LATER FROM EUROPE.

Further by the Niagara.

THE BRITISH PRESS ON THE EMANCIPATION MESSAGE.

The London *Star* of the 21st of March says:

The *Morning Chronicle* was not published yesterday morning, and may therefore be regarded as defunct. With the exception of the *Public Ledger* the *Morning Chronicle* was the oldest daily paper in London, it having been established in 1770. For a long period it took the lead of the other journals, and represented the whig party and whig politics with great ability and fidelity. The paper declined gradually in influence from 1840 till about twelve years ago; when it passed out of the hands of its then proprietor, Sir John Easthope, and became the property and the organ of the Peelite party. This party lavished large sums of money upon it; but although it became in their hands an exceedingly able journal, its influence did not revive. When the Peelites took office in Lord Aberdeen's administration, they neglected their organ in the press, and it shortly afterwards changed hands. Its downward course was then rapid. It has been intimated to us that its publication will be resumed on Monday next; but all the probabilities are against such a revival.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION PLAN

THE NEGROES TOO NUMEROUS AND VALUABLE FOR NORTHERN PURCHASE—THE CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT LIES DEEPER THAN THE SLAVE QUESTION.

From the London Times, March 21.

For some time it has been expected among the people of the Northern American States that their Government was about to make some important decision in respect to slavery. A manifesto which should electrify the Old World, cause a general revulsion of feeling to the side of the North, and seal the doom of the rebellion even in the more remote slave States, has been looked for by persons supposed to share in some measure the confidence of the Government. We do not know how far the Americans will consider that their expectations have been fulfilled. President Lincoln has made a move towards emancipation. He has ventured to look "the everlasting negro" in the face. The highest person in the State does not continue to ignore what has been in the minds and on the tongues of millions since the outbreak of the war. So far, then, the abolitionists and the black republicans may be satisfied. The President has invited the discussion of a very delicate and dangerous question, and may give courage to all who wanted to speak their minds out, but who were withheld by the fear of hampering the policy of the Government. Like the sovereign at an old tournament, Mr. Lincoln gives the signal to the knights to come forward and show their prowess. But the message which has just been sent to Congress can hardly be looked upon as anything more than such an invitation. The champions and the loss of slavery are summoned to the fight in the halls of Congress and in the Legislatures of the border States. But, as yet, the President does not show that he has any plan for assuring victory to the latter. Indeed, it is already clear that, if slavery is to cease, even in the border States, the change must be accomplished by other means than those at which he points.

It is not strange that we on this side of the ocean should read and re-read the paragraphs of the President's message in the endeavor to understand their purpose, for the Americans themselves are evidently puzzled. The abolitionist newspapers are, of course, pleased to find that the Government at length gives countenance to their cause, and there is, moreover, in all probability, such a feeling of satisfaction in the public mind as is naturally produced among a people who are exhausting themselves in a contest of which they cannot see the end by the semblance of a vigorous and original policy in their chiefs. But, the President's outline of legislation does not seem to have commended itself even to journals most favorable to his administration. It is, that Congress should pledge itself to co-operate with the slave States for the abolition of slavery, and should devote the Federal revenues to the compensation of the masters.

