THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 123. BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR.

FRIENDLY EXPRESSIONS TOWARDS AMERICA.

MASON AND SLIDELL ARRIVED OUT.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The steamer Jura arrived at Portland late last night.

The Emperor Napoleon opened the French Chambers on the 27th ult. In his speech he said:

"The civil war which desolates America has great ly compromised our commercial interests. So long, however, as the rig ts of neutrals are respected we must confine ourselves to expressing wishes for an early termination of these dissensions"

The Emperor's speech also refers to the other relations of France, and recapitulates the financial programme of M. Fould's budget.

Some English journals, in their eagerness to favor the Southern cause, construe the allusion to America in the Emperor's speech into something like a threat, and see it is significant that France is impatient, and when the occasion appears to demand it will interfere.

Mason and Slidell had arrived at Southampton. No demonstration was made on their arrival. The former went to London and the latter to Paris.

Cotton closed firmer at Liverpool with an advance of ¼d.

The Stone Blockade.

Another despatch to the British Government gives Lord Lyons' conversation with Secretary Seward on the Charleston stone blockade. Mr. Seward stated that the plan was not devised to injure the harbor permanently, but merely to aid the blockad; that it would be the duty of the Government to remove all the obstructions as soon as the Union was restored. The harbor of Charleston was not considered inaccessible. Mr. Seward was not prepared to say that as an operation in war it was unjustifiable to destroy permanently the harbor of the enemy.

It is rumored that the vessel which the Sumter engaged off the coast of Algiers was the Federal gunboat Iroquois. There was no news of either.

The Tuscarora left Southampton on the 29th.—Her destination was unknown. She brought up in Yarmouth Roads, Isle of Wight, where she remained at the latest dates.

Rumors were current at Southampton that both the Tuscarora and Nashville had been ordered away, and that the latter would probably leave on the 30th. These reports, however, lacked confirmation.

The *Morning Advertiser* states in the most positive terms that until the 23d of January it was the full intention of Napoleon to announce in his speech his resolution to abolish the Federal blockade, but a change of programme was made at the instance of Earl Russell, who deemed it politic to defer doing anything for a few weeks. Napoleon, therefore, alluded to the question in his speech in a manner that would bind him to nothing.

Additional Details.

It was rumored that the Government had ordered the Confederate steamer Nashville to quit Southampton, but extended the time for her departure, owing to the danger from the United States gunboat Tuscarora.

It was also rumored that the Government will prohibit the armed ships of either party from remaining over twenty-four hours in any British port.

The following is the report taken out by the steamer Etna, for New York.

Earl Russell, in a despatch dated the 23d of January, to Lord Lyons, says the English Government differs entirely from Mr. Seward's conclusions on the question whether the Persons taken from the Trent, and their supposed despatches, were contraband. He argues the point at length and points to the injurious consequences of such a law.

For instance, according to Mr. Seward's doctrine, a packet carrying a Confederate agent from Dover to Calais might be captured and taken to New York, and in like manner the Confederates might capture a Cunard steamer, bound from Liverpool to Halifax, on the ground that she was carrying despatches to Mr. Seward from Mr. Adams.

The British Government would not acquiesce in the capture of any British ship in circumstances similar to those of the Trent, and the case of its being brought for adjudication before the Prize Court, though altering its character, would not diminish the gravity of the offence.

The despatch concludes with a reference to Mr. Seward's declaration that the safety of the Union required it, it would have been right to detain the Trent prisoners. In reply to this, Earl Russell says: "Great Britain could not have permitted the perpetration of that wrong, however flourishing might have been the insurrection in the South."

The *Times*, in a characteristic article, calls for some decisive action in America. It says unpleasant complications must arise if the present state of affairs continues much longer.

A meeting had been called in London to consider the propriety of forming a British-American Association.

The following news is per the Jura:

The steamer Jura, Captain Acton, left Liverpool at 11 A. M. of the 30th, and Londonderry on the 31st.

The Etna, which left Liverpool on the 29th, put into Holyhead on the same night with her forecompartment full of water, having been in collision with the ship Cheviot.

The steamer Elmburg was coaling at Liverpool to take forward the Etna's passengers and cargo if necessary.

The steamer La Plata, with Mason and Slidell on board, arrived at Southampton on the 29 h.

The *Times* remarks that both gentlemen will probably keep themselves perfectly quiet, and wait events that are at hand. Although there is a large party in the House of Commons which will endeavor to urge on the Government a policy of interference in the American struggle, the envoys will do well to maintain a "masterly inactivity."

A Southampton letter says that the released prisoners complain of having received bad treatment in the prison at Boston.

The *Advertiser* also says that all the co-operation which Napoleon asked from England was her moral co-operation.

