21.

The Senate, March 10, passed a bill for the admission of New Mexico as a State.

The Senate, March 8, decided against Mr. Pinchback's admission to a seat in that body, 29 to 32.

The nomination of Judge Alphonso Taft, of Ohio, for Secretary of War was confirmed by the Senate, March 8. The President has nominated R. H. Dana, Jun., for Minister to England, to succeed General Schenck, resigned.

The Republican State Convention of Indiana, February 22, nominated Godlove S. Orth for Governor, and proposed Senator Morton for the Presidency.—The same day the Republicans of Iowa advocated specie resumption, and suggested Mr. Blaine for President.

The Connecticut Republican State Convention, February 29, nominated Henry C. Robinson for Governor.

The New Hampshire State election, March 14, resulted in the election of Mr. Cheney, the Republican candidate for Governor, by a plurality over Mr. Marcy of 3693, and a majority over all of 3278.

The French ministry has been definitively constituted as follows: M. Dufaure, Vice-President of the Council and Minister of Justice; M. Ricard, Minister of the Interior; M. Waddington, Minister of Public Instruction and Worship; M. Christophle, Minister of Public Works; M. Teisserene de Bort, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce; Admiral Fourichon, Minister of the Marine; M. Léon Say, Minister of Finance; General De Cissey, Minister of War; the Duc Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs. All the members of the new cabinet belong to the Left Centre.

The French Senate, on the 13th March, elected the Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier as President, and MM. Martel, Duclerc, and Kerdrel, and General Admiraal Vice-Presidents. M. Grévy was elected President of the Chamber.

The civil war in Spain is concluded, Don Carlos having fled to France.

DISASTERS.

February 23.—A sleeping-car was thrown from the track on the Harlem Railroad Extension. The car was burned, and Mr. Bissel, of the Sherman House, Chicago, and his son perished in the flames.

March 6.—A freight train, with a passenger-car attached, fell through a bridge on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and eleven persons were killed.

March 7.—The Home for the Aged, in East Brooklyn, New York, was partly consumed by fire. Eighteen old men were burned to death.

March 12.—The British ship *Eumenides*, from Port Royal for Greenock, capsized at sea. The captain and twelve others were lost.

OBITUARY.

February 28.—In New York city, Charles Edward Horsley, a distinguished musical composer, aged fifty-one years.

February 23.—In France, Ambroise Firmin Didot, the noted publisher.

February 24.—At Monrovia, ex-President Roberts, of Liberia.

March 1.—In England, Lady Augusta Stanley, wife of Dean Stanley. Buried in Westminster Abbey.