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—BY—

JAMES W. McEWEN.

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The Democratic Sentinel.

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NEWS SUMMARY

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

The Servians have been badly defeated by the Turks in an engagement near Novi-Bazar.

A Russian official telegram states that a Russian detachment which had crossed the Balkans by byways occupied on Tuesday a position in the rear of the Turkish fortifications in the Trajan pass. The Turks, being also attacked in front, abandoned their positions, which were occupied by the Russians, whose vanguard advanced in the direction of Teke.

A Constantinople dispatch of the 10th says: "The Council of Ministers have agreed upon the conditions of an armistice, and submitted them for the Sultan's approval. In opening direct negotiations purely for a military armistice, the Porte is said to be acting upon Lord Derby's advice."

The appointment of Raouf Pasha as Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish armies would seem to signify that the Porte is ready to make great concessions in the approaching peace negotiations. Raouf has been Minister of War in the Cabinet controlled by Mahmoud Damad, the Sultan's brother-in-law, whose voice has been for peace rather than for war during the entire campaign of last year.

It is announced that Hami Pasha has been appointed Grand Vizier in place of Edhem Pasha, resigned.

A telegram from Constantinople announces that the Turkish Ministry has been reconstituted, but Server and Safvet Pashas retain the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Justice respectively.

The Prince of Montenegro, having applied to the Russian headquarters for instructions relative to an armistice, has been informed that he need not send an envoy, as the Grand Duke would take charge of his interests.

A Pera correspondent sends the following: "The Porte has refused to allow the questions of peace and an armistice to be considered together, as it was understood that these questions were to be kept separate during the preliminary negotiations. I believe the Porte has determined that a defense of Adrianople is virtually impossible."

It is officially stated that the term of armistice proposed by Turkey is six weeks.

A Constantinople dispatch of the 11th says: "The Porte has received the Russian answer to the Turkish communication proposing an armistice, intimating that the negotiations must be conducted on a basis of eventual peace conditions. The reply of the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, that he would refer the latter's overture for an armistice to St. Petersburg, states that negotiations could only be conducted with himself, direct, and that there could be no question of an armistice without a basis for peace."

Russia's demand that a peace basis should be determined before an armistice would be granted has been finally conceded by Turkey, and Server Pasha, Foreign Minister, and Namyk Pasha, have been appointed to negotiate, with full powers, for a peace and an armistice together.

Acting under instructions from their respective Governments, Prince Reuss and Count Corti, Ambassadors respectively of Germany and Italy at the Turkish capital, have informed the Porte that if it allows Great Britain to send her fleet to Constantinople, Germany and Italy will demand that permission to pass the Dardanelles be granted to their fleets. As indicating the existence of an understanding between Germany and Italy in reference to the Eastern question, the episode is not without significance.

A Russian official telegram announces that the Turkish fleet has bombarded Eupatoria, in the Crimea, damaging the barracks, guard-houses, arsenal, quarantine establishment, and some private residences.

The Porte has asked the Russian Government to state what conditions of peace would be satisfactory.

The Cossacks have cut the Tirnova and Yamboli railway south of the Balkans.

John Bright, in addressing his constituents at Birmingham, Eng., declared that he was strongly in favor of non-intervention in the Eastern war.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

The Republicans have been signally victorious in the French municipal elections.

Victor Emanuel, King of Italy, died at Rome on Wednesday, the 9th inst., aged 58. His eldest son, Humbert, ascends the throne as King of the Italians.

A fire in Honolulu, Sandwich islands, devastated the esplanade portion of that city, destroying the Government warehouses, the wharves and sheds devoted to the use of ocean mail steamers, and a number of private buildings. Loss about $250,000; insurance, $63,000.

A steam-tug has left the river Thames for Ferreol, Spain, to take the Cleopatra obelisk to London.

Failures to the number of 1,890 were reported in the Dominion of Canada in 1877, with liabilities of $25,500,000.

A dispatch from Berlin says Russia is negotiating with other Baltic powers for the purpose of prohibiting the war vessels of non-Baltic powers from entering that sea.

Demetrius Bulgaris, the well-known Greek politician, has just died of apoplexy. He was President of the Provisional Government of Athens in 1862, later President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, and at the time of his death Chief of the Greek Revolutionary Committee.

The marriage of King Alphonso, of Spain, will be postponed for a few days from the date originally fixed, in consequence of the death of Victor Emmanuel.

The recently liberated Fenians—McCarthy, Chambers, O'Brien and Davitt—were received at Dublin with great enthusiasm, an immense crowd greeting them at the station on their arrival.

Henry M. Stanley was received with much honor at Rome. A splendid gold medal, the gift of the late King Victor Emmanuel, was presented to him.