The Bourse was higher. The Rents were quoted at 71f. 34c

The diplomatic correspondence between France and Rome has been published.

France recommends conciliation with the Court of Turin.

Cardinal Antonelli absolutely refused all terms. There were contradictory rumors of an enlarged French expedition to Mexico.

FROM FORT HENRY.

Skirmish with the Enemy's Cavalry—Four Confederates Killed and Twenty-five Taken Prisoners—The Case of General Smith

ST. LOUIS, February 10—A special despatch to the *Democrat*, of this city, dated at Fort Henry, to-day, says:

Two hundred of the Illinois Cavalry, while on a reconnoitering expedition this morning, met with a company of the enemy's horse and charged upon them, killing four and taking twenty-five prisoners, including their captain. Only one of our men was wounded.

In consequence of General Smith's appointment not having been confirmed by the Senate, that officer has transferred his command to General Lew Wallace, and will leave for Paducah to-morrow.

Generals Grant and McClernand telegraphed to Washington vouching for General Smith's loyalty and efficiency, and urging that the Senate reconsider its action on his appointment. General Grant also staff made a reconnoissance in the vicinity of Fort Donelson to-day. The steamer W. H. B has returned from the railroad bridge with a lot of horses, wagons, commissary stores, &c.

Thanks of the War Department to the Victors.

ST. LOUIS, February 10.—The following despatch has been received at headquarters:

WASHINGTON, February 8.

To General Halleck, St. Louis:

Your energy and ability receive the strongest commendation of this Department. You have my perfect confidence, and you may rely upon my utmost support in your undertakings. The pressure of my engagements has prevented my writing you, but I will do so fully in a day or two.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Also the following:

To Major-General Halleck:

Thank General Grant and Flag Officer Foote, and their commands, for me.

(Signed) GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN,
Commander-in-Chief.

Two despatches, dated the 6th instant, received by General Halleck, state that General Curtis was south of Lebanon, and had taken twenty-nine prisoners, including two Captains and one Quartermaster; also a quantity of flour.

Important from the West—Return of the Gunboat Reconnoitering Expedition up the Tennessee River—They Penetrate as far as Florence, Alabama, Capturing one Gunboat and Destroying others—The Latest from Fort Henry.

ST. LOUIS, February 11.—A special despatch from Cairo to the *Democrat* says that Commodore Foote has just received a despatch from Captain Phelps, of the gunboat Conestoga, announcing the return of the gunboat expedition up the Tennessee river, after capturing a new Confederate gunboat and destroying all other Confederate boats on the river as far up as Florence, Alabama

The *Republican's* Fort Henry despatch says that the portion of the Federal army encamped near the river has been moved two miles further back with all their batteries, from which point the roads are good, and a speedy forward movement can be made when desired. Two more regiments arrived to-day, and two steamers laden with troops were just coming in sight.

The enemy at Fort Donelson are being rapidly reinforced, and some of the prisoners taken say they are confident they can hold the position.—Trees are being felled a distance of two miles around the fort, by gangs of negroes, and General Pillow is in command there with two thousand men, embracing some of the best artillerists from Columbus There are two small forts and three camps three hundred yards from the main fortification, and present appearances indicate that the coming battle will be much more desperate than that at Fort Henry.

Later from Tennessee—Fort Donelson Surrounded by General Grant—Its Early Capture Probable.

CINCINNATI, February 11.—A special despatch from Cairo to the *Gazette* says that a Federal officer from the vicinity of Fort Donelson reports that General Grant has surrounded the Fort with seven batteries of artillery, and that the Fort will be shelled or made to surrender to-day or to-morrow. There are 8,000 Confederates at the Fort.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Stone Blockade of Charleston.

WASHINGTON, Feb 10—The Navy Department has received a communication from Capt. Dupont, enclosing the report of Commander Parrot on the disposition of the second stone fleet. Commander Parrot states the remainder of the stone fleet were got into position and sunk on the 26 h ult, the date of his report. Commander Parrot thinks they are exceedingly well placed, as they effectually block up a deep and excellent passage to the north of Rattlesnake shoal.

Captain Dupont states the Captain is misinformed, I infer from a letter received last night, as to the steamer Isabel getting into Charleston by the main channel, where the previous fleet was sunk. The obstruction there is complete, and has not been removed by the late gales, the weather is seeking clear across. The Isabel got in by Maffit's channel, and as that portion of it included between Rattlesnake shoal and the shore has been blocked up by the second stone fleet, the possibility of getting into Charleston is still more circumscribed The only channels remaining are the Swash and a portion of Maffit's, and I have never less than three vessels covering them, and which now ride out the gales at anchor.

