FROM EUROPE.

THE IRON-PLATED NAVY OF ENGLAND.

THE FRIGATES ROYAL OAK, RESISTANCE, BLACK PRINCE, WARRIOR, AND DEFENCE.

From the London Times, March 5.

All the hands at Chatham dockyard not required upon the Royal Oak, 51, and the other more urgent works at that establishment, have been transferred to the iron screw frigate Resistance, 18, 600-horse power, which is undergoing completion in No. 3 Dock, in order that everything may be prepared for the undocking of that vessel by the date ordered by the Admiralty—the 16th inst. Owing to the unforeseen difficulties which occurred in completing the Resistance by Messrs. Westwood, Baillie & Campbell, the contractors, the vessel on arriving at Chatham was in a very unfinished state. The exertions made, however, during the past few months by the dockyard hands have enabled the general fitting and completion of the ship to be pushed forward with so much vigor that in the course of a few weeks this fine iron steamer, which exactly resembles the Defence in size and tonnage, will be fit either for the pennant or the steam reserve, whichever the Admiralty may decide upon. Like the sister ship Defence, her bulwarks form a straight line fore and aft, and she is also provided with a projecting bow to enable her to be used as a steam ram, although it is the generally received opinion among nautical men that with the great weight of the boilers and machinery placed along their keelsons, combined with the heavy iron masts, both the Defence and the Resistance are altogether unfitted for employment as steam rams, the damage they might inflict in running down an opposing ship being little likely to supply an equivalent for the injury they would themselves receive in the conflict.

The Resistance will be bark rigged, like the Defence, and she will also be fitted with Cunningham's patent topsail yards. She will be provided with four of the 110-pounder (late 100 pounder) Armstrong's, and ten 68 pounder twenty-five cwt. smooth-bare guns, on her main deck, and on her spar deck two 110-pounder Armstrong pivot guns, two 40-pounder Armstrong's, and two 32 pounder cast iron guns. Her supply of shot and shell will be unusually large for that class of vessel, and will consist of 240 common and 240 segment 110-pounder shells, fifty boxes of common and fifty of segment 20 pounder shells, 125 cases of 12 pounder Armstrong shells, 320 68-pounder shells, twenty cases of 32-pounder shells, and 100 boxes of 24-pounder shells for the pinnace and launcher. Her proportion of solid shot will be 220 110-pounders, 480 68 pounders, 140 32-pounders, and 100 20 and 12 pounders. The amount of powder she will require will be 345 cases.

The Lords of the Admiralty have decided on having the armor-plated screw frigate Royal Oak, 51, under construction at Chatham dockyard, supplied with iron lower masts and bowsprit, which will be manufactured for her at one of the private establishments. The Royal Oak is expected to be the first of the new armor-plated ships which will be afloat. To hasten her completion no efforts are spared by the dockyard officials at Chatham. As many as 600 hands are employed on and about her, and, in order that no time may be lost during the approaching summer, the workmen will shortly commence working overtime. The main and lower deck beams have been fixed, and everything is in readiness for fixing the upper deck beams, which are of iron, as soon as they have been received from the contractors.

From the London Times, March 6.

The casing and extension of the rudder of the Black Prince (iron frigate) is being carried out at Portsmouth with wood as an experiment. The area of the rudder will be increased from twenty feet draught of water downwards. The ship's bulwarks and main decks have within the last few days received their first coat of paint since she has been at Portsmouth. Her hammock nettings and upper deck partlids are now complete. Her new fish-heads, however, are not yet out of the blacksmith's shop, nor has the fitting of her hydraulic steering apparatus been commenced by the contractor.

The iron screw-steamship Warrior, Captain the Hon. Arthur A. Cochrane, C. B., was towed yesterday (Wednesday) morning from Plymouth Sound into Hamoaze, where she will refit and have defects made good. It is expected that the Revenge and St. George, in Plymouth Sound, will shortly be removed to Hamoaze.

The iron armor plates for the Royal Oak, 51, are to undergo the process of annealing at Chatham, on their delivery by the contractors. In the construction of the upper deck of the vessel arrangements are to be made for the distribution of the 110 pounder Armstrong guns, which in this class of ship will be placed on rear chock carriages, without directing bars.