Now, the first thing that occurs to us is, that this is a scheme totally inapplicable to the whole Union, which Mr. Lincoln and his friends declare to be still in existence. The slaves throughout the States were returned by the last census at 4,000,000. Their value is so enormous that it is of little use to calculate it. Since the great increase in the cultivation of cotton the price of a good "field hand" has more than doubled, and in one or two of the States the slaves are by far the most valuable property possessed by the inhabitants. When we consider the immense sums that these negroes represent, and then consider the comparative poverty of the Confederation, the difficulty of taxation, the present financial embarrassments, the debt so rapidly increasing, the flood of paper money, and the real lukewarmness of the American people in the cause of the negro, it is not difficult to see that the plan of Mr. Lincoln is not intended to apply to the whole South. The negroes of Alabama or Texas may be as much objects of interest to philanthropists as the negroes of Maryland; they have the same claims to be men and brothers; they are, beyond a doubt, more hardly worked; they are more often sold away from their families, and the pictures which orators and novelists have given of negro suffering have been copied from incidents sought for in the annals of the cotton States. But the abolitionist zeal of the President stops short of the region where slaves are most numerous and most coerced. With a frankness which seems to be natural, he avows that his idea is to emancipate the slaves in certain of the border States, as a matter of policy. The negroes of Maryland and Delaware are few, and comparatively of little value. In Missouri, Kentucky, and even Tennessee, they form but a small part of the population. It has entered the minds of Mr. Lincoln and his friends that it will be not impossible to induce these border States to sell their slaves to the Federal Government, or, in other words, to abolish slavery on the receipt of compensation from the Treasury of the United States. In a doubtful tone, and with awkward phraseology, the President tells Congress that he recommends the scheme to their notice, but that if it does not meet with their approval and the approval of the country, it is at an end. He then goes on to give his reasons for inviting their consideration.

The leaders of the insurrection, we are told, believe that the Federal Government will be ultimately forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region; and that then, even though the border States might remain for the time with the North, they would take the earliest opportunity of seceding and joining the Southern Republic, which would by that time be fully organized and capable of giving them help. We know not if this policy has really found advocates at Richmond. It certainly seems in contradiction with the very last resolutions of the Confederate Congress, which were to the effect that the Confederacy would never make peace on the basis of giving up any State which belonged to it. However, the theory of the Washington Government is that, as long as Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and even Maryland, contain slave-owners and slaves, the Confederates will count on their sympathy and be disposed to prolong resistance; but that if slavery be abolished in these important States, the Confederates, reduced to the cotton and tobacco States, and having the most populous members of their league with slavery incorporated in the old Union, will be glad to submit. Thus, the great objects of the "moderate" men at the North would be attained. There would be in the newly-reconstituted Union a sufficient preponderance of free States to make another secession impossible; while the material interests of New England and New York would not be endangered by any ill-advised application of abolitionist principles at the extreme South, where negro slavery is necessary for the production of the great national staple.

We fear, however, that this Utopia of compromise will be difficult of access. Although Mr. Lincoln talks in the most cautious manner of "initiation," and says that "a gradual and not a sudden emancipation will be better for all," and though he suggests in a rather significant manner that "the current expenditure of the war would very soon purchase all the slaves in any named State," yet we cannot think that there is much chance of Congress voting the purchase of even the three quarters of a million of negroes to be found in the border States. A people which is obliged to pay in paper for every article which the army requires, which cannot obtain a loan in any European market, and which now, in the desperate hope of raising a revenue, is putting on all the war taxes which our benighted country has established, is not likely to fancy an additional expenditure of some hundreds of millions of dollars to transform a horde of negroes into citizens. Nor can we conceive that the border States are likely, except under the pressure of military occupation, to abolish slavery within their limits. Nor do we believe that it will stake the resolution of the South. The causes of conflict between the two lie much deeper than the question of free and slave labor. A jealousy of the growing preponderance of the North in Congress—a preponderance caused by the tide of immigration which flowed into the States of more temperate climates—has now deepened into an antipathy which overcomes all considerations of interest.

But there is one light in which the President's message may be favorably viewed. As a proposition which may possibly lead to the cessation of this frightful conflict, it will be worthy of discussion, though the border States might remain for the time with the North, they would take the earliest opportunity of seceding and joining the Southern Republic, which would by that time be fully organized and capable of giving them help. We know not if this policy has really found advocates at Richmond. It certainly seems in contradiction with the very last resolutions of the Confederate Congress, which were to the effect that the Confederacy would never make peace on the basis of giving up any State which belonged to it. However, the theory of the Washington Government is that, as long as Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and even Maryland, contain slave-owners and slaves, the Confederates will count on their sympathy and be disposed to prolong resistance; but that if slavery be abolished in these important States, the Confederates, reduced to the cotton and tobacco States, and having the most populous members of their league with slavery incorporated in the old Union, will be glad to submit. Thus, the great objects of the "moderate" men at the North would be attained. There would be in the newly-reconstituted Union a sufficient preponderance of free States to make another secession impossible; while the material interests of New England and New York would not be endangered by any ill-advised application of abolitionist principles at the extreme South, where negro slavery is necessary for the production of the great national staple.