Appropriations of Congress—The Vote on Mr. Segar's Claim to a Seat in the House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb 11.—The only measure before the Committee of Ways and Means is the tax bill. They have reported the general appropriation bills, all of which the House has passed, with the exception of those for the Postoffice Department and for the Indian tribes. The aggregate amount reported by the committee is about $550,000,000. This sum is independent of the appropriations reported by other committees, and the increase of expenditures by amendments.

The following is the affirmative vote in the House to-day on Mr. Segar's right to a seat as a representative from the First Congressional District of Virginia:

Messrs Bailey, of Pennsylvania; Blair, of Virginia; Brown, of Virginia; Calvert, Clements, Corning, Cravens, Crittenden, Diven, Duell, Dunlap, Fisher, Foulke, Granger, Gurley, Hanson, Kellogg, of Illinois; Kilinger, Knapp, Law, Lehman, McPherson, Mallory, Maynard, Moorhead, Noell, Price, Richardson, Riddle, Rollins, of Missouri; Smith, Stratton, Thomas, of Maryland; Train, Upton, Wadsworth, Ward, Whaly, Wickliffe, Wright—40.

Of the eighty-five against Mr. Segar, three were from slave States—Messrs. May, Menzies and Webster—the other votes embracing Republicans and Democrats.

The Latest from Missouri—Capture of Confederates and a Large Amount of Ammunition.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—A despatch was received to-night from General Halleck, which says he has captured in Missouri nineteen Confederates and a large amount of ammunition.

Daily Communication between Fortress Monroe, Hatteras and Port Royal.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Feb. 11. 1862.—The Secretary of War desires to establish a regular daily communication between Fortress Monroe and Port Royal, Hateras and Roanoke Island by light, swift steam packets. Plans, proposals and estimates will be received for four days by telegraph, mail or personal interview from shippers and ship owners and express lines. No speculative proposition will be received, nor any from persons not now in possession of or having control of the required means of transport.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON.

Illness of the President's Son.

WASHINGTON, February 11—The President is not receiving visitors nor attending to much public business to-day, owing to the severe illness of his son William, to whom he is giving his almost constant attention.

Consul for Saxony.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—Herman Michels has been officially recognized as Consul for Saxony in the State of California.

From Ship Island.

BOSTON, Feb. 10—The ship Bolton arrived at this port this evening, bringing Ship Island dates to January 20th.

All was quiet there and the health of the troops good, only one death having occurred. A few contrabands had reached the island and been set to work.

The gunboats Nightingale had arrived from Tortugas with seventeen 9-inch navy guns for defence.

There was no fear entertained of aggressive movements from the Confederates.

The ship Black Prince arrived from Boston on the 15th, after a rough passage, during which she lost 145 horses.

The Remains of Allen and Weller.

TRENTON, February 10—The remains of the late Colonel Allen and Surgeon Weller, lost off Hatteras on the 17 h of January, will arrive in this city tomorrow about noon, by an extra train from Philadelphia. A committee of ten of the Legislature went to Philadelphia this evening to take charge of the remains, which will be received at the depot here by a grand military escort, under command of Colonel Napton, and conducted in hearses drawn by four horses to the State House. The Senate Chamber has been draped in mourning for the occasion. The bodies will remain in state in the Senate Chamber, after which they will be escorted to the depot and handed over to their friends.

Release of Federal Prisoners.

LOUISVILLE, Feb 11—Arrangements have been effected whereby Major Helvett and Captain Prince will be released by the Confederates.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

A PAPER ALLOWED TO GO SOUTH.—The *Methodist Protestant*, a weekly religious journal published in this city under the auspices of the Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church announces to its readers that the United States Postoffice Department has consented to allow the transmission of that paper regularly to the South It is to go via Fortress Monroe under a flag of truce. The reason assigned for this action on the part of the Government authorities is that the journal thus favored is a strictly religious journal.

AN OLD CITIZEN DEAD.—Mr. Wm. M. Medcalfe, and old and estimable citizen, died yesterday at his residence on West Fayette street, near Gilmor.—He was about seventy-five years of age, and served as clerk of the Criminal Court, by appointment of the Governor, for a number of years prior to the adoption of the new constitution. In 1814 he was one of those who defended Baltimore from British invasion.

REVIEW.—The statement which appeared yesterday, to the effect that the President and Directors of the City Passenger Railway Association had reduced the number of cars upon their road, in consequence of a decrease of travel, appears to have been founded upon a misapprehension of the facts in the case. On the contrary, the travel has somewhat increased, and the number of cars running at present is greater than formerly, and arrangements are being made looking to a still greater increase of accommodations for the travelling public.

