

WEEKLY EXPRESS

Wednesday Morning, March 4, 1869.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT is agreed upon by the Conference Committee, and finally adopted by the Senate after a protracted discussion, amounts to nothing more than a guarantee against any restrictions on suffrage on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. It is apparent from the report of the discussion in the Senate, that Republican Senators were far from satisfied with it, but thought it advisable to accept it as the nearest attainable approximation to their wishes, at so late a period of the session.

Senator MORRISON said the Republican party, if this amendment should be adopted, might be reasonably charged with being willing to let the negro vote, only upon condition that the office should be reserved for the white man. Believing it was not wise to reject half a loaf because one could not get a whole one, he should vote to agree to the report of the Committee of Conference, if nothing better could be had, but the result in this case would be a warning to him never again to intrust an important measure to the hands of a committee of conference.

Mr. EDWARDS said the committee had struck out the very life of the text by striking out one-half of an invidious truth, and had made the remaining half, in reality, a falsehood.

Mr. WARREN said he would vote for this if nothing better could be had, but would do so with regret and misgiving, and be in favor of rejecting this and making another effort to get a more comprehensive amendment, if he believed it could possibly be done at this time.

Mr. WILSON said he had always demanded what was right, and had done his best to attain it; but he had also acted upon the idea of taking what he could get, believing one step taken made the next easier. He would act upon that principle, too, though with more regret than ever before, and some degree of mortification, because he had hoped that, early in the present session the majority, in Congress would seize the great opportunity, when two great States were in the hands of their friends, and when the hearts of the people were warm with the love of liberty and sense of justice, to make an amendment which would secure equal rights to all men of all races, classes and colors in this country. He would vote for this now, because he could get nothing better, but he would continue to agitate it until the equal rights of the negro and all of men should be undisputed here. He hoped and believed that the time would soon come, and then the people and their representatives would be at liberty to work to build up the United States into the foremost nation of the world.

NATIONAL DEBTS.—Some time ago we made interesting extracts from a pamphlet recently published in Germany giving statistics relative to the public debts of the various nations of the earth. Other facts of interest may be gleaned therefrom, the burden of which but verifies the old proverb, "All the world's in debt." With this reflection our ancestors consulted themselves in estimating their pecuniary liabilities, and we can do the same, for as there is not a people or nation in the civilized world upon whose shoulders a public debt does not bear, the aphorism is true in the present age than it ever was before. In comparing the figures it is seen that our country, the United States, in the amount of her public debt, runs far up the list, a fact which, though not pleasant to contemplate, need not discourage us, for our immeasurable resources, present and prospective, will render the removal of our "national blessing" a much easier process than the nation will pass through in an attempt to escape from debt by honest payment.

The three great European powers of Russia, France and Austria, together with Italy, had public debts in the year 1829, amounting in the aggregate to \$1,000,000,000, which required the payment of about \$85,000,000 per year in the way of interest. In the year 1847 the aggregate debt of the same States were six times increased, reaching the figure of \$60,000,000,000 in the year 1853, and requiring for interest, the annual payment of \$300,000,000. On the 5th of January 1851, the national debt of Great Britain was about \$4,035,000,000; on March 31, 1855, it was \$8,985,000,000, exhibiting a rate of increase of 117 per cent. The debt of Holland was \$49,017,422, and in 1858 it was \$37,297,595, a decrease of \$104,599,887. Prussia has a debt, in 1852 of \$148,324,618, which, in 1858, had increased to \$13,460,666, including \$131,760,000 for railway works. Her debt was, consequently, augmented during that interval of time \$164,021,948. The public debt of France, in 1847 was \$81,000,000, while in 1858 it was \$287,707,418, besides a floating debt of \$2,082,000,000.