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But there is one light in which the President's message may be favorably viewed. As a proposition which may possibly lead to the cessation of this frightful conflict, it will be worthy of discussion, though we think there is little advantage in adopting it in its present form. The President truly said that the expense of the war would buy up the slaves in any given State. If this has any meaning, it is that the money now devoted to keeping up the four armies of the North might be more advantageously devoted to the extinction of slavery in those regions which are incontestably in its power. But it is impossible for the North to spend the same money on fighting and on emancipation. If the people of the Northern States wish to make any real progress in the settlement of the slave question, they will give up the policy of burdening themselves and their children with an European debt paying American interest. Another year of such war will make it impossible for them to buy negro liberty even in Maryland. If they are content to keep the slave States which have not seceded, and try the plan of emancipation and compensation on them, they may, if they are really in earnest, accomplish after a time a great work.—But, with an expenditure of two million dollars a day, and with nothing but "shinplasters" for money, the plan of attaching wavering slave owners by compensation must follow the fate of so many other attempts at compromise.

THE PLAN IS "PUERILE" AND A SYMPTOM OF UNION WEAKNESS.

From the London Post (Government Organ), March 21.

The message of President Lincoln to Congress, which we this day give at length, proves that the Federal Government have begun to despair of "crushing the rebellion" by means of powder and shot. The arts of diplomacy are now to be put in practice, and enemies who cannot be subdued by force of arms are to be bought over with money. In no country in the world is "the dollar" worshipped with more zeal than in America; so it is not surprising that in a grave political exigency the Chief of the State should call in the aid of the favorite idol. The war is an expensive one to both sides. Both North and South are creating for themselves burdens of which posterity may never succeed in getting rid. Commerce is stagnant—trade at a stand-still. The national honor, however, of one of the belligerents is at stake, and the independence of the other, and the war must consequently proceed still either party is subdued. Such being the apparent prospect of affairs, Mr. Lincoln suddenly starts forward and proposes by one and the same stroke of policy to put an end to the war, relieve the country of the present drain on its resources, reconcile the now divided portions of the American nation, abolish slavery, and put money in his enemies' pockets. In American parlance, the North now assures the South that it can do a good thing by discontinuing hostilities and returning to the Union, whilst, at the same time, the Federal Government tries to enlist the sympathy of the rest of the world by its generous offer to purchase, with hard silver, the emancipation of some millions of slaves. Such, in fact, is the proposal which has emanated from Mr. Lincoln's Government, and has been submitted for the consideration of the Federal Congress. As might have been expected, it has created no little "sensation" in New York, and has, we are assured, taken all parties by surprise.

That surprise will be shared by all who are made acquainted with the President's message on this side of the Atlantic. It is far from easy to enter into an examination of its merits, it appears so utterly preposterous. It is assumed—and indeed expressly stated, that "the war continues to be an indispensable means for the restoration of the Union;" yet at the same time a scheme is projected which would require for its realization the appropriation of the moneys at present expended on the war. It is difficult, therefore, in the presence of these contradictory assumptions, to understand from what source the funds would be supplied to carry out the project of the Federal Government. But dismissing from consideration this matter, let us see in what the project itself really consists. The President seems to have opened his eyes to the possibility of being obliged at some time or other to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy, or some portion of it, and accordingly makes that possibility, or at least the hopes entertained of it by the seceded States, the ground for his proposal. So long as the war continues, so long will these hopes be entertained in the South; and should they be resized, it occurs to President Lincoln that it is by no means improbable that some of the border States might then elect to join the Southern Confederacy instead of the Union. In order to blight these hopes, secure for ever the allegiance of those States, and at the same time put an end to the rebellion, there is but one step necessary—namely, the emancipation, or, as it is modestly expressed, the initiation of the emancipation of the slaves.