TO SHIPPERS TO WASHINGTON.—Parties shipping goods to the District of Columbia or Alexandria will observe by the advertisement of Mr. C. P. Montague, in to-day's issue, that he is prepared to insure, in first class companies, any goods that may be forwarded to those parts, from loss by reason of the war or marine disasters.

Amusements.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—The grand military drama of *The Three Guardsmen* will be performed this evening, the popular actor Mr. Eddy appearing as Athos, and the talented artiste, Mrs. Farren, as Lady De Winter; the rest of the cast embraces all the favorites of the company. This great drama is replete with soul-stirring situations and effects. A new farce called *A Regular Fix*, and a beautiful dance by Miss Olivia, will conclude this highly attractive bill.

KUNKEL'S NIGHTINGALE OPERA TROUPE.—This truly excellent company, comprising the stars of the profession, will appear this evening in the famous and laughable pantomime of the "Elfin Sprite" for the last time.

From the New York Herald, Feb 11.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. STONE IN NEW YORK.

Captain Snyder, of the Third United States regular infantry, recently detailed to the staff of Gen. Sykes, commanding a brigade of regulars in the division of Gen. Andrew Porter, Provost Marshal of Washington, arrived in this city early yesterday morning, having in custody Brigadier General Charles P. Stone, recently in command of the division of the United States army stationed at Poolsville, on the Upper Potomac. In order to avoid exciting suspicion, both officer and prisoner were directed by Provost Marshal General Porter to travel in citizens' dress. Upon arrival in this city Capt. Snyder proceeded at once with General Stone to Fort Lafayette, and committed him to the charge of the commanding officer of that post.—Gen. Stone expressed surprise at his arrest. He declares that he is entirely innocent of having ever committed any act of disloyalty, and asserts, with seeming confidence, that he has no fears of the consequences, and will soon be at liberty again if justice is done to him.

Great complaint has been made against the General of late, because he ordered some slaves to be sent back to Mr. Smoot, who is an extensive miller, on the Virginia side, opposite to Poolesville, and also because General Stone has allowed Smoot to run his mill day and night for the accommodation of the rebel army, when it could easily have been destroyed by the guns of General Stone. These facts may have something to do with the General's arrest. It is stated that General Stone's reasons for not destroying Smoot's mill is, that the latter is a loyal man, as an evidence of which fact the rebels seized and confiscated all of his horses, and would not allow his negroes to go back when sent under our flag of truce. General Stone's departure from Washington and passage through Baltimore and Philadelphia were very quiet; so much so that they were not even known.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The Vice-President laid before the Senate, from the Secretary of State, the correspondence relative to the presentation of Americans at court in Paris. [See another column.]

Among memorials presented, were resolutions of the New York Chamber of Commerce praying the immediate passage of the bill for the issue of $150,000,000 of notes, and making them a legal tender; also a bound volume of petitions from different parts of New York in favor of postal reform; also from 25,300 citizens of Massachusetts in favor of the employment of homœpathic surgeons.

The VICE-PRESIDENT announced the appointment of Mr. Cowan, of Pennsylvania, as a member of the Committee on Finance in the place of Mr. Bright, expelled; and Mr. Henderson, of Missouri, as a member of the Committee on Postoffices and Post roads.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tenn., presented a petition from citizens of Philadelphia, asking the proper commemoration of the Anniversary of the Birthday of Washington, and that his Farewell Address be read before both Houses of Congress, and, so far as is practicable to the army and navy, on the 22d instant.

Mr. JOHNSON said the petition was so appropriate that he had prepared a joint resolution to carry out the suggestion. He submitted it to the effect that the two Houses of Congress assemble in the hall of the House of Representatives on the 22d inst., and that the President, members of the Cabinet, foreign representatives, and officers of the army, be invited to attend on the occasion, when Washington's Farewell Address shall be read.

Mr. HALE said that it was painful to say anything against such a resolution, but thought it would be much better to hang some public robber or shoot some cowardly officer. They had better punish the guilty and show rigorous action, than spend time in those kind of things.

Mr. JOHNSON thought that stamina might be gained by such observance for such hanging and shooting.

The resolution was passed.

Mr. RICE, of Minnesota, introduced the bill, of which he gave notice yesterday, authorizing the banks of the District of Columbia to issue notes of less denomination than five dollars. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, introduced a bill to amend the act for the better security of the lives of overland emigrants. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, offered a joint resolution authorizing the reinstating of Lieutenant Charles Hunter, an able officer retired from all health, in position in the navy, with the rank of commander.

