

It is stated from Washington that "a bill is being prepared having for its object minority representation in Congress. It will probably be introduced in the House soon after the reassembling of Congress. It proposes to have the Legislature of each State, after the apportionment of the next census, so redistrict the State that the minority as well as the majority will be entitled to representation. By this plan, if carried out at the next election, supposing that there is no political change among the people, the colored men will be a small majority, and all parts of the country will be represented by Republicans as well as Democrats."

The plan is to divide each State into districts; that the districts may, as far as possible, be divided to elect either three or five members each, thus permitting the majority of the voters to elect two out of three or three out of five. In case the district is entitled to three Representatives, each elector can vote for two candidates and no more. In case the district is entitled to five Representatives, each elector can vote for three candidates, and no more. Where a State is entitled to only two Representatives, as in the case of Rhode Island and Florida, it is to be divided into two districts, each electing one member, and, at present, as in this case majority minority representation would be impossible.

In all cases where there is an odd representative after the census has been taken as nearly as possible into districts to be represented by three or five members, a separate district is to be set apart for this Representative, who is to be elected at present. The effect of this bill will be to secure to the colored people a representation in Congress. It is argued that if it were passed it would remove the objections raised by Senator Blaine to the present lack of representation of the colored population of the South."

THE BLAINE INVESTIGATION.

A Washington dispatch of Dec. 27 says: "The Teller-Blaine Committee met yesterday, formally acknowledged that they are powerless on account of want of funds, and adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman. There can be little doubt that so far as any practical investigation is concerned, it is to practical appropriation will resort in the event of the final inquiry. Senator Blaine, in the course of his argument in support of the investigation, urged that if the inquiry was to have any value, the committee must proceed South immediately and do the greater portion of its work during the recess. It has become necessary to pursue a different course, and it is generally conceded that the result will be seriously to cripple, if not entirely to defeat, purposes of investigation. The main reason for this is, of course, a reliance upon the \$20,000 appropriation supposed to be available, but, aside from that, and apart from strictly Democratic opposition, the checks upon the investigation, in which case the House can have a chance at the Southern question."

FOREIGN NEWS.

Dispatches from the British forces in Afghanistan report that the important town of Jalalabad was occupied by Gen. Browne's column on the 20th, without opposition. A deputation of notables of the city went out to meet the invaders, and the whole population appeared to be friendly.

Gambetta predicts that the republican will have a good majority in the next French Senate.

A telegram from Berlin says the Socialist law is being enforced with renewed severity. Seventeen publications have been prohibited in Leipzig alone.

Scotland has been visited by another great snow-storm, blocking all the railroads.

The Macedonian insurgents are rallying. Means and resources are being supplied them from Bulgaria.

At Madrid, the Supreme Court of Justice has finally condemned to death Moncada, who attempted to assassinate the King.

Suleiman Pasha, whose alleged misconduct of the Turkish armies during the late war was due to Damad Pasha's order, has been pardoned.

Robbers attacked a train near Puebla, Mexico, recently, killed the baggage-master, wounded the conductor, and escaped with \$27,000 in silver.

Eastern Roumellians will stubbornly resist the execution of the Berlin treaty.

A disastrous fire is reported to have visited Hong Kong, China, on the 25th and 26th of December.

The town of St. Louis del Nord, in Hayti, has been swept away by a river changing its course, and many lives lost.

Two freight trains on the Grand Trunk collided at Trenton, Ontario, killing Hugh McGregor, fireman, and Thomas Gamble, brakeman.

The steamer State of Louisiana has been lost on the Irish coast.

Cholera and famine are desolating some of the northern provinces of Brazil. Among the horrors reported as occurring among the wretched people are cannibalism and cannibalism.

Fred Grant will join his father, and accompany him on the remainder of his trip around the world.

The Pennsylvania coal combination has fallen to pieces, and there is now a prospect of cheap coal.

Advices from Mexico report the hanging of eighteen insurgents, who were captured in an engagement at Guadalajara, by order of the commander of the national troops.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

East.

The heaviest snow-storm experienced for eight years is reported in New York and Canada.

The schooner Charlie Bell was wrecked at Thimble Gap Island, on the coast of Maine, and four men lost.

A boiler explosion at Troy, N. Y., killed Alfred St. Charles, water-tender, and Thomas Gentleman, puddler. Four others were injured.