The manner in which this operation is to be effected is not communicated to us. We are left to guess at the details. As far as we can understand the scheme of Mr. Lincoln, he suggests that the Northern States should propose to buy up all the slaves of the States which elected to barter the "institution" for a pecuniary consideration. The Federal Government would not, however, claim a right to interfere with slavery within the limits of a State, it being optional with each State to accept or reject the proposal. No suggestion is made of any intention on the part of the North to abolish slavery, and the only difference which would be detected between the United States, as they now stand newly constituted, and what they once were, would consist in the constant readiness of the free States to buy up the freedom of those held in servitude in the slave States. On the question of the probable expense of carrying out these philanthropic designs, we are rather loosely informed that "the current expenditure of the war would very soon purchase all the slaves in any named State;" but as it is absolutely impossible to divine for what length of time the current expenditure should be continued with this object, the information is rather valueless. It is not anticipated that all the slaveholding States would act promptly, if ever, avail themselves of the generous offer of the Federal Government; but it is expected that the border States would take the initiative, and thus demonstrate to the States of the extreme South how groundless are the hopes entertained by them of their joining or remaining attached to the Southern Confederacy. Thus, says Mr. Lincoln, will the power of the Southern Confederacy be weakened; thus will its expectations be blighted; and thus will the great civil war be brought to a close.

Thoughtful politicians, both here and in America, have long since predicted that the war between the North and the South would ultimately be concluded, not by one of the belligerents overpowering the other, but by one of them being no longer able or willing to supply the funds necessary for prolonging the contest. That the Southern Confederacy was not likely to be the first to yield was apparent when it was borne in mind that its object was not dominion, but independence, and that, as President Davis very properly put it, "Nothing could be worse than defeat." This being so, what are we to think of a proposal which suggests the possibility of a people who have never been taxed, and who now for the first time find themselves saddled with a national debt, voluntarily submitting to a system of taxation which would have for its object not the vindication of the national honor or the national independence, but the liberation from slavery of a class to which, perhaps, more than any other people in the world, they entertain the greatest antipathy? There may be found in Europe many who regard a South Carolina slave as a man and a brother, though we fear that the number is but small who would subscribe largely to effect his liberation. But the notion of finding in Philadelphia, or Boston, or New York, any one who would submit to the slightest pecuniary sacrifice to grant him freedom, is so utterly absurd that it is impossible even to entertain it seriously. The means of defraying the expenses of a war in which the sympathies of the whole of the Northern population are strongly enlisted have not yet been discovered; and yet it is gravely proposed that an expenditure equal to the present war expenditure should be incurred in effecting an object to which they are not only indifferent, but in many respects decidedly hostile. But even supposing Congress assented to the proposition of the President, what guarantee would be afforded to the Southern States that it would be carried out, as Mr. Lincoln admits only the initiative in emancipation can at present be effected? If this initiative is to have the effect of terminating the war, what reason is there to suppose that it will be succeeded by complete emancipation? Altogether the scheme is so puerile, the hope which it engenders of reducing from the Southern Confederacy the border States so vain, that its submission to Congress by the Federal Government can only be accounted for as being the last resource of a Government which feels that it is engaged in a struggle which, if continued, must inevitably ruin, and which it would make any sacrifice short of submission to arrest.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S "FAIR" AND "MAGNANIMOUS" POLICY—IT DISTINGUISHES FROM THAT OF THE CONFEDERATE CONCLAVE.

From the London News, March 21.