Explanations were made by Messrs. Hale, Thompson and Grimes, showing that he had already been for several months in active service, having volunteered since the breaking out of the war, and now commanding the ship Montgomery.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. GRIMES, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred a memorial on the subject, reported a bill to repeal two sections of the act of 1854, prohibitory of the circulation of small notes

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, presented a lengthy series of resolutions "declaratory of the relations between the United States and the territory once occupied by certain States, and now usurped by pretended governments, without constitutional or legal right." The position taken therein is that by secession the law is overthrown within the borders of those States, so as to put them in a territorial condition, and thus renders slavery illegal therein. They were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, the bill from the House making appropriations for fortifications for the year 1863, and additional appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1862, was taken up.

An amendment appropriating $550,000 for temporary defences on the coast of Maine, and $200,000 for temporary defences of Narragansett Bay, to be expended in case of imminence of war with a maratime Power, in the judgment of the President, excited considerable discussion. These appropriations include Portland, in Maine, and Portsmouth, N. H.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, thought it improper that our intentions should thus be declared in advance. Should there hereafter be danger of foreign war, Congress may be in session, and it will be time enough then to act in special cases.

Mr. GRIMES thought these land defenses of little utility, as demonstrated by recent occurrences, against the modern ironclad ships of war.

Mr. FESSENDEN urged the necessity of preparing these land defences, and thought gentlemen ought to see something more than the navy. While he did not expect a foreign war, he thought it proper to prepare in time of peace.

Mr. DIXON, of Connecticut, and Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, urged the impropriety of the terms relative to a foreign war conveying a danger of such [illegible]

Mr. DOOLITTLE, [illegible] ing a State lying midway between the two oceans, he could see both to the Atlantic and the Pacific shores. Not only were these fortifications in Maine necessary, but also on the Lakes. Chicago, which was the granary of the world, and the lakes there with their commerce, another Black Sea, needed additional defences. There was no danger of foreign difficulty, for the Emperor of the French had, in his remarks just delivered to the Chambers, put all such apprehension at rest. Yet it was proper that some larger appropriation should be made than that proposed in the bill for defences at all points.

Mr. FOSTER, of Connecticut, thought that the best defense which could be afforded would be a movement of our armies, up in the rebels, at different points, as there was no danger from abroad. He thought Portland could be best defended at New Orleans, Chicago at Charleston, and some other Northern ports at Mobile.

After further discussion the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, thought the passage of such an act as this fortification bill, at this time, was ungracious. The war was with a domestic enemy, without a navy, and not a foreign maritime power. To go into a system of fortifications on the eastern coast would only provoke the erection of like fortifications in Canada, and perhaps produce bad feeling. Under the treaty with England we were allowed only a limited defence on the lakes. He, however, would approve a general appropriation for fortifications.

Mr. KING, of New York, proposed to amend by adding an appropriation for defences at the mouth of the Tennessee river. Agreed to.

Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, moved to amend by appropriating $100,000 for defenses at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Mr. FESSENDEN objected, as the amendment designed entirely new structures, whereas the bill only applied to present works.

Mr. NESMITH replied that the very fact that there were no fortifications there at all, indicated the propriety of the appropriation. The Columbia river is the avenue to all that great section of country, and the towns and cities on it are entirely exposed.

The amendment was adopted, with the modification that the expenditure be left to the judgment of the President.

Various items for different lake fortifications at Oswego, Detroit, Mackinaw, &c, were discussed at length, during which Mr. Howe, of Wisconsin, sent to the Secretary's table to be read a threatening article, (published pending the Trent affair,) from the London *Times*, and urged that Great Britain could, by way of the St. Lawrence and Welland Canal, assail all the lake points by vessels sent out from England.

Finally, Mr. Grimes moved to strike out all the appropriations for the lakes, declaring that they were entirely unnecessary, both because of such defences having been proved unavailable against steamers, as indicated at Port Royal, Fort Henry and Roanoke Island, and the fact that before ships from England or other foreign States could reach these our people would have possession of the whole lake region.

The question being taken, Mr. Grimes' amendment was rejected.

The bill was then reported to the Senate, as amended, when

Mr. SHERMAN moved a substitute, appropriating an aggregate of $3,000,000 to be expended at the President's discretion, instead of the $6,500,000 proposed by the committee.

After considerable discussion, Mr. TRUMBULL moved to refer the bill to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. FESSENDEN intimated that if this were done, and the bill taken from the Committee of Finance, he should consider his services no longer needed at the head of that committee.

Mr. TRUMBULL regarded this as a threat, and at length defended his motion.

Mr. DIXON, of Connecticut, said it was a matter of small importance whether the gentleman from Maine or from Illinois was to be considered the leader of the Senate. The state of our foreign affairs had changed materially since this bill was introduced, and he thought the bill might go to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. FESSENDEN said he neither desired to lead the Senate or any one else, and thought the remark on that head unworthy the gentleman from Connecticut. The wonderful and transcendent powers of the gentleman from Illinois qualified him for leadership, either in or out of the Senate.