A destructive fire occurred in London, England, last week, in the warehouse of Crocker, Sons & Co., calico printers. Loss, over $1,000,000.

Chachapoyas, the capital of the Amazon, has been visited by an earthquake which demolished several houses and damaged many more. Fortunately there was no loss of life. Walls swaying to and fro, the groaning of roofs, the noise of falling tiles, the walls cracking and throwing out clouds of dust, combined with the shrieks, groans and desperation of the agonized inhabitants, made a frightful scene. Callao also experienced a severe shock of earthquake, but no damage was done.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Henry R. Hinckley, one of the private depositors who lost heavily by the robbery of the Northampton Bank, has recovered $25,000 of Union Pacific 6 per cent. gold bonds, with two years' interest, at a cost of $6,000. A short time ago the bank burglars pledged $100,000 of the best railroad bonds for a loan of $8,000. The bonds recovered were among the collaterals.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has affirmed the sentence of death passed upon the "Mollie Maguires" Hester, Tully, McCue, and Kehoe. Dennis, alias Buckeye Donnelly, another notorious "Mollie Maguire," has been sentenced to death at Pottsville for the murder of William Sanger, at Raven run, in September, 1875. He made a speech before his sentence, declaring his innocence of the crime.

The Great Barrington (Mass.) Savings Bank has suspended, pending investigation by the State Bank Commissioners. Its deposits are $407,000, and its total liabilities, $414,000.

Rev. Dr. J. C. Eccleston, of Trinity Church, Newark, N. J., the Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, has finally determined to decline the office tendered him.

John F. Henry, Curran & Co., one of the largest firms in the patent and fancy medicine business, has suspended payment. The firm has been reputed worth over $500,000, but much of this was in patent-medicine rights.

A heavy storm and gale occurred last week on the coast of Maine, doing much damage. At Camden trees and fences were prostrated, the damage in the village exceeding $10,000. At Eastport forty chimneys were blown down, and several small fishing-vessels went to pieces. The schooner Nightingale is ashore in Broad cove, and full of water. At Oldtown the steeple was blown from the Baptist church. Two schooners put into Seal harbor and went ashore on Norton's island. Several schooners went ashore at Tenant's harbor.

A dispatch from Lynn, Mass., says: "Nearly the whole city is on a strike, so far as the shoe business is concerned. The firm of C. S. Sweetzer & Co. drew up a petition for the workmen to sign, renouncing the Crispin organization and Board of Arbitration, or they would throw off their belts. The workmen replied defiantly, and sent word to the Crispin headquarters they were 'holding the fort.' The City Marshal has removed all the arms from the armories. There are 189 shoe-manufacturing firms in the city, and, if four-fifths shut down, 2,500 or 3,000 people will be thrown out of employment. The Crispins were engaged all the forenoon getting out a price-list, their ultimatum, but it will now be unnecessary."

The Conway National Bank, at Conway, Mass., has been destroyed by fire.

The State Savings Bank, at Trenton, N. J., has stopped payment.

West.

Gen. John O'Neill, the well-known Fenian leader, died at Omaha, Neb., a few days ago, of paralysis.

The Board of Trade of Chicago has adopted a memorial urging Congress to extend the time for completing the Northern Pacific railroad.

A Bannock City (Mont.) dispatch says: "The Bannock Indians are alarmingly aggressive. Bands are roaming over the Beaver Head country, tearing down corrals and feeding farmers' hay to their horses. The people are moving into Bannock from Horse prairie, fearing an outbreak. Several companies of troops are needed now at the head of Horse prairie, and if we don't get them immediately our ranches will be deserted and destroyed."

South.

The banks composing the Clearing-House Association of New Orleans have passed resolutions protesting against the remonetizing of silver.

The business men of Nashville and the other Southern cities are agitating the question of establishing direct trade with the West Indies. A delegation has gone to Havana with that object in view.

At Concord, Ky., recently, Deputy Sheriff Ruggles, with a posse, overtook the notorious Underwood brothers, who had been stealing horses from farmers, and demanded their surrender. The Underwoods immediately fired at the party; instantly killing Ruggles. The fire was returned, wounding both outlaws. It is thought the Underwoods would be lynched by the excited farmers.

Heavy rains have caused another rise in the Virginia rivers. The bridge over the Staunton river, on the Richmond and Danville road, just replaced, was again swept away, the third time inside of two months. An iron bridge over the same river, on the Virginia and Midland road, between Lynchburg and Danville, was also washed away. This bridge was destroyed during the great flood in November, and but recently replaced. The Roanoke river at Weldon, N. C., is very high, and the water rising six to eight inches per hour. The railroad bridges at that point are threatened.

Robert Fishburne and Walter S. Harley, of Walterboro, S. C., fought a duel near Savannah, Ga., last week—weapons, revolvers. Harley was fatally shot in the abdomen at the first fire.