The Defence, 18, screw iron frigate, Captain R. A. Powell, C. B., steamed out of Portsmouth harbor shortly before high water yesterday, and anchored at Spithead, in readiness for her second trial of speed at the measured mile, or her cruise in the channel, as the Admiralty may direct. The trial had been arranged to take place on Tuesday last, but on raising the screw to examine it, in consequence of the ship's getting on the ground in returning to her harbor from her former trial, it was found to have sustained such damage that it became necessary to replace one of its blades, which had been damaged, by another, before the ship was again put under steam. This was accomplished on Tuesday, but too late for the trial to take place, and it was, in consequence, postponed until yesterday. A strong southwest gale, however, again postponed the trial, and the ship, as already stated, brought up at Spithead, pending further instructions from the Admiralty. In leaving the harbor the Defence yesterday again manifested great want of readiness in answering her helm. Her engines were reversed on one part of her course to save her from getting upon the beach. The Defence is fitted with a bent iron tiller, similar to that of the Warrior, which ought to have great power over her helm. The barrel of her wheel, however, appears to be of too great diameter. Whatever the cause may be, it would appear to be most decidedly adverse to her steering. Indicates a loss of power arises here between the wheel and the rudder head. The fault, however, will, without doubt, be discovered, and, if possible, rectified before the ship again gets under weigh.

TEST-FIRING FROM AN IRON PLATED CUPOLA—AN IRON SHIELD SHIP.

From the London Times, March 3.

The experimental firing from Capt. Cowper P. Cole's cupola was resumed at Portsmouth on Saturday, under the direction of Capt. R. S. Hewlett, C. B., commanding her Majesty's ship Excellent, and was again attended with highly satisfactory results. Everything was carried on as in action, even to the hanging of the fighting lanterns, lit up, in their places inside the cupola. The target was placed at 3,600 yards distance, and the practice made was exceedingly good, the second shot fired passing through it. The two 100-pounders were fired singly and together, and in quick firing six rounds were fired in as many minutes. The concussion from the discharge of the guns was but trifling, and was, in fact, found to be greater outside the shield than within it. The smoke cleared off as effectually as on the last day's experiments, and the guns, with their carriages, worked with the greatest facility.

The shield ship which it is proposed to build on this plan will have no masts, and when afloat will show to the view above her deck merely her funnel and the tops of her shields. Cleared for action, the ship's bulwarks are thrown down all round her level with the upper deck, along the centre of which are ranged her cupola shields, resembling gigantic inverted tea-saucers, each containing two one hundred pounder Armstrongs of eighty-eight hundred weight. These shields rest upon towers, which are sunk through the upper deck, and are fixed on a turn-table on the deck below, which revolves, with the gun, shield and men, as may be required. The height of the shield from the upper deck will be about five feet, which will be but a small object for an enemy to fire at; shot can only strike it at an angle of forty-five degrees. The muzzle of the guns will be nine feet six inches from the water. The sides of the vessel will be covered with armor plating, the form and arrangement of which may most probably be a subject for future consideration, as the experiments that will be commenced at Shoeburyness to-morrow, and others that will be carried out both at Portsmouth and Shoeburyness, with cellular and other plates, will be certain to effect a great change in our present mode of attaching the armor plates to our iron ships.

The shield ship will be 2,500 tons measurement, and her estimated cost is, as far as can be estimated at present, £180,000. Her draught of water is to be only twenty feet, and her speed twelve and a-half knots. The Defence, selecting her by way of comparison, is 3,668 tons, draws twenty-five feet four inches of water, has made a speed of 11-357 knots (she will probably add another half knot on her next trial, which is arranged to take place in a few days), and her cost has been nearly twice that estimated for the shield ship. Many other important advantages will also be possessed by the shield ship over the Defence class. On a broadside the latter can only fight seven guns, protected by her iron plates, whereas the shield ship can bring her whole twelve to bear at one time upon any point desired, with virtually no limit to their training, whereas the Defence is confined with her seven guns to some twenty-nine degrees of training. In closing, the shield ship, by taking a slightly oblique course, can bring the whole of her guns to bear upon the enemy, while the latter can only reply with two or three guns from the bow or stern, as the case may be. It is evident that, in any contest with another vessel, should the shield ship be the faster of the two, she would be enabled to keep this position as long as she chose, and destroy the vessel opposed to her at leisure, and with almost absolute impunity.

Captain Cole has arranged sets of tables applicable to the cupolas at each end of the ship for ascertaining the exact distance of an object. This is done, on the order "prove distance" being given, by taking the degrees of training given to the cupola in directing it upon the object, and referring to the table of angles. The distance is thus ascertained in the time merely required to train the cupola and without the use of any instrument; and if the object fired at be a moving one, the distance can be corrected and word passed along to the other cupola each time the guns are fired. It may be necessary to state here that the top of the shield itself is sighted like a rifle, independently of the guns it contains, and it is the cupola, therefore, which is directed upon the object, the guns revolving with the tower. The guns are placed parallel to each other, and the sights are immediately over them. The duty of directing the shield is given to one man, who is termed the "director," and who occupies an elevated position in rear of the two guns, from which he can look over the edge of the shield when bringing its guns to bear upon the object to be fired at. To protect his head while in this position, the front upper edge of the shield is fitted with two stout iron mantlets, with sufficient space for a line of sight between them. We trust that the midship sections of our finished iron ships will not be repeated in the construction of the shield ship.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The London *Morning Post* of March 6, after recounting the steps that have been taken to revive the undertaking, thus comments upon them:

The form in which this co-operative action of the two countries should take place is left entirely to the discretion of the British Cabinet. They are simply asked to admit the principle that it would be advisable to extend their assistance to the undertaking conjointly with America. A tender so conciliatory in reference to a question so truly international in its character, can hardly meet with a repulse, even were the interests of this country less concerned than they undoubtedly are in the establishment of a tgleraphic line to America. As it is, the economical and administrative advantages that would result to Great Britain and her North American colonies from the possession of the power of instantaneous interchange of communication have long been so apparent as to demand that, under any circumstances, no unavoidable delay should take place in securing it.

The concentration of authority that would thus result to all departments of the Government would alone, in a very short space of time, far more than cover in actual saving any risk arising out of the small guarantee or other substantial aid that might be involved as its share in assisting to raise the new capital.

To show this, it needs but to reflect that the Foreign Office would by this means be at once in direct communication with our Minister at Washington, and with all the British Consuls in America; that the Colonial Minister would possess free and daily access to the Governors of the five British North American colonies; that the Admiralty would be enabled to exercise the most perfect control over the North American fleet, and that the War Office could instantaneously direct the movements of her Majesty's forces in Canada and elsewhere.

These arrangements would be most important additions to the power and resources of this country; and we do not doubt that Parliament would ungrudgingly consent to extend to the Atlantic telegraph enterprise such moderate but substantial aid as would, in conjunction with equal assistance from the United States Government, be efficient in raising the capital required for carrying it into permanent effect.

NAPOLEON'S HOPES FOR ITALY.

WHAT HE INTENDED TO EFFECT BY THE WAR WITH AUSTRIA—HIS PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE POPE, THE "UNITY" MEN AND THE REVOLUTIONISTS, &c., &c.

The debate in the French Senate on the 34 inst., on the question of Rome and Italy, offered fresh points of interest. M. Billault (*Ministre sans portefeuille*) stated the views of the Government, and the address was finally adopted by a large majority.

M. Billault then came to Prince Napoleon's speech:—I have listened, gentlemen, with the attention which they deserved to the powerful arguments of an illustrious orator. In those arguments I recognize principles and tendencies which the Government of the Emperor cannot accept. The honorable speaker has observed that he cared very little whether the Minister Commissary of the Government approved them or not—(Prince Napoleon bowed in assent)—that he knew very well it would end by his sharing the Emperor's views. The views of the Emperor, gentlemen, are those which I express. I have special powers to declare as much to you. If you compare the policy advocated by the illustrious speaker with that of the Emperor you will find a marked difference. The illustrious speaker has observed that the Emperor's idea from the beginning was Italian unity.

Italian unity is now a fact which he would be sorry to see disturbed, but his idea was, when he first sent his eagles across the Alps, the enfranchisement of Italy from foreign domination. What he wished for was the confederation of all the Italian States united under the honorary presidency of the Holy Father. When the Emperor took his glorious flag on to Italian soil, it was unity by the confederation of the Italian States which he wished to realize; it was not to dethrone Sovereigns, to destroy the power of the Holy See, to confound everything in the formidable and complicated problem of Italian unity; he went there for one sole and glorious object, profitable at once to France as to Italy—to enfranchise the people from a foreign domination, to break the Austrian yoke from off their necks. I well remember with what sadness he expressed himself after his return from his glorious campaign. "Do you think that it is not without regret that I have left my programme uncompleted, and that, instead of enfranchising Italy from the Adriatic to Venice, I have stopped on the Mincio?" Central Italy was not then considered. It was the West against the East, and against Austrian domination that our army advanced. I now come to the possibility and consequences of an evacuation of Rome. The illustrious orator I alluded to said, "How ought my Government to act"—

Various Senators—"Our Government."

M. Billault—Decidedly so. In his speech the Prince repeatedly said "my Government," "my sovereign."

Prince Napoleon (turning to the reporters' gallery)—Please notice this interruption.

The immediate result of the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome (continued M. Billault) would be an insurrection in that capital. The temporal power of the Pope would be at an end; the spiritual power would go with it. I doubt even if the lives of the Pope and of the members of the Sacred College would be safe. What a scandal for Christendom! In virtue of what right are we in Rome? Is it not by an exceptional violation of that principle of non-intervention which we have proclaimed throughout the rest of Italy? Grave motives of a superior order have rendered this exception necessary. But how can we say to the other Powers—"We have protected the Pope for ten years, but we protect him no longer; we protected him yesterday, we prohibit you from protecting him to-day?" ["Hear, hear," and great sensation.] Before adopting so radical a resolution all the consequences ought to be calmly considered.