Mr. RICE, of Minnesota, thought these personal discussions improper, and he was not disposed to spend the time of the Senate in listening to them.

Mr. DIXON said if Agammon and Achilles quarrel it was not improper that he allude to it. He thought the gentleman from Maine ought to have taken his remarks differently.

Mr. TRUMBULL then withdrew his motion.

The question was taken on Mr. Sherman's substitute, and resulted ayes 5, nays 29, no quorum voting.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. F. A. CONKLING, of New York, offered a resolution instructing the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the charges that the rebels were possessed of the countersign before it was issued to the pickets along the lower Potomac, on the night of the departure of the sloop-of-war Pensacola, and that information of intended military movements is conveyed to the rebels by traitors in civil or military positions Adopted.

Mr. BLAKE, of Ohio, offered a resolution instructing the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the brutal manner in which the soldiers are confined in the old slave pen at Alexandria, some of whom have frozen to death. Objected to.

The election case of Mr. Joseph Segar, claiming to be a representative from the first Congressional district of Virginia, was taken up.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, having the floor, said he would not attempt to disguise the solicitude from the House which he felt in this case.—There are eight vacancies yet to be filled from his own State, and he hoped that before the expiration of his term of office, he would have the honor of introducing those gentlemen upon this floor. He contended that Mr. Segar was duly elected, he having received the certificate to establish the fact, signed by Gov. Pierpont. He said the only question involved in this case is, whether this Government shall continue as one people or many.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, argued the case upon the question of law, in Mr. Segar's behalf.

Mr. WHALY, of Virginia, submitted an argument, in which he gave a history of the causes which led to the formation of the new government of the State of Virginia, and claimed that is a legally constituted government, and that Mr. Segar, is legally elected by the loyal citizens of that State to a seat in this House.

Mr. MALLORY, of Kentucky, also spoke in favor of the claimant, stating that he would vote for him to have a seat upon this floor, because he (Segar) had presented the certificate of the Governor of Virginia, which was *prima facie* evidence of his being legally elected.

Mr. MCKNIGHT, of Pennsylvania, said he had made up his mind to vote with the committee, but, at the close of the debate last night, he had come to the conclusion not to vote at all. After hearing the debate this morning, he had come to the conclusion to vote for the applicant, unless the chairman of the committee should show that there was fraud committed in that election.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, then proceeded to close the debate, and addressed the House in support of the claims of Mr. Segar. He said he would not attempt to review the arguments of the various gentlemen who had spoken in behalf of the claimant. The questions which met us on the very threshold of this case is: First—Is he legally elected? Second—Does he come here with such manifest evidence of a election on the part of his constituents that he should represent them in this House as to require us to lift him above all the legal forms of elections? In regard to the first proposition, he stated that the new convention of the State of Virginia placed the new Legislature of that State in the place of the rebel Legislature of that State, and that the new government of that State had been placed under the Constitution of the State; that the Governor of the State did not issue an order to the conductor of elections, according to the forms required by law; that no notice had been given in the first district of Virginia of the proposed election, but a few men in that district got together without the forms of law, and announced their preference for this applicant; so this man comes here with a certificate of these men, whom he claims were due conductors of the election.

Mr. DAWES demanded the previous question.

Mr. MALLORY demanded the yeas and nays. Agreed to—Yeas 40, nays 85. So the House refused to grant the applicant a seat in the House.

A resolution was offered to pay Mr. Segar the usual mileage and compensation, but was objected to.

Mr. R. CONKLING, of New York, moved to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill in relation to the construction of a street railroad from Washington to Georgetown, and that it be referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. HOLMAN, the House adjourned.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.—REGULAR SESSION.

SENATE.

ANNAPOLIS, February 11.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock, was called to order by the PRESIDENT, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. PATTERSON.

Mr. LANKFORD obtained leave for the Committee on Invalid Deeds to report a bill making valid an instrument of writing from G. P. and V. Leatherberry.

Mr. BLACKISTON obtained leave for the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill authorizing the Kent County Court to hear a petition for a division of an election.

Mr. DENSON obtained leave for the Committee on Corporations to report a bill incorporating the Bullion and Exchange Bank of Baltimore.

Mr. SMITH obtained leave for a special committee, composed of Messrs. Smith, Denison, and Briscoe, to report a bill making valid a sale of articles made by the Librarian in Frederick.

The bill to change the name of Thomas Pratt Wright to that of Thomas Hicks Wright, was read a second time.