POLITICAL POINTS.

A special Washington telegram to the Chicago *Tribune* says: "There are numerous printed statements to the effect that a number of members are coming back, determined to revise the electoral count, and to have an investigation of the Presidential election. Senator Conkling is credited with being the prime mover, and it is asserted that, while no attempt will be made to implicate President Hayes, efforts will be made to involve Stanley Matthews, Secretary Sherman, and Gen. Garfield in an alleged Presidential bargain. The name of Senator Howe, of Wisconsin, is quoted as the person who will consent to introduce the resolution in the Senate in behalf of Senator Conkling, while to Gen. Butler is attributed the leadership of the movement in the House. Democrats claim that there are affidavits in existence from Cassanave and Kenner, members of the Returning Board, in which these two worthies assert that there was a bargain for the Louisiana electoral vote, to which they were parties as members of the board, and that the bargain made with them has not been fulfilled. The name of Gen. Grant is also used as a party to this understanding."

The Republican State Convention of New Hampshire met at Concord last week, and nominated B. F. Prescott for Governor. Resolutions were adopted denouncing any legislation tending to repudiate the public debt, disapproving the remonetizing of silver, opposing money subsidies and land grants to private corporations, condemning as factious and mischievous any attempt to reopen the Presidential controversy, and the following in relation to the national administration:

Resolved, That the Republicans of New Hampshire reaffirm and readopt the Cincinnati platform which pledged the party to these declarations and principles, to-wit: That the United States of America is a nation; the full protection of all citizens in the full enjoyment of all their rights; the permanent pacification of the Southern section of the Union; redemption of the United States notes in coin by a continuous and steady progress to specie payments; that Senators and Representatives who may be judges and accusers should not dictate appointments to office, the invariable rule for appointment to have reference to the honesty, fidelity, and capability of the appointees, leaving to the party in power those places where the harmony and vigor of the administration requires its policy to be represented; the deprecation of all sectional feelings and tendencies; the speedy, thorough and unsparing prosecution and punishment of all who betray official trusts; opposition to further land grants to corporations and monopolies; the adjustment of duties on imports for revenue so as to promote the interest of American labor and advance the prosperity of the whole people.

Resolved, That we recognize the paramount duty of President Hayes to render these high and solemn professions actual and living realities; and, while we admit honest difference of opinion in respect to past acts, we welcome and approve his patriotic and sincere efforts to keep faith with the people and secure to the whole country the blessings of a just, efficient and honest Republican national administration.

A call is issued for a National Convention of the National party, to be held in Toledo, Ohio, on the 22d of February next. It reads as follows:

The undersigned, believing the present financial policy of those in control of the Federal Government is destructive of the best interests of the people, and that if continued it will bring general ruin and unprecedented suffering on the industrial classes, and also believing that thorough organization and unity of action may induce those in power to take such steps as will avert such calamitous results, call upon those, regardless of political affiliations, who will unite for independent action to select one delegate in each Congressional district, and afterwards, by proper authority, two delegates for each State at large, to meet in national convention, in the city of Toledo, on the 22d day of February, 1878, there to take such action as wisdom may dictate.

Upward of 100 names are appended to the call, prominent among them being those of Wendell Phillips, of Massachusetts; Peter Cooper, of New York; Thomas D. Hoxey, of New Jersey; Alexander Campbell, of Illinois; Blanton Duncan, of Kentucky, and Moses W. Field, of Michigan.

The Democrats and Greenbackers in the lower house of the Wisconsin Legislature formed a coalition and captured all the offices—the Greenbackers taking the Speakership, and the Democrats the remainder.

In the lower house of the Maryland Legislature, list week, Montgomery Blair introduced a memorial asking Congress to investigate the title of Rutherford B. Hayes to the office of President. He made an elaborate speech, in which he charged that President Hayes obtained his title to office through corrupt bargaining with the Louisiana Returning Board and his political opponents, and urged the importance to the country of obtaining a rightful solution of the question involved. Mr. Lieb, Republican, moved to lay the memorial on the table, and called for the ayes and noes, which resulted—ayes 13, noes 54. It was then referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

George H. Pendleton will be elected United States Senator from Ohio, to succeed Stanley Matthews, whose term expires March 9, 1879, he having been nominated by a Democratic caucus.

Senator Edmunds has embodied in a letter to the President, at the request of the latter, his views of the relations which should exist between the Executive and the Senators and Representatives in the matter of nominations and appointments to office. The right or the propriety of dictation by members of the legislative branch of the Government is distinctly denied by Mr. Edmunds, who holds the belief that a custom which was of itself unobjectionable has grown into an abuse—that is, that from being invited to furnish information concerning the character and fitness of applicants for office, Senators and Representatives have come to regard appointments as their prerogative.