M. Billault pointed out "negotiation" as the only means. He admitted that Rome was the great obstacle; the King of Italy was willing to negotiate. M. Billault then quoted a despatch from Count Rossi to M. Guizot, dated July 29, 1845.

The former day that this question was ripe; that it ought to be settled. The Government of the Emperor knows perfectly what it wishes and what it does not wish.

Prince Napoleon.—Let it state its wishes.

M. Billault.—It has done so, and will repeat the statement. It does not wish to see reaction, which, by invading the revolted provinces, would hand them over, bound hand and foot, to the Holy Father. It does not wish for evacuation, which would hand over Rome to revolution, would lead to the fall of the Papal power, and cause profound trouble throughout the whole of the Catholic world. It wishes to conciliate the two extremes. It does not wish to sacrifice either of the two fundamental principles of the policy of France.

M. Billault sat down amid loud cheering.

PRINCE NAPOLEON'S PROGRAMME FOR THE POPE.

The Paris *Moniteur* publishes a full report of the debate in the French Senate on Saturday, March 1. On the paragraph relative to the Italian question, Prince Napoleon expressed himself in substance as follows:—I applaud, gentleman, the vast erudition of my honorable colleague, M. Bonjean; but he must allow me to draw this conclusion from his speech—that the Pope ought to reign at Rome without governing there. This conclusion was tried two years since, and fell to the ground. Such a solution, however bad it may be, might have been adopted on one condition—that both parties agreed to it. But if the Pope energetically refuses; if he says, "I will not even discuss the point," what is to be done? There remains one thing to be done, which I wish publicly to state—the withdrawal of our troops from Rome. I accept beforehand that species of blame which it has been attempted to throw upon the opinions which I defend, styling them extreme and radical opinions. It imports little whether they are extreme and radical opinions; the point is to know whether they are just.

After a few ironical words in reply to M. de la Guerronniere, Prince Napoleon continued: The Roman question ought to be settled. The public mind ought to be quieted both as regards spiritual and material interests. We have had enough of this Roman question. It has done us much injury. It ought to be wound up. I do not hesitate to say that if France, through the organs of its Emperor, takes a firm decision, all this excitement may be stopped. The Emperor would thereby render the greatest service to France and to the whole of Europe. There is one word, gentlemen, which I shall omit in my speech, and which I was sorry to see mentioned from the Tribune—Venice. There is agitation enough already; we have quite enough on our hands with the Roman question; and as Venice is not mentioned in the Address, which would imply so much, I shall not allude to it in my speech. I do not mean to say that we may not have to allude to it on a future occasion, but this is not the proper moment to do so. I do not purpose entering into the history of this Italian question at such length as some preceding speakers have done.

I will simply recall to mind the facts of 1861. An illustrious statesman dies; it was a serious incident, which might have had the most terrible consequences for Italy. How does the Government of the Emperor act? The Government of the Emperor, inspired by a just appreciation of the political situation, recognizes the Kingdom of Italy. That was an act which I cannot speak of in too high terms. The Emperor did not hesitate; he saw that the enemies of Italy might take advantage of that fatal death; and at the very moment that that death might have inflicted a blow upon the cause, the triumph of which we had assured beyond the Alps, he gave it that aid which is attached to the gratitude Italy feels for France. Prince Napoleon then quoted the words of Napoleon I., which he said he should like to see repeated by Napoleon III. In 1808, the Emperor said to the Deputies of the old Roman provinces:—

Let the clergy confine themselves to matters connected with Heaven. Theology, which they study from their youths, entitles them to authority in spiritual affairs, but does not give them any right to meddle in any army or government matters. The decline of Italy dates from the day when the priests got the management of the finances, police and army into their hands.

Prince Napoleon then quoted a circular of the Emperor Napoleon I., as follows:

Considering that the confusion which has arisen between the spiritual and the temporal authority, which still exists, has been a source of discord, and has often led the Pontiffs to use the influence of one in the service of the pretensions of the other; as thus the affairs of Heaven, unchangeable from their nature, are mixed up with terrestrial affairs, which, according to their nature, change according to circumstances and customs, we do decree, &c

Prince Napoleon then quoted various other sayings of Napoleon I., to show that the Papal power ought to be limited to spiritual matters. Prince Napoleon then quoted the celebrated letter of Napoleon III. (when only President of the Republic), dated Elysee National, August 18, 1849, to Edgar Ney: "The French Republic has not sent an army to Rome to stifle liberty, but to regulate it," &c.