Mr. HECKART, from a select committee, reported the bill relating to the charter of Rising Sun, Cecil county, which was read a second time.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY presented the report of the Baltimore Female College.

The bill to make valid a deed from T. Sofer, was read a second time.

The bill authorizing the transcribing of a book in the office of the Register of Wills of Allegany, the Code of Local Laws was read a third time and passed. [This bill provides that hereafter inspectors of liquor shall be appointed by the Governor instead of being licensed as at present.]

The bill authorizing the Carroll County Court to decree a sale of land was read a third time and passed.

The bill prohibiting the sale or administering of liquor to soldiers was taken up for a second reading.

Mr. WILLIS moved to prohibit the sale to officers as well as private soldiers, which was agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to be printed.

The bill relating to the Justices of the Peace of Somerset county was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing the Court of Appeals to hear at the present term petitions for writs of *mandamus* growing out of the opening of Holliday street was read a third time and passed.

The bill authorizing a lottery to make a turnpike in Carroll and Frederick counties was read a second time.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at eleven o'clock, was called to order by the SPEAKER, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. VAN BOKKELIN.

The roll was called and the proceedings of yesterday read and approved.

The SPEAKER presented a petition from several citizens of a village in Baltimore county, asking that the sale of liquor be prohibited, which was referred to the Baltimore county delegation.

Mr. EFFERHART, presented the petition of the German Reformed Congregation of Manchester, Carroll county, asking the passage of an act of incorporation, which was referred to the Carroll delegation.

Mr. MCCOY presented two petitions, asking repeal of the stay law.

Mr. BIGGS presented a petition on the same subject.

The petitions were referred to the committee already appointed on the same subject.

Mr. PURNELL presented the petition of T. E. Martin & Co, asking compensation for printing, which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. ALEXANDER offered an order directing the Committee on Claims to pay mileage and per diem to Mr. Pearre, who has been detained from the extra and present session by illness.

Mr. REX moved to amend the order by inserting the names of Messrs. Carrico and Lewis, which amendment was concurred in and the order adopted

Mr. HERBERT obtained leave for the Committee on Corporations to report a bill incorporating the United Brewing and Malting Company of Baltimore.

Mr. WARNER obtained leave for the same committee to report a bill incorporating the Peabody Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore.

Mr. COALE obtained leave for the Frederick delegation to report a bill authorizing the trustees of a school to insure the school-house.

Mr. MCCOY obtained leave for Messrs. McCoy, Taylor and Findlay to report a bill incorporating the Union Express Company of Maryland.

Mr. DONALDSON obtained leave for the Howard delegation to report a bill relating to the Sheriff of that county.

Also, to repeal certain sections of the local laws of that county.

Also, to report a bill authorizing the Commissioners of Howard county to borrow a sum to pay for building an addition to the jail.

Mr. ROHRER obtained leave for the Washington delegation to report a bill making valid a deed from Mary Snyder.

Mr. PURNELL, from the Committee on Colored Population, reported a bill for the relief of Harriet Nelson, which was read a first and second time.

Also, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported a bill to protect fowls from hawks with amendments, which was taken up.

(This bill provides for the payment of twenty-five cents by the County Commissioners for hawks' heads and the heads of certain kinds of owls.]

Mr. HARRIS moved to insert minks and weasels in the bill, which motion was adopted.

Captain HUGG hoped that the heads of all rebels would be included in the bill.

Mr. STOCKDALE moved to insert rats' heads, and remarked if the people of the counties considered the hawks their enemies, he thought the rats the enemies of the citizens of Baltimore.

The bill was then read a third time, and rejected for want of a constitutional vote; but the vote was reconsidered and the bill laid over.

Mr. HERBERT, from a select committee, reported a bill amending the charter of the Hagerstown and Sharpsburg Turnpike Company.

Mr. FINDLAY reported a bill for the relief of the families of those of the 6th regiment of Massachusetts volunteers who were killed or wounded on the 19th of April. [This bill makes an appropriation of —— dollars, to be placed in the hands of Governor Andrew, to be expended among the families of the unfortunate victims.

Mr. FINDLAY read a portion of the correspondence between the Committee and Governor Andrew, by which it appears that three men were killed and eight wounded, the families of some being in needy circumstances.

Mr. ALEXANDER said that the principle of the bill was right, and he only differed as to the manner in which the money should be applied. He moved to refer the bill back to the committee, so that they could make the same provision for them as the State intended to make for her own troops who may be killed or wounded.

Mr. HARRIS, of St. Mary's, was opposed to the passage of the bill. He thought that the Legislature had no right to make any such appropriation. The city of Baltimore was liable to pay all reasonable damages, and they could recover damages by action in the courts.