The annual meeting of the American Social Science Congress was held last week at Boston. David Ames Wells, of Norwich, Ct., was elected President for next year. Rev. H. Wines, of Illinois, and Thomas Wentworth Higginson, of Rhode Island, were chosen delegates to the Prison Congress at Stockholm.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

S. A. Galpin, Chief Clerk of the Indian Bureau, has been removed by Secretary Schurz on account of corrupt practices.

The report submitted to Secretary Schurz by Joseph K. McCammon, of the Department of Justice, Capt. Thomas H. Bradley, United States army, and George M. Lockwood, Chief Clerk of the Interior Department, the Board of Inquiry convened by him in June last to investigate the Indian service, is a very elaborate and luminous document. The report condemns "the absence of regulation, system and method" in the bureau's administration; also the suppression of charges against agents and contractors; the carrying on of semi-official correspondence by subordinates without authority; the careless disposal of records; the relinquishment of authority by responsible officers; the loss or disappearance of important papers, and the factious opposition by clerks and others to the Board of Indian Commissioners. It also refers in terms of disgust to the "unfitness of the Chief Clerk, the Corresponding Clerk, the Annuity Clerk, and others; the incompetency displayed in the accounts division; the inefficiency of the land division; the habitual lack of circumspection in the finance division; the uselessness of the civilization division, and the demoralization of the bureau throughout."

McGarrahan's big suit against the New Idria Mining Company, which involves the title to quicksilver mining property of vast value, and which has been fought in the courts and in Congress for about fifteen years, has at last been decided against him in the United States Supreme Court.

The Washington *National Republican* states upon what it "regards as high authority that the President will sign the Silver bill whenever it shall be submitted to him."

MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS.

Business embarrassments: M. Rader & Son, tobacco, New York, liabilities $180,000, assets $87,000; D. H. Brigham & Co., clothing, Springfield, Mass., liabilities $250,000; Second National Bank, St. Louis, Mo., no loss to depositors.

The Hudson Bay Company's bark Lady Tompson, from London with an assorted cargo, while entering Esquimault harbor, Vancouver island, ran on a rock and is probably a total loss.

The bark Osmyn, from Seattle, for San Francisco, collided with the bark Amelia on the 9th inst., near Narrowstone point, Puget sound, and sunk. She was a total loss. The Aurcola was slightly injured.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, Jan. 10.—SENATE.—Over forty Senators were in the Chamber before the Senate was called to order at noon.... A great part of the morning hour was taken up in the presentation of petitions in favor of the adoption of a sixteenth amendment to the constitution, prohibiting States from disfranchising persons on account of sex, all of which were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.... A large number of bills were introduced and referred to appropriate committees, among them the following: By Mr. Sargent, to regulate Chinese immigration; by Mr. Plumb, to reorganize the pay department of the army; by Mr. Voorhees, in relation to prize money to all fleet officers; by Mr. Sargent, to relieve certain legal disabilities of women, providing that any woman who shall have been a member of the bar of the highest court of any State or Territory, or of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, for three years, shall, on motion, be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States; by Mr. Jones, of Florida, to repeal certain provisions of the acts of Congress making appropriations for the support of the army.... Mr. Sargent submitted resolutions in regard to a sixteenth amendment (woman suffrage), which were, on objection, laid over.... Mr. Edmunds submitted a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, prohibiting States from making an appropriation for sectarian purposes. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.... A motion was made to hold a session on Saturday to allow a committee of women an opportunity to address the Senate on a proposed sixteenth amendment. Rejected—yeas, 13; nays, 31.... Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.—The House met at noon, and 250 members responded o their names... The resolution reported by Mr. Wood, prior to the recess, directing investigations to be made into the management of the several departments of the Government, came up as the first business in order, it having been postponed till after the reading of the journal. ....Mr. Hewitt presented the petition of the New York Chamber of Commerce, praying for the passage of a bill to correct all errors in the assessment and collection of duties on imports, whether in favor of or against the Government. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.... The following bills were introduced and referred: By Mr. Luttrell, of California, to prohibit the employment of the Chinese, or Mongolians, on any public works of the United States; also, to prevent the naturalization of Chinese, or Mongolians; also, to punish and prevent the practice of polygamy in Territories and other places subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States; by Mr. Cox, of New York, for the coinage of 5-cent silver coins, and the discontinuance of 5-cent nickel or copper coins. ... Mr. Wood's resolution was then taken up in committee of the whole, and discussed, when Mr. Hale offered a substitute, which was adopted by 101 to 99. The committee then rose and reported to the House, which immediately adjourned.

FRIDAY, Jan. 11.—SENATE.—Not in session.