Military successes, unequivocal and extensive, have enabled President Lincoln to propose a political measure from which important consequences may reasonably be expected. In a message to Congress he recommends the two Houses to agree in a resolution to cooperate with the several States, by pecuniary aid, for the gradual emancipation of the slaves. Mr. Lincoln explains his views and expectations with a frankness which some may deem excessive, but which is very characteristic, and at least leaves no excuse for misunderstanding his meaning. At every crisis of the present conflict the President has declared that the first object of the war was the preservation of the Union.—This was on one side of his policy, that one which was naturally brought into prominence by the circumstances in which he was placed. The other side, that which aims at the final extinction of slavery, has not been seen until now, because hitherto no opportunity of displaying it has arisen. Indeed, not only has this part of Mr. Lincoln's policy been concealed, but it has seemed to be denied by facts. He was advised to adopt the principle of abolition in all its naked absolutism, and it is well known that he refused. He would proceed to his end legally and constitutionally. Many of us thought that to say he would only attain it in that way was equal to saying that he gave it up altogether. But let justice be done. Whatever merits are denied to Mr. Lincoln as the ruler of a great nation, the simplicity and sincerity of his character will not be called in question.

The time has come when Mr. Lincoln believes he has found a political basis, a basis of fact, for his policy of emancipation. And he seems careful to make it plain that it is a thoroughly political measure which he proposes. He tells the Federal Congress that the Federal Government "would find its highest interest" in assisting the States as proposed, "as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation." He avows that his immediate aim is to secure the border States to the Union. Mr. Lincoln seems to convey that he does not hold the Gulf States in much account. He knows very well that they cannot exist as a separate nation without the border States; that their poverty and weakness would expose them to general contempt, and make separate existence intolerable. And although he will not permit them on that account to secede, and so give a foothold to ambitious and intriguing European Powers, he is not much concerned about their opinion of his scheme. If the Federal Congress assents, and the border States adopt it, slavery in North America is doomed, and the Gulf States may be left to come to their senses. When every thing else is lost, the Federal Government will assist them in getting rid of a curse.

Mr. Lincoln's proposition appears to have started the American public by its comprehensiveness, and we shall have to wait to learn what impression it will make on the country. The extracts we give from the New York papers can tell us little. It is natural for us, accustomed as we are to learn the state of public opinion in the various countries of Europe from journals published in capitals where Government and public life is centralized, to study the opinions published in a great American city, and take them for those of the Union. The error has led us astray a thousand times during the last twelve months. But in truth there is no country in the world where all that belongs to Government is so completely decentralized as in the United States. In looking at the probabilities of the situation, we must remember that Mr. Lincoln propounds rather an aim than a plan.

Should Congress adopt this resolution it will proclaim a policy and assume a duty, but the means and mode of its execution will be left open to deliberation. We do not gather from the President's words that it is part of his plan that the Federal Government should assume the burden of the compensation to be paid to slave-owners on the emancipation of their slaves, but rather that the Federal Government should co-operate for that purpose with the Government of the States. The President intimates gently, but plainly, that the slave-owners of the border States may fare worse if they refuse his proposition. The war is, has been, and will be, one for the preservation of the Union; but it is impossible to carry war into a slave State without depreciating property in slaves. When the masters are in trouble the blacks run away or become unprofitable from the interruption of industry.

Such is the fair, moderate and magnanimous policy of the Government of the United States in the hour of success. And what are the leaders of secession doing? In the face of Mr. Davis' admission that the Confederacy attempted more than it could carry out when it undertook to force secession on the border States, it has passed a resolution declaring "that the honor of the Government imperatively demands that the existing war be prosecuted until the enemy shall have been expelled from every foot of soil within each and every one of the Confederate States; and no proposition of peace shall be considered which contemplates, however remotely, the relinquishment by this Government of any portion of any of the States of the Confederacy." Mr. Lincoln's message and the resolution of the Confederate Senate aptly distinguish the character and circumstances of the two Governments.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.----FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Among petitions presented was one by Mr. WILEY of Virginia, against the proposed tax of three cents per pound on leaf tobacco.

Mr. HALE presented a petition from Alonzo Hitchcock, praying for an appropriation of $20,000 to test his process of making wrought iron, steel, or semi-steel cannon, assumed to be capable of throwing a ball of one thousand or fifteen hundred pounds.

The resolution offered by Mr. WILEY a few days since directing the Military Committee to inquire into the condition of the armory and works at Harper's Ferry, with the view of reorganizing and putting them again in operation, was taken up and passed.

The bill for the relief of Thomas Wattman was taken up and passed.