The total debt of the smaller States of Italy, now constituting the dominions of Victor EMANUEL, was only \$300,000,000 in 1851 while on the 21st day of December, 1867, the debt of the present kingdom was \$1,000,000,000. The debt of Austria in 1851 was \$51,668,948. So complicated is the character of the national debt of Russia that it is well nigh impossible of classification, and actually so difficult of computation that the interest it pays forms the best index to its amount. Estimating it, the total debt of Russia in the year 1850 amounted to \$3,137,455; in the year 1858 to \$52,213,807. There are, in addition, bills of credit issued by that government, and forced into circulation by an imperial ukase, amounting to \$596,719,900. Public credit is at a very low ebb in Russia, an embarrassment with the government induced by the want of money to meet the time by the withdrawal of the Treasury notes. The public debt of the United States, according to the monthly statement issued by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 1st ult., is \$2,555,603,658 \$, or, including the Pacific Railroad bonds, \$2,657,779,707 18.

SECRETARY McCULLOCH has, it is said at the persuasion of his wife, reconsidered his determination of leaving Washington entirely after his retirement from office, and has purchased from a Mr. OWENS the Jackson farm in Montgomery county, Maryland. Mr. McCULLOCH's business (financial) will be more generally in New York, but Washington will still be the magnet which will draw him to itself a goodly portion of the year.

The proceedings in Spain will henceforth become exceedingly interesting, until the nature of the new government is definitely fixed. The Cortes is going on slowly and with dignity, approaching the great question as to the character of the government and the person who will be selected as the supreme ruler. The Provisional Government is justifying its action during the interval succeeding the revolution, by its explanations to the representatives of the people, and the latter have generally been satisfied with the statements made. The vote of thanks given to the retiring government was not a mere party demonstration. Some Republicans may have voted against it, but the justice of the resolution, all things being considered, made it a measure which could not be resisted. **SEMANO**, in whom supreme power has been vested *ad interim*, has shown himself to be just and patriotic. He is an old man, and cannot have much need of personal ambition or desire to do so large as to confer the greatest measure of good upon his country. The Cortes has still a very important business before it. It is, as is expected, it shall decide that the Government of Spain shall remain monarchical, the choice of the person who is to wear the crown will be one of the most interesting and important events of the time.

AMONG the nominations presented by the President to the Senate, the last efforts of the expiring Administration, is one which names Colonel E. D. TOWNSEND to be Adjutant General in the place of Major-General LORENZO THOMAS, retired. And thus Mr. Johnson pays off the services of his friend *ad interim* in the quarrel with Mr. STANTON. Major-General THOMAS was the only officer of the army who could be found willing to do the necessary dirty work at that time. He was faithful according to his capacity, and if he failed it was not his fault. But the functionality whom he assisted so greatly, at a most important moment, deliberately put him away. Perhaps, after all, it is kindness of the JOHNSONIAN pattern. The Hindoo widow sacrifices herself on the funeral pyre of her late husband, and THOMAS might appropriately make his *ad interim* with JOHNSON. How appropriate the inscription over the tomb which covers their ambition, "Lovely in their lives, in death they were not divided."

HERE is the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in its exact phrasology, unmarred by telegraphic transmission:

ARTICLE XV.—The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2.—The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Personal and Political.

THIS is A. J.'s last full day of Presidential life. Let all the people thank God.

This woman suffrage question is attracting some of the best intellectual force of the age, and something will come of the discussion.

Mrs. QUANTRELL says she is Mrs. Barbara Fristoe. Mr. John G. Whittier says Mrs. Quantrell is not Mrs. Barbara Fristoe. It is Mrs. Barbara Fristoe's turn now. The poem still stands however.

IT APPEARS that Robert J. Walker in 1852, while at St. Petersburg, set the ball in motion for the purchase of Alaska. He certainly ought to have his lot and portion in that place of torment fit for all evil-doers. Eternal frost ought to be equal to brimstone as a disciplinary agent.

Some Pennsylvania members asked Grant last Saturday if it would do any good to get up a pressure for Mordecai as a member of the Cabinet from that State, and the General replied that he didn't think it would. Grant has a poor opinion of all such pressures in times of peace. He likes them in war—especially if places for fighting men are sought.

THE TRIAL of very respectable people, who recently, at Cano run, near Louisville, stripped an Irish girl, named Nelly O'Conor, and covered her whole nude person with tar, because she had talked about some of them who claimed to be Kentucky ladies, has just closed at Louisville. As she was only a servant girl, the Louisville papers consider this barbarous outrage as a joke of the indignant ladies and their friends.