HOUSE.—The substitute of Mr. Hale to Mr. Wood's investigation resolutions, as reported by the committee of the whole, being in order, Mr. Wood offered his original resolutions as a substitute. After some colloquy, they were passed as originally presented, by a vote of 111 to 107.... Bills were introduced and referred as follows: By Mr. Price, to promote the deposit of savings and the refunding of the national debt; by Mr. Sapp, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue coupon bonds of the denomination of $15, $25, $50, and $100 for the investment of savings.... After some unimportant business the House adjourned till Monday.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS.

Letter from Senator Edmunds to the President in Regard to Official Patronage.

We give below the full text of the recent letter written by Senator Edmunds, of Vermont, to President Hayes, upon the subject of civil-service appointments. It was in answer to the President's request for his opinions upon the subject:

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1877.

MR. PRESIDENT: Returning from an absence from town I find your note of the 17th inst. in referring to a prior conversation between us in relation to the intervention of Senators and Representatives in respect to nominations and appointments by the Executive Department of the Government, you ask me to give you my views and experience on the subject. I do so with greater pleasure and freedom from the circumstance that your views and my own concerning what ought to be the independence of the Executive in making nominations and submitting treaties, and the independence of the Senate in acting thereon, are entirely in accord, and that I believe this independence would be made much more perfect if what is suggested below could be carried into practice.

In the great number of selections required to be made to fill the necessary offices in all parts of the Republic, the capacity and character, and in many instances the opinions, of persons suggested for place ought to be known, and most generally be ascertained by information from some source extraneous to the Executive Department. It has not been possible generally for the President or heads of departments personally to know the propriety of a particular selection. This has naturally led to the practice of applicants for place and citizens recommending them communicating with the Executive branch of the Government through the Senators and Representatives in Congress, and reciprocally to the President and heads of departments asking and receiving the information and sometimes the advice of Senators and Representatives on the subject. So far, I think the process was natural and reasonable, and perhaps in a degree necessary, as the simplest and safest means of the Executive Department acquiring indispensable information. But, as in almost every kind of affair unrestricted by positive and binding limitations, a useful habit becomes a custom, and the custom gradually transformed itself from its true nature as a means of information into the course of practically disposing of Executive local appointments according to the judgment or the will of Senators and Representatives. They came gradually to volunteer recommendations in every instance, and the Executive Department in like manner came to receive and treat such recommendations as final as a relief from personal scrutiny of testimonials and objections, and from much of the sense of responsibility for selections. This was evidently an abuse and perversion of the constitutional theory of appointments as well as of a salutary process in administration. The effect of this was of course not beneficial. The citizen securing the prize of office became too often the personal adherent of the Senator or member who secured him the place, and the disappointed ones became the reverse. Senators and members were sometimes influenced in their recommendations by considerations of gratitude or gratitude to those who had rendered or were expected to render aid to their personal aims in politics. The liberty of free political expression and action belonging to the place-holder as a citizen became somewhat cramped and embarrassed. Perhaps still more injurious to the public interest was the entanglement of the relations between Senators and Representatives and the Executive Department. Who can measure in such cases how much of Executive action in appointment is due to a desire to secure an appropriation, or avoid an investigation, or encourage or reward a legislative or Senatorial following? Who can tell in such a case how far the Senator who votes for or against a favorite treaty or nomination, or the Representative who votes for or against an appropriation or an inquiry, has been moved directly by what has been or what is expected to be done or omitted by the executive branch in the direction of his wishes? I hardly need say that these things do not imply corruption in the ordinary sense on any one. They imply rather bias or prejudice and perversion of judgment arising from self-interest and absence of power and success, from which human nature is nowhere free. The distinct separation and independence of the various branches of the Government rest upon principles drawn from universal experience, and they cannot be too strongly maintained. The Senate and House of Representatives must in their spheres watch, and scrutinize, and deal with, if need be, every step of the executive departments, and they in their turn must administer the law as it is through proper agents, free from the dictation of members of the legislative branch, and from the temptation either to yield to their domination or influence, or corrupt them by the bestowal of patronage. It may be that these suggestions are simple truisms, but they are those that cannot be too often repeated. They are stated in more general terms in the formal declarations of both the political parties of the country at their last conventions. How, then, shall we follow them? It has appeared to me that much could be accomplished in the right direction by the absolute abstention of Senators and Representatives from recommending particular appointments at all, unless their advice should be asked by the Executive Department, and, accordingly, since the incoming of the present administration, I have endeavored consistently and steadily to abstain from doing so, and I believe I have kept my purpose. I have thought it consistent with this position, when applications or recommendations for place were sent me, to forward them to the proper office, with a written statement or memorandum of the character and standing of the signers, if known to me, and I have thought it right, indeed a duty, whenever any of my constituents in the employment of the executive departments have complained of its action as unjust in respect to him, to make the necessary inquiries and endeavor to rectify what should appear to be wrong. These, I think, ought to be the clear and positive boundaries in respect of appointments between the members of the two branches of the Government. I am gratified in believing that the course is satisfactory to my constituents, and in feeling that neither my official course nor that of the Executive Department, so far as I am concerned, can be affected by the influences to which I have alluded. But to have proper and fair effect, whatever course is pursued ought to be uniform, constant, and universal. Any system will be radically vicious and will fail that opens the candidacy for the duties and honors of public trust to citizens of a State or section only, upon the previous knowledge of the executive branch or the simple recommendations of private persons, while there is brought to bear for the candidates of other States and sections the powerful and personal solicitations of Senators and Representatives whose gratitude for success may be drawn upon in an emergency, or whose disappointment in failure may prejudice them against some necessary measures recommended by the Executive. It can be easily seen, too, that there would be no gain to the public welfare if the practice of following the volunteer recommendations of Senators and Representatives were to give place to the influence of private citizens or to a business of brokerage in offices as it is said has sometimes happened. It is not probable that the fitness of the persons appointed would be increased by such a change as this, and it is clear that the responsibility of the promoters of such appointments would be less, as they would be less easily ascertained, and would not have so strong motives to satisfy public opinion as those who have been elected to the House or Senate by their fellow-citizens, and who are generally supposed to desire fresh proofs of public confidence. With the vast extent of our territory and population the number of place-holders has of necessity become very great, and the means of personal or other definite knowledge of men by the executive branch has proportionally decreased, and in the same degree the evils of patronage, in whatever hands it is to practically exist, increased. I think these can be greatly mitigated by an entire cessation by Senators and Representatives whatever from advice or solicitations respecting appointments, and by the establishment by law of definite regulations respecting selections for many officers and employments, and the terms upon which they shall be held, so that the executive branch and the legislative department may be and feel perfectly free in their respective spheres, and so that the holders of office may feel also that they are the servants of the law and not the personal tenants at will in their places of either heads of departments of Congressmen. I am respectfully yours,