The bill for the relief of the heirs of Stephen Johnson, who it seems was killed by Indians while in the service of the Government under Gen. Harrison, was taken up, amended, and then laid on the table.

[Authority to locate 300 acres of Government land had been given the heirs, and having chosen a very desirable tract, the land agent doubled his power to permit the location in that particular district.]

On motion of Messrs. WILSON and SUMNER, of Massachusetts, a variety of bills on the calendar were taken up and indefinitely postponed, most of them having been rendered unnecessary by action on kindred bills or by the embodiment of their substance, as amendments, in other bills.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, from the Military Committee, reported back the bill to authorize the President to transfer the appropriations for frontier fortifications to the building of iron clad gunboats, with amendments, and recommending its passage.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, gave notice of his intention to move a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill to amend and alter the city charter of Washington was indefinitely postponed. This is the bill giving to every person who may have resided in the city of Washington for six consecutive months prior to an election, the right to vote at municipal elections.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, called up a resolution submitted by him, proposing a new rule for the Senate, which in effect would allow "during the present rebellion," a majority of the members present to cut off debate, by fixing a time at which the vote must be taken on any pending measure.

Messrs. DAVIS, of Kentucky, and COLLAMER, of Vermont, took ground against the proposition as unnecessary and unbecoming the Senate. Mr. Davis held that unless the intention was to apply the gag here, which he did not think possible, the resolution was of no use.

Mr. COLLAMER said that when they had one third more members here than they have now, such a rule was not deemed necessary, and it certainly ought not to be now. The Senate had maintained its dignity in discussing measures to a proper degree, and when done, taken vote on them, and they continue to do so.

The morning hour having expired, the resolution was laid aside.

The bill to confiscate the property of Rebels and free their slaves came up as the unfinished business.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, the author of the bill,) took the floor and spoke at length in reply to different speeches which had been made against the bill. He denied what he termed the assumption of Mr. McDougall of California, Mr. Cowan of Pennsylvania, Mr. Willey of Virginia, and his colleague, Mr. Browning of Illinois, that this was a sweeping measure for the confiscation of all the property in the Southern States, and said that so far from striking at all the property of each and every citizen in the seceded States, it would not, probably, reach one in ten of the Rebels, and in no case would touch the property of a loyal citizen. The bill is prospective in operation, and confiscates the property of no one for anything done before its passage, and under it, he said, it would be in the power of every Rebel in the land to save his property by ceasing to war against the Government from the time of its passage. It only, too, the retorted, applies to the property of Rebels as are beyond the reach of judicial process, as when over the person of the Rebel can he reached and made subject to punishment, the bill does not propose to touch his property.

Mr. T. then noticed the ground taken by his colleague and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, who had declared their belief in confiscation of Rebel property in certain contingencies, that the power of such confiscation was in the hands of the President. He denied that the bill trenched upon the power of the President in conducting the war, and claimed that the Constitution placed in Congress the power, and upon it the duty of determining how and for what purposes war was to be conducted, as only Congress could make war and raise and maintain armies, and that the President could only execute accordingly.

He held that Congress had the right to confiscate, through laws passed for the purpose—the war power being in Congress and not in the President. He cited decisions in Courts and international-law writers in regard to Congress taking the property of belligerents, claiming an horrible contrast in personal as well as real property under them—and in this case there was a civil war existing, acknowledged by the same authorities, and not a mere rebellion, which would prevent the exercise of such powers. He denied that the bill was a bill of attainder as had been asserted. A court, of course, it would be unconstitutional—and it was not charitable to presume that he would advocate what he knew to be unconstitutional. As the bill provides simply for forfeitures of property where the persons cannot be brought to trial, and as no one, he held that it did not attaint or propose to attaint any one or all of any one's person or blood, as attainder was "extinction of civil right and capacities which takes place whenever a person who has committed treason or felony receives sentence of death for his crime."