After some discussion between Mr. Findlay and Mr. Harris, the bill was laid over and ordered to be printed, together with the letter of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

Mr. COALE, from a select committee, reported a bill authorizing the Trustees of School 72, in Frederick county, to insure the school-house and the furniture.

Mr. DONALDSON, from a select committee, reported a bill authorizing the Commissioners of Howard county to levy a sum to build an addition to the jail.

Also a bill relating to the bailiff of the Howard County Orphans' Court.

Mr. DUNLAP, from a select committee, reported a bill to prohibit the sale of liquor within three miles of Sandy Spring Meeting House in Montgomery county.

It having been discovered that the order passed a day or two ago, giving authority to the clerk to endorse a duplicate copy of the bill for the relief of the families of Maryland volunteers was not in the regular form, and that the only way in which to get the bill into the Senate from which the original bill was lost, was to report the bill as an original bill, and let it be put through its first, second and third readings in regular course, leave was given to the Committee on Militia to report it, and the bill was reported by Mr. FINDLAY.

The bill was then read a first and second time, but for want of a constitutional number the rules could not be suspended to give the bill a third reading.

Mr. FINDLAY, from a select committee, reported a bill relating to game in Washington county.

The bill relating to division fences and the trespassing of stock in Calvert county was read a second time.

The bill amending the school laws of Calvert county was read a second time.

The bill relating to the roads in Cecil county, relating to dogs and sheep, was read a second time.

The bill to incorporate the Baltimore City Passenger Railway Company was taken up for a second reading, and after some discussion the bill was made the special order of the day for to-morrow, (Wednesday)

Mr. PRICE, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported a bill amending laws in reference to bills of exchange and promissory notes, which was read a first time. [This bill only changes the laws, so that banks can keep the holidays]

Mr. WOLF, from a select committee, reported a bill to provide that certain duties now performed by the Auditor of the city of Baltimore be hereafter performed by the Collector of Taxes.

Mr. MCINTIRE moved that when the House adjourn, it meet at half-past 7 o'clock.

Messrs. PRICE and REESE were opposed to the evening sessions, as several of the committees had to meet in the evening.

The motion of Mr. McIntire was then adopted.

Mr. MAGRUDER offered an order that when a bill is received from the Senate the reading of its title shall be considered its first reading

This order occasioned much discussion between Messrs. Magruder, McIntire, Harris and others.

The order was lost, and at three o'clock the House adjourned to half-past seven o'clock.

THE FRENCH ETIQUETTE QUESTION.

The Reception of Americans at the Tuileries.

The following correspondence was to-day transmitted to Congress by the President of the United States:

[No. 102.]

PARIS, January 14, 1862.

SIR:—I write to you in reference to a small matter outside of the business of the Legation, but which it seems to me not improper to communicate, the more especially as our citizens abroad attach to such things an importance much beyond what they seem to me to merit. In this mission I have fallen heir, as you doubtless know, to an inheritance of social trouble and vexation, not growing out of my business duties, but out of such as are connected with presentations to the Court, and such like matters. The great numbers of our countrymen who visit Paris, the facilities which have been given by my predecessors for an introduction at the Palace, and the great liberality of the Court itself in admitting such introductions, have brought about a state of things under which I suppose the officers of ceremony at the Palace have not unnaturally become restive. For instance, in looking back for a few years past, I find that in 1857, at one presentation only, eighty-four Americans were introduced. At the two presentations in 1858 there were introduced forty-seven at one and fifty-seven at the other. At the two presentations in 1859, sixty-eight at the one and fifty one at the other. At the three presentations in 1860, at the one thirty-four, and at the other two, seventy-three. In 1861 the list is so marked that it is difficult to say the precise number, but one of my predecessor's despatches says that at one presentation he introduced thirty-five, and at another "a large number." How many I know not. These presentations, you are aware, are on the night of the Court ball, and all who are presented are, of course, invited to the ball. In addition, there is an average of perhaps fifty other Americans resident in Paris who have been presented in other years, or perhaps most privileged class, the result is that, on these occasions, the citizens of the United States outnumber not only the subjects of any other country, except France, but probably outnumber the citizens of subjects of all foreign countries of the world together. There is a limit, if not to royal hospitality, at least to *space*, in a ball and supper room, though they be in a palace; a fact which our countrymen have not always remembered. In addition to these matters, at one of the presentations last year an unpleasant difficulty occurred with a young American, and there was, besides, another violation of etiquette of the Court, to which it is no dress more particularly to refer. From these or other causes, at the last presentation of last year (being the one after the above incident), Mr. Faulkner, after he had sent in his list, was called upon to add to their names "their quality." In a letter from the Secretary of Legation, dated February 1st, 1861,