GEORGE F. EDMUNDS.

THE SHIP OF STATE.

Legislatures in Session—Their Political Complexion—Executive Messages, State Finances, Etc.

The Legislatures of New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maine, Maryland, Ohio, Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, Kentucky, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Connecticut, Louisiana and Mississippi are now in session, and the messages of their respective Executives have been delivered. We present below figures showing the political status of the several Legislatures, together with a statement of the finances of the States, as gleaned from the Governors' messages:

New York.—Senate, 19 Republicans and 13 Democrats; House, 66 Republicans, 61 Democrats, 1 Independent; Republican majority on joint ballot, 10. Gov. Robinson's message shows the total debt of the State, after applying the sinking fund, to be $8,707,663. The actual reduction of the debt during the year by cancellation is $12,358,843. The bounty debt has been finally extinguished. The gross canal tolls for the year were $880,000, a lower amount of receipts than has been known for forty-five years. The Legislature is urged to take a strict account of life-insurance companies and savings banks, and hold them to exact accountability. The Governor favors the resumption of specie payments Jan. 1, 1879.

Virginia.—Senate, 28 Democrats, 4 Republicans, 1 Independent; House, 102 Democrats, 9 Republicans, 21 Independents; Democratic majority on joint ballot, 95. The new Governor, F. W. Holliday, in his inaugural address, takes the strongest grounds for the maintenance of the State's credit, making points that the debt was created to provide improvements which the State now possesses, and from which it daily derives profit; that the war effected no change in the relations between the State and its creditors; that no one questions the obligations of the debt, and the laws under which it was created, in the benefits conferred on the State by the property its proceeds bought, and that the General Assembly should direct its utmost efforts to the question how to pay. He denounces the course of those who seem to strive how not to pay.

Pennsylvania.—Senate, 31 Republicans and 19 Democrats; House, 119 Republicans and 82 Democrats; Republican majority on joint ballot, 49. Gov. Hartranft's message shows the State debt to be $22,943,814. The July riots cost the State $500,000, and there is a deficit in the year's receipts of nearly $1,000,000, for which the Governor recommends that provision be made by the diversion of the sinking fund into the general fund, and by the strictest economy in all departments of the State Government. The Governor declares in favor of a national postal savings bank,

Maine.—Senate, 27 Republicans, 4 Democrats; House, 97 Republicans, 52 Democrats, 1 Greenbacker, 1 Independent; Republican majority on joint ballot, 66. Gov. Connor's message is devoted almost exclusively to local and State matters. He deprecates the passage of the Silver bill, and urges the stimulation of agricultural pursuits as one of the most important factors in the prosperity of the State. The savings bank of the State have deposits of $25,092,872—a decrease of $1,633,298.