Prince Napoleon then passed in review the whole policy of France towards Italy since the expedition to Rome, and concluded as follows:—And what do you want now? Italian unity is established, with the exception of Rome and Venice. As regards Venice, that does not depend upon us; it does not come within our competence. But Rome depends upon us; we are the involuntary arbitrators of the Roman question, because we keep French troops at Rome.

* * * *

Agitation in Italy will all depend upon the conduct of the French Government. There are only two means of stopping that agitation—either to send a French army across the Alps or to let the Austrians have their own way. Is there any one here to advocate the latter cause and the destruction of Italian unity? ("No, no!" from various Senators; "it is inadmissable.") It is time, continued the Prince, that this question should be settled. It is bad for France, bad for Italy, bad for Europe. Let us withdraw our troops from Rome. I have full confidence that the solution of the Italian question will terminate in the sense of unity; that no other solution is possible under Napoleon III. no more than it could have been under Napoleon I.; that the spiritual power must be separated from the temporal power, and that the shadow and the genius of the great Emperor will inspire the decisions of his successor.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.....FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, in response to the resolution of inquiry relative to the Stevens floating battery, and the contract, amounts paid on it, &c. The Secretary states that an act of Congress, of April 14, 1842, authorized the construction of a war steamer for harbor defence, principally of iron, at a cost not exceeding that of the steamers Missouri and Mississippi, at least 250 feet long, 50 feet beam and 28 feet deep amidships, of greater speed than any of our vessels of war—the engine to be out of the way of shot, and her batteries of 18 to 64-pounders, using submerged machinery of propulsion known as Stevens' circular shells.

The contract made between Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy, and Mr. Stevens, was signed on the 10th of February, 1843, the work to be completed in two years. On the 14th of November, 1844, this contract was modified by John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy, and Mr. Stevens, the time extended two years, and details of the work made much more specific, and the price of steamer established at $586,717.84. On the 9th September, 1848, a contract was made with Mr. Stevens further extending the time for the completion of the steamer four years. The appropriations, in two equal sums, have now amounted to $500,000, and were approved from time to time between 1845 and 1855. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. TEN EYCK, of New Jersey, presented the resolutions of the Legislature of New Jersey relative to the defences for the coast of that State, and of Pennsylvania and Delaware. They propose that the Government issue a special loan for that purpose, to be taken in proportion to the representation in Congress by those States. Ordered to be printed, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WILMOT, of Pennsylvania, presented a memorial from the Board of Trade of Philadelphia, asking a revision of the proposed schedule of taxes on manufactures, as they are too high. Ordered to be printed by unanimous consent.

Mr POWELL, of Kentucky, presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Kentucky, protesting against the 3 cents tax on leaf and 5 cents upon manufactured tobacco per pound, as in disproportion to the taxes on other articles. They recommend an ad valorem tax instead, and declare that, under the bill as it now stands, there would be a burden of $2,100,000 thrown upon 700,000,000 pounds of tobacco in a State already terribly suffering by the war.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, presented resolutions of the Legislature of that State in regard to the prosecution of the war, and the execution of leading rebels.

Mr. MOURILL, of Maine, presented resolutions of the Legislature of that State endorsing the administration of President Lincoln, and urging that the war be prosecuted to the freeing of every slave of those found in arms against the Government.

On motion of Mr. BROWNING, of Illinois, the House resolution to declare the meaning of an act to authorize the President to take possession of railroads and telegraphs, was taken up. The resolution had been unfavorably reported on by the Senate Military Committee.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, hoped it would not be adopted, and moved the resolution be laid on the table, which was adopted.

Mr. POMEROY, of Kansas, introduced a bill for the removal and consolidation of the Indian tribes. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to promote the efficiency of the Board of Engineers. The bill unites the corps of Engineers with the Topographical corps. Referred to the Military Committee.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, the joint resolution from the House for affording aid to States undertaking emancipation, was taken up.

Mr. SAULSBURY, of Delaware, took the floor. He thought this the most extraordinary resolution ever introduced into the American Congress—extraordinary in its character, and especially in its origin. It was not only extraordinary, but he doubted its patriotism. It was a contradiction of the avowed purpose of the party in power—a party which, he thanked God, he had never belonged to, and it was certain that he never would. That party, however, had declared here that it had no intention to interfere with the rights of the States of any section. Yet here was a measure of unmistakeable interference, in violation of that pledge—proposing action in regard to a domestic institution of the slave States.

Have they asked your aid? No. Then your proffer is indelicate, to say the least. He related that during the late session of the Legislature of Delaware a printed bill had found its way to that body, proposing the issue of $900,000 of bonds for emancipation in Delaware. The measure was there rejected. This bill, he had learned, had its origin in Washington. He (Saulsbury) was told that Congress should wait to hear from the people of the slave States on this subject before inaugurating measures—and coming as they do in this volunteer way, he could but regard them as [illegible] Delaware, the issue of the scheme made of emancipation on the pretence that the General Government generously renders pecuniary aid. Thus the question of the abolition of slavery was to be intensified in the border slave States. Delaware was to be given this inducement. Was not this an interference, not by direct but indirect means? On this idea, supposing the proposition to be sincere, the country would present the spectacle of going into the wholesale negro business.