The Hebrews of New York have received the donations for Jewish charities made by Judge Hilton on behalf of the widow of late A. T. Stewart.

New York papers announce that Vanderbilt, the railway king, has established an ocean-freight line in connection with his Central railroad and branches. His ultimate purpose is apparently to control the ocean freight traffic. His fleet at present consists of fourteen large iron screw freight steamships, brand new, each of 2,000 tons burden.

West.

The big St. Louis bridge was sold at auction last week for \$2,000,000, under a mortgagor, a general acting in the interest of New York parties being the purchaser.

S. D. Richards, who murdered Mrs. Tresson and her three children in Nebraska, a

JAS. W. McEWEN, Editor.

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HOUSEWORK.

Washing, mopping, baking, churning; Next day ironing must be done; And the blue and the red must be done; Little and still set of work.

Then the knitting and the sewing, The mending of stockings, the mending, On the patching and the darning, How they make our fingers ache.

But of all the varied duties,

That we busy housewives find,

I do not know.

The most pleasant kind,

Why, the times they must be handled

Out of the oven.

Almost makes one wish with the china.

Were in bid for children's play.

When my family are settled

Each in his own cozy nook.

I know well that very many

Have other duties to perform,

With patient, cheerful spirit,

All life's little joys to face,

Oh, that I were a master!

The house for me to play,

I might, with a cheerful spirit,

"Learn to labor and to wait."

WIT AND HUMOR.

A PAIR of drawers—Two dentists.

PART RIDGES are among the things

that whirr.

BABIES were the original discoverers

of the milky-way.

The kid-glove duty—To smuggle as

many as you can.

You cannot mend your ways with the

thread of a discourse.

Is a man careful of his provisions

when he bolts his food?

"I will drop the subject," he said;

The man whose cut couldn't be turned—The headsman's.

I DEARLY love my sweet art, said the

enthusiastic confectioner.

WHEN at prayer, some people kneel, because it is a knees-y position.

HOW MANY women fancy they are

thinking when they are only reflecting?

WHAT is sweeter than a sugar-house?

Why, a young ladies' seminary when it is full of 'lasses.

My brother-in-law wants to know

whether Gabriel's trump is in the right

bower or the joker.

CHAT.

THERE is a man in Washington the

most powerful in the country. He carries a horse scar on his cheek.

TAILORS are the only people from

whom you can obtain a reliable list of our "promising" young men.

REJOICE and be exceedingly glad, if

you have a clear conscience, last season's

overcoat and a mouth's credit at a coal-yard.

ALL the signers of the Declaration of

Independence signed their names with

quill pens except one—he signed his

Witherspoon.

THE age of economy has been reached

in Foxboro, Mass., where a woman

stopped a clock from running because

it would wear out too fast.

"WELL," said an old bachelor, when

he found a baby in his lap on his

front steps, "some one is born babies,

some achieve babies, and some have

babies thrust upon them."

BETTER is to sit in a barrel than to stand in a trough.

THE greater the number of contestants than to report in the most luxurious easy-chair adorned with a tidy in the house of the order-loving woman.

"AND you are really going to marry again, after losing your dear husband of yours, and you so young and pretty yet?"

"My love, it's simply out of respect for the memory of the late. This is a scandalous world!"

THE man who waits to get three cats in line before he shoots will some day

find the poor-house waiting for him. It

is the man who peeps away at cats

whenever chance offers who will lay up

date for old age—Detroit Free Press.

A WESTERN poet, who deprecates

the advances made by science over ro-

mance, writes that electricity may be

conquering, but that moonlight itself is

superior to gaze. Ha, yes; but then, my

boy, you can't metre by moonlight alone.

A LIQUOR-DEALER applied to a cus-

tometer for a letter of recommendation of a certain brand of whisky he had al-

ready sold him. The customer wrote:

"I have tried all sorts of insect poison,

and find none equal to your Old Cabinet whisky."

THE New York Express is determined

to tell the truth though the heavens fall.

It says: "It's not overwork that's ruin-

ing the young men of this great city by

any means. No, it's waiting on the street

corner for somebody to invite them into

the nearest saloon."

DID the prophet Isaiah ever eat at a

railroad station? It certainly looks so,

for how could he have described it so

literally if he had not?

"And he shall snatch on the right hand and be hungry,

and he shall eat on the left hand and

shall not be satisfied."