Maryland.—Senate, 17 Democrats, 7 Republicans, 2 Independents; House, 65 Democrats, 19 Republicans; Democratic majority in joint ballot, 54. The Governor's message shows that the net debt of the State for which interest must be provided is $6,396,322.

Ohio.—Senate, 25 Democrats, 10 Republicans; House, 66 Democrats, 41 Republicans, 3 Nationals; Democratic majority on joint ballot, 37. Gov. Young's message shows among other things that $5,000 has been paid on the State debt during the past year, and the funded debt now outstanding is $6,479,505. The total indebtedness aggregates $39,326,569, and the irreducible debt is $4,231,404, making the grand aggregate debt of the State $50,030,478. The total of the taxes levied in 1877 collectible in 1878 is $29,527,749. A recommendation is made that a law be passed to temporarily restore the levy for State tax to 3½ mills, and that the same remediate legislation be had to enforce uniformity and equity in taxing property according to its true value in money.

Massachusetts.—Senate, 35 Republicans, 5 Democrats; House, 171 Republicans, 74 Democrats; Republican majority on joint ballot, 132. Gov. Rice, in his message, recommends the constitutional amendments to prolong the tenure of the executive and legislative officers of the Government, and also recommends biennial sessions of the Legislature. The amount of the State debt Jan. 1, 1878, was $33,550,464—a reduction during 1877 of $330,000.

California.—Senate, 28 Democrats, 11 Republicans, 1 Independent; House, 54 Democrats, 24 Republicans, 2 Independents; Democratic majority on joint ballot, 46. We have seen no report of the Governor's message.

New Jersey.—Senate, 12 Democrats, 9 Republicans; House, 33 Democrats, 27 Republicans; Democratic majority on joint ballot, 9. The Governor's message shows the State finances to be in good condition. He says: I anticipate no embarrassment in confining the ordinary State tax to 1 mill. That rate will produce $556,250, which will be the only revenue raised directly from the people for ordinary expenditure. The net earnings of the State prison last year were $12,129. The whole expense of the State on account of the riots was $55,000.

Kentucky.—Senate, 32 Democrats, 6 Republicans; House, 89 Democrats, 11 Republicans; Democratic majority on joint ballot, 104. We have not seen the Executive message.

Wisconsin.—Senate, 21 Republicans, 12 Democrats; House, 48 Republicans, 42 Democrats, 7 Greenbackers, 1 Socialist; Republican majority on joint ballot, 7. From the message of the incoming Gov. Smith we learn that "the State indebtedness remains as at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and is represented by bonds outstanding, $14,000; currency certificates, $57; certificates of indebtedness to trust funds, $2,238,000; total, $2,252,057. In addition to this, the Secretary of the State reports the total indebtedness of the counties, cities, towns, villages and school districts in the State as amounting to $9,658,545.04, which, added to the State debt proper, makes the total public indebtedness of the people of Wisconsin $11,910,602.04; being somewhat less than 8½ per cent. of the total assessed valuation."

Iowa.—Senate, 38 Republicans, 12 Democrats; House, 73 Republicans, 25 Democrats, 2 Independents.

Minnesota.—President of the Senate, ——; Speaker of the House, C. A. Gilman. Both branches are largely Republican. The Governor's message makes a flattering exhibit of the State's finances.

Connecticut.—The Legislature is Republican by a small majority. The Governor's message is brief, and makes a favorable showing of the commonwealth's finances.

Louisiana.—The Democrats have a fair working majority in both branches of the Legislature. From Gov. Nicholls' message we learn that the total consolidated interest-bearing debt is about $11,800,000. In consequence of the abstraction of the books from the Auditor's office, it is impossible to learn the amount of the floating debt. The Governor takes a hopeful view of the future of the State.

Mississippi.—The Legislature of Mississippi is largely Democratic in both branches. The message of Gov. Stone shows a very healthy condition of the State's finances, and a decrease in taxation of 9 mills since 1874. The bonded debt is $630,500. The State warrants are at par. The State's charitable institutions and public schools are in a prosperous condition.

Fashion Notes.

Ball dresses of tulle have humming-birds for trimmings.

New portmonnaies have a place for a picture on the cover.

The latest albums have a handle attached, by which they may be held.

A pretty and new device for the toilet-table is a bird cologne-holder.

Whole toilet sets are shown in filigree silver, and are the prettiest things out.

Orange blossoms for bridal dresses are perfumed with the essence of the flower.

Bunches of orange blossoms are placed on the instep of the satin shoes worn by brides.

The newest reception dresses are made of the Duchess brocades, in either pale pink, blue, or cream color.