The proposition had been rejected once in his State. He could trace it directly to Federal authority, and yet here it was made to them a second time. He now, in the name of his people, again rejected it. When the people of Delaware desired to liberate the balance of the few slaves they have, they will do it in their own way, in their own time, and at their own cost. They would ask no aid of the General Government or others. With this proposition fairly before the people of Delaware as the Republican policy, the loyal men of that State—supposing they will be allowed the opportunity of a fair election—will sweep it entirely out of their borders. The loyal men, he repeated would do this—the Constitution loring men; for those only who support and uphold the Constitution as it is, are loyal. Those who attack it in such measures violative of its provisions as this, are not loyal. Mr. S. cited the language of the resolution, that the Unit d States "ought" to compensate, &c., as indefinite and not binding, and as showing that the whole thing was intended as a delusion, and that the indemnity would never actually be made. If it was honestly intended, why should not the resolution declare, in express terms, that compensation will or shall be made? He had no idea that it ever would be. The purpose was general emancipation.

With the immense burden of debt which this war will pile up, the people of the free States will never consent to a large additional imposition for this scheme of emancipation. He didn't believe that those who proposed it expected that they would. As to the power of Congress to appropriate money in such a case, the judiciary committee who recommended the passage of the resolution, and who are supposed to be learned in the law, had not enlightened them in regard to it, and no man of national reputation in the country had ever declared that Congress had such powers.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, moved to strike out all after the word "that," in the resolution, and proposed a substitute.

Mr. D. said he had not fully made up his mind in regard to the power of Congress to appropriate money for such a purpose as emancipation; but if such a measure was thought desirable, the States might first adopt an amendment to the Constitution for authority for such appropriation.

The morning hour here expired, and the bill for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia, came up as the special order.

The question was on the amendment of Mr. Doolittle to the proposed amendment of Mr. Davis for compulsory colonization of the liberated slaves beyond the United States, and appropriating $100,000 therefor, Mr. Doolittle desiring to make it apply only for those who voluntarily choose to colonize in Hayti or Liberia, or other countries.

Mr. SAULSBURY said that he denied, under the Constitution, the power of Congress either to abolish slavery in the District, or appropriate money for buying or colonizing negroes.

The question was taken on Mr. Doolittle's amendment to the amendment, and it was adopted—yeas 23, nays 16.

In answering to his name, Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, said he should vote for the amendment, but would vote against the bill.

When Mr. SAULSBURY's name was called, he said he should vote on no such measure.

The following is the vote on Mr. Doolittle's amendment:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Browning, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Cowan, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Foot, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Howe, Lane of Indiana; Lane of Kansas, Latham, Powell, Sherman, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Wade, Wright—23.

NAYS—Messrs. Bayard, Carlile, Fessenden, Hale, Grimes, Henderson, Kennedy, King, McDougal, Morrill, Stark, Sumner, Wilkinson, Wilmot, Wilson, of Mass., Wilson of Mo.—16.

Not voting or absent—Messrs. Foster, Johnson, Nesmith, Pearce, Simmons, Rice, Saulsbury, Thompson and Willey

The amendment then stood as follows:

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the sum of $100,000, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, shall be expended, under the direction of the President of the United States, to aid in the colonization and settlement of all persons liberated under this act, and such free people of African descent now residing in said District as may desire to emigrate to the Republics of Hayti or Liberia, or such other country beyond the limits of the United States as the President may determine

Provided, that the cost shall not exceed $100 for each person colonized.

The motion was now on the amendment as the above amended, and the vote being taken, resulted yeas 19, nays 19, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Browning, Collamer, Cowan, Davis, Doolittle, Harlan, Harris, Henderson, Howe, Lane of Indiana, Lane of Kansas, Latham, Powell, Sherman, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Wilson of Missouri, Wright—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Carlile, Chandler, Clark, Dixon, Fessenden, Foot, Grimes, Hale, Howard, Kennedy, King, McDougall, Morrill, Stark, Sumner, Wade, Wilkinson, Wilmot, Wilson of Massachusetts—19.

This being a tie, the VICE PRESIDENT gave the casting vote in the negative, and the amendment as amended was rejected.

In addition to those not voting before, Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, refrained this time.

Mr. KENNEDY, of Maryland, rose and said in behalf of his colleague (Mr, Pearce) that he was absent from sickness.