A DISPATCH from Washington says it is understood that Grant has tendered General Walter Q. Gresham, of Indiana, the Collectorship of the port of New Orleans, and that Graham has written a letter declining.

GOV. BAKER on Monday transmitted to the State Senate a copy of the proposed 11th article of the Constitution of the United States. It was made the special order for Thursday at two o'clock P. M.

STEWART FICKLE, a farmer, residing about two miles from Clark's Hill, was found in a field near that place, last Wednesday morning, where he had lain in the bitter cold all night. He is still living. Too much whisky.

MR. ANTHONY J. CAVENDER, proprietor of the dry dock at Evansville, who was injured by a boiler explosion a few days ago, died on Saturday last. His remains have been taken to Richmond, this State, for interment.

ON SATURDAY the Finance Committee of the Legislature examined and burned a large quantity of redeemed certificates of two and a half and five per cent. State stocks. Certificates amounting to about two millions will be destroyed altogether.

MISS LIZZIE M. BOYNTON, of Crawfordsville, requests the Indianapolis Mirror to announce that she has not adopted lecturing as a profession. Her first attempt met with so much success that she was induced to repeat it at Lafayette. This is all, for the present.

A SPECIAL from Washington says—

The Capital is crowded with office-seekers, and every State and territory is represented, Indiana having her full share.

A large delegation from Lafayette, headed by Colonel R. P. DeHart, arrived last evening. The Indianaans are evidently determined not to lose any of the spoils, from a first-class mission down to the puniest messenger.

THE INDIANAPOLIS SENTINEL'S Washington correspondent telegraphs that the following Cabinet is the most probable yet announced, viz: J. S. Motley, Secretary of State; Jay Cooke, Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Treasury; Hamilton Fish, of New York, Secretary of the Navy; General Schofield, Secretary of War; Senator Thayer, of Nebraska, Secretary of the Interior; Wilson, of Iowa, Attorney General; Wadsworth, of Kentucky, or Dennison of Ohio, Postmaster General.

THE STATE.

HAZELTON has a revival.

EVANSTVILLE has six musical societies.

THE rush to Washington, from all parts of the State, is immense.

LIZZIE BOTWYN denies being a candidate for the postoffice at Crawfordville.

GRANT once worked in a tannery in Fort Wayne three days.

ATRICA boasts of a ten year old hen that still continues to discount freely.

WASHINGTON, Davies County, has enjoyed "milk" by two "heavy weights."

MAJOR GENERAL GORDON GRANGER has been the lion of Evansville for several days.

THE present population of Marion County Jail is thirty-nine persons, of whom five are women.

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THE motion for a new trial in the case of Mrs. Clem will probably be heard on Saturday.

LATE Wednesday evening, John Pearce was shot and badly wounded by Daniel Downes in Morris township, Posey county.

OUR STATE exchanges almost universally report unusually extensive preparations being made for the erection of buildings this season.

ONE of our weekly exchanges proposes to publish, as a serial, the trial of Mrs. Clem. It will run through some fifty numbers. Juicy news matter!

THE safe, in the wholesale hardware house of H. K. Wells & Co., Evansville, was robbed of \$450 in broad daylight last Saturday. Robber not detected.

EVANSTVILLE boasts that as many as twenty steamers touch at her wharves in a single day. Twelve regular packets run to and from that city.

IT appears that on the first vote in the Clem case stood nine for hanging, and three for two years imprisonment, not one being in favor of her acquittal.

POSTMASTER Rose has received a letter from the Postmaster-General stating that the free delivery system would be established at the Indianapolis postoffice with all due dispatch.

DOUBTLESS all the people will say "Amen" to the verdict in the case of Mrs. Clem, which is, "murder in the first degree" and a sentence to the penitentiary for life.

A MAN living near Huntingburg, Dubois county, buried two hundred dollars a few days ago, and has since made diligent search, but has been unable to find it.

IT is believed that Mrs. Clem might have escaped conviction had she not undertaken a defense. On both trials her defense materially strengthened the case of the State.

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