A ribbon an inch and a half wide, around the waist, tied in a bow in front, is worn with the Princesse dress.

Chinese and Japanese vie with each other for supremacy in decorations, almost to the exclusion of other styles.

New photograph stands are in the shape of an open book held by a Cupid, the bookstand and Cupid all in gilt.

White lace mittens are more stylish for evening wear than kid gloves; they afford an opportunity for a fine display of rings.—*New York Tribune.*

THAT "BARGAIN."

The Administration Side of the Story.

Gen. H. V. Boynton, the Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, has published the administration side of the story about the alleged bargaining between certain Southern Democrats and the friends of President Hayes. Gen. Boynton says:

The attention of Republicans in Washington was first pointedly directed to the state of feeling among Southern Democrats, by the marked uneasiness of the Northern wing of their party, caused by the publication of what will be remembered as the Roberts interview with Gov. Hayes at Columbus. For the purpose of this discussion it is not necessary to inquire whether that interview was correctly or incorrectly reported, but, as printed, it at once became the handwriting on the wall to Mr. Tilden's personal adherents. Emissaries from Liberty street came, post haste, to Washington, to sound Southern men and see if there was any response among them to a sentiment that would prefer Hayes, with an assured liberal policy, to Tilden, with the certainty of general trouble. Their anxiety and the general uneasiness among their friends in Congress disclosed the situation to Republicans, and by the middle of December some of the most prominent among the latter had fully grasped its meaning and its possibilities. Republicans who gave themselves earnestly to the study of the situation found a general agreement among Southern Democrats upon several points.

1. They were more concerned with regaining local self-government than they were with the success of Tilden. The national administration had grown to seem of far less importance to them than the control of their own State affairs.

2. They had never been reconciled to the way the New York element had forced Tilden upon the Democracy of the South and West at St. Louis.

3. They were disgusted with his letter on Southern claims, not so much because they were looking to their payment, but because they regarded it as an assumption on Tilden's part that he could safely truckle to Northern sentiment at the expense of the South, since the latter could not refuse him support under any snubbing whatever.

4. They felt that any interference with a constitutional count of the electoral votes meant revolution, and as Southern men, and in the main Southern soldiers, understanding from sore experience what was involved, they were united almost to a man in the agreement that in no event should the Democrats of the House be allowed to plunge the country into war. They saw that they held the balance of power in their party, and they patriotically resolved to use it for peace.

5. A number of them were considering whether, in case the utterances of Gov. Hayes' letter of acceptance in regard to the South meant what the language implied, the South would not be better off at the end of four years of such Republican rule than to have the general disorder and disruption of social quiet continue, as it certainly would continue, through a Democratic administration, with the certainty that, at the end of four years, the same struggle through which the South had just passed would be repeated. In short, a number of prominent Southern men were earnestly considering whether, in case Hayes should honestly and earnestly set himself about carrying into effect the ideas of his letter of acceptance, it would not be better for the quiet and material interests of the South, or whether the shortest road to a just and permanent reconstruction did not lie through a Republican administration under Gov. Hayes.

These were the elements of Southern thought which a number of Republicans found to be questions of earnest though quiet discussion. That they should instantly avail themselves of this knowledge to widen the opening breach between Tilden's personal adherents and these cooler Southern men was entirely natural. That they should have been active in this work was one of the necessities of the situation. The country was on the brink of anarchy then. It is easy to look back from present quiet, and denounce all attempts to avert civil war as bargains, but some of those who are busiest in such denunciations now—and some editors, too—should reflect upon what they thought statesmanship and honorable and just dealing then.

And now for the bargaining that took place. These Republicans who were in a position to know the Liberal policy toward the South which Gov. Hayes had decided upon, and which he had announced clearly in his letter of acceptance, simply took occasion to assure these Southern Democrats that what Hayes had thus promised would certainly be fulfilled; that carpet-bag rule, making clear distinctions between Southern Republicans and carpet-bag element properly would not be encouraged; that local government or proper home-rule would be; that all who desired to come into accord with a national administration for the purpose of completing a lasting reconstruction and assuring peace to the South, would be cordially received; and that all the results of the war and all new rights to the new citizens would be insisted upon and protected.

There was no promise to individuals, and nothing that approached the character of bargaining. It was the announcement of a predetermined policy on the one hand, and a reception of it as the best present attainable good for the South on the other.

Sale of Curios the Dead-Letter Office.

The Postoffice Department has prepared a catalogue of over 10,000 articles accumulated at the Dead Letter Office, to be sold at auction soon. The catalogue includes 1,275 lots of jewelry, 2,161 books, engravings, chromos, etc., and over 6,000 miscellaneous articles, embracing almost every description of wearing apparel, from babies' socks to women's dresses, and a heterogen