Mr. DAVIS then took the floor and spoke at length against the whole measure, premising that he had only offered the amendment he did, and voted as he did, with the view of rendering the bill as little objectionable as possible. He proceeded to argue the total absence of all power in Congress to abolish slavery anywhere, and in repelling the idea of Mr. Pomeroy, of Kansas, that slavery did not exist in this District by law, and argued that slaves were held as all other property, just as lands, horses, &c. The law presumed the existence of property, and protected it as such in possession.

He cited ancient authorities as well as modern, on this subject. Mr. D. in this connection passed to the consideration of the constitutional provision on the subject of appropriating private property for public uses. This could only be done in cases of necessity with full compensation. How then could slaves be taken any more than lands, in the arbitrary way proposed? at a price one-half their value.

The rule of the Constitution was of double force as applied to slaves, as property can only be taken for public use. Of what use are liberated slaves to be to the Government?

Mr. D. spoke at length, touching a great variety of topics; and finally (turning towards Mr. Sumner, of Massachusetts,) asked what right had the sons of Theodore Parker and such others, to be forced upon the people of this District. Had they not the same right to their own opinions as those philanthropists? True and philosophic principles, he said, had been announced on this subject by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Doolittle) to the effect that the negro and white races never could live and associate together on an equality. Let the people of this District then say for themselves, at least, whether they will have these negroes among them when they have been liberated.

If you will not allow them to vote as to whether they will own slaves or not, as least do not compel them to sojourn on an equality with the free negroes. He took new statistics to show how largely the number of free negroes had increased in the District since 1850, having increased, according to the census of 1860, to over 11,000, and probably since this war commenced there are several thousands more here now in addition. They would soon be here, he supposed, in the halls of Congress, crowding out the white ladies and gentlemen attending here.

He would not speak for the army of the Potomac, but for that of the West he knew he could declare that they regarded the people of the South as having a rightful property in their slaves, and were opposed to the purposes here enunciated, and at least two-thirds of them never would have entered the army after the disaster of Bull Run, if they had supposed they would be aiding in carrying out such schemes. Having now got this great army by representations of a desire to restore the Union on the basis of the Constitution, was it to be shown that it had been deceived, and mustered in on false pretences?

Mr. D. in closing declared that the people of this District were not free—had not as much freedom as the slaves here proposed to be freed. They had no representative of their own choosing, and therefore were to be sacrificed. He mentioned the case of one lady (Mrs. Bell) who owned five slaves, yielding her each from $150 to $300 per year, whom now it was intended to take from her at $300 a-piece.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, got the floor, and, on his motion, the bill was postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported on the communication from the Secretary of the Navy, relative to the removal of the Naval Academy from Annapolis, with a resolution for the appointment of a joint committee of the two Houses to consider the subject of the future location of the Academy.

The Senate then went into Executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BLAIR, of Virginia, rose to a privileged question. He said he desired to present the credentials of Hon. Joseph Segar, as representative elect from the First Congressional District of the State of Virginia, and asked that he (Mr. Segar) be sworn in.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts—Let the credentials be read.

Mr. BINGHAM, of Ohio, thought this election was not in accordance with the laws of Virginia, and therefore he would move to refer the whole to the Committee on Elections.

The SPEAKER put the question, but only 49 members voted in the affirmative and 23 in the negative—not a quorum.

Mr. ASHLEY, of Ohio, moved a call of the House. Agreed to.

Various excuses were given for the absentees.

The papers in the case were then referred.

Mr. WILSON, of New York, introduced a bill declaring certain persons ineligible to office. Referred.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, introduced a bill to provide funds for the payment of the interest on the public debt. Referred.

Mr. COX, of Ohio, submitted a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to General Burnside and the officers and men under his command. Adopted.

Mr. ARNOLD, of Illinois, introduced a bill to render freedom general, and slavery sectional. Referred.

Mr. DUNN, of Indiana, offered a resolution that the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of the Government organizing a large force and sending them to the Western mines for the purpose of working the same, for the benefit of the Government in defraying the expenses of the war. Adopted.

Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, offered a resolution [illegible] additional Masters of the army, together with the amount of money expended by them. Adopted.

[illegible] correspondence between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Secretary of War. Adopted.

Mr. MOOREHEAD, of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to inform this House the reasons why Col. Corcoran is not released, and that there shall be no more exchange of prisoners until Col. Corcoran be released. Laid over under the rules.

Mr. TRAINE, of Massachusetts, asked to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill for the removal of the army bakery from the Capitol. Objected to.

Mr. ASHLEY, of Ohio, from the Committee on Territories, reported back a bill to provide for a temporary Government in the Territory of Arizona, and asked to put it on its passage.

Mr. CRAVENS, of Indiana, moved to lay the bill on the table.

The House refused to lay the bill on the table by a vote of yeas 49, nays 76.

Mr. ASHLEY demanded the previous question on the passage of the bill.

Mr. CRAVENS, of Indiana, demanded the yeas and nays on the second of the demand. Ordered.

The House refused to second the demand for the previous question by a vote of yeas 54, nays 74.

Mr. WHEELER, of New York, moved that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until this day week. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and took up the Tax bill.

Mr. CLEMENTS, of Tennessee, offered an amendment, which was adopted, that Tennessee might have until the first of December next to assume payment of her portion of the tax.

Mr. DUELL, of New York, offered an amendment that breweries manufacturing less than five hundred barrels per annum shall pay a license of twenty-five dollars. Adopted.

The committee occupied the entire day, after the morning hour, in considering the 62d section, but without disposing of it, when the committee rose and reported the same to the House.

The House then adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH.—The Branch met at 5 o'clock.—Present WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President *pro tem.*, and all the members.

Mr. DUKEHART presented a petition from Alex. L. Spear, asking permission to erect a post in front of his store on Baltimore street and place a sign on the same. Referred.

Mr. YOUNG presented a claim from Dr. J. F. Powell, for holding a *post mortem* examination on the body of Jacob Williams. Referred.

Mr. EVANS offered a resolution directing the Register to return to the City Council the commutation of James Hutton and others. Adopted.

Mr. SULLIVAN called up the resolution referring the petition of H. B. Goodwin & Co. to the Committee on Education. Adopted.

A communication was received from the City Counsellor in response to a resolution relative to the legality of the Board of Visitors electing a President and Secretary before their first meeting in April. Laid on the table.

A communication was received from the Provost-Marshal relative to the amount due the police, stating that he will send in the amount required in a few days. Laid on the table.

Mr. MULES presented a communication from Jas. A. Burnham, offering a farm situated near Mount Washington, containing 38 acres of land, as a site for a new Almshouse. Referred.

Mr. MULES called up the resolution directing the City Commissioners to remove the dirt from Hughes street, and appropriating $100 to defray the expense of the same. Adopted.

Mr. DUKEHART called up the resolution directing the City Commissioners to repair the bed of Eastern avenue, between Washington street and Castle alley. Referred to the Committee on Highways.

Dr. SCHWARTZE called up the resolution authorizing Samuel Ayres to extend a sign a few feet from his premises on Block street.

Mr. STREETER desired to know what a *few* feet meant.

There was no member of the Branch able to define the term, when Mr. KIMBERLY moved to recommit the resolution. Carried.

Mr. BANNON offered a resolution to regulate the sale of produce in the streets of the city. Laid on the table.

Mr. DUKE called up the resolution referring the petition of Charles Meyers to the Board of Water Commissioners. Adopted.

Mr. SAUERWEIN called up the resolution declaring the Register's accounts correct. Adopted.

Mr. EVANS called up the resolution requesting the Committee on Ways and Means to include in their appropriations for charitable purposes the Children's Aid Society, and appropriate $1,000 to the same. Adopted.

Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met. CHAS. J. BAKER, Esq., President, in the chair, and all the members present.

An ordinance in relation to giving notice to parties of the violation of certain ordinances, was received from the First Branch and read.

Mr. MILLER offered a resolution appropriating $485 for certain repairs at Mount Vernon and Washington Squares. Adopted.

Adjourned.

The large woollen factory at Bethlehem, Pa., was entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday. Loss $70,000, of which two-thirds is insured. The factory was engaged on a contract for army clothes. The origin of the fire is not known.

The ship Ocean Monarch, one of the finest American ships afloat, foundered at sea on the 9th inst. She was bound to Liverpool from New York with a full cargo of grain.

THE SEARCH FOR THE U. S. FRIGATE VERMONT—*Arrival of the Aroostook at Philadelphia.*—The United States gunboat Aroostook, Lieut. John C. Beaumont commanding, arrived at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on Sunday evening, and gives an interesting report of her cruise in search of the United States frigate Vermont. She left Boston on the 2d, and fell in with the Vermont on the morning of the 7th inst., in latitude 38 deg. 23 min., longitude 68 deg. 39 min.

On the 8th, a severe gale occurred, and nothing could be done in aid of the crippled frigate. On the following day in getting a hawser out to the Vermont, the Aroostook lost her maintopmast, which in falling carried away the smoke-stack, steam escape pipe, portion of her rail, and caused much other damage.

The next night her foretopmast was carried away. The Aroostook remained in company with the Vermont until the evening of the 15th, after the steamer Saxon had come to her assistance. The Aroostook towed the Vermont a portion of the time, but being in a crippled condition herself, could not make much progress. Capt. Beaumont was untiring in his exertions during the nine days he remained with the Vermont.

A temporary smoke-stack was f