The bill does not propose to touch the property of any one whose life has been taken or who can be brought to trial for his crimes, and that the position taken by Judge Story (and which Mr. McDougall had quoted) that it was surely enough for society to take the life of an offender without stripping his offspring of the means of saving them from poverty was erroneous, he held did not apply. He held also that the prohibition against confiscating beyond life the property of the man who is arrested and made to suffer in his person cannot prevent the absolute confiscation of the property of the criminal who is beyond reach.

Mr. T. then urged that this measure of confiscation was necessary as an act of justice to the people, to the country who would have to bear the great burden of taxation which the rebellionists would render necessary, in addition to the terrible loss of life and sufferings, and the desolation in a wide extent of country. It was the only way in which the authors of the mischief could be punished—otherwise they would bear no greater burden than the most loyal citizen in the loyal States.

Finally, on the hypothesis that it is the duty of Congress to provide for suppressing the insurrection, he asked, is it not wise that Congress should so act that if men will fight and war against the Government, they shall not do so without the loss of that species of property which has been the impelling power to drive them into rebellion, and thereby take away any motive for repeating the experiment when this rebellion shall have been suppressed? Such an opportunity to strike a blow for freedom seldom occurs as that now presented to the American Congress.

As most of the owners of slaves are engaged in the rebellion, and will probably continue so for some time, the effect would be, if this bill were speedily enacted into a law, that they would by their own act give freedom to most of the slaves in the country, and thus would be solved, in a great measure, through the agency of this wicked rebellion, the great question, What is to be done with African slavery? a subject in view of which Jefferson, in his day, exclaimed, that "the tremblid when he remembered that God was just." I would appeal to Senators (said Mr. T.) as philanthropists, as patriots, as lovers of the Union and of constitutional liberty, not to let pass this opportunity which a wicked rebellion presents, of making it the means of giving freedom to millions of the human race, and thereby destroying to a great extent the source and origin of the rebellion, and the only thing which has ever seriously threatened the peace of the Union.

Mr. TRUMBULL having concluded,

Mr. HARRIS, of New York, got the floor, and indicated his intention to propose the confiscation bill heretofore introduced by himself, as a substitute for this one, when he desired to make some remarks on the general subject.

On motion of Mr. LANE, of Indiana, the Senate then went into Executive session, and after some time spent therein, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. WARD, of New York, introduced a bill relative to an amendment of the law relating to the consular system. Referred.

Also a joint resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the House with semi-monthly statements of the disbursements of the Treasury. Adopted.

Mr. McPHERSON, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill authorizing the colonels of regiments to grant furloughs under certain restrictions. Referred.

Mr. WHITE, of Indiana, offered a resolution that a select committee, to consist of nine members, be appointed to inquire into and report to the House at as early a day as possible whether any plan can be proposed and recommended for the gradual emancipation of all African slaves for the extinction of slavery in the States of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, and Kentucky by the people or local authorities thereof, and whether such is not expedient and desirable; and to inquire and report whether the colonization of such emancipated slaves, upon this continent or elsewhere, is necessary and concomitant of freedom; and if so, how and in what manner should provision be made therefor; and further inquire into and report in what way the Government could equitably aid in and facilitate either of said objects; and if the committee consider it expedient to extend their inquiries into the other slaveholding States, and report accordingly.

Mr. MALLORY, of Kentucky—I think the resolution an unconstitutional absurdity. I therefore move to lay it on the table.

The House refused to lay the resolution on the table by a vote of 52 yeas and 68 nays.

The resolution was then put upon its passage, when the yeas and nays were ordered. It was adopted.

The following is the vote:

YEAS—Messrs Alley of Massachusetts, Arnold of Illinois, Ashley of Ohio, Babbitt of Pennsylvania, Baker of New York, Baker of California, Baxter of Vermont, Beaman of Michigan, Bingham of Ohio, Blair of Missouri, Blake of Ohio, Buffington of Massachusetts, Campbell of Pennsylvania, Chamberlain of New York, Clark of New York, Colfax of Indiana, P. A. Computing of New York, Davis of Pennsylvania, Dawes of Massachusetts, Duell of New York, Edgerton of Ohio, Elliott of Massachusetts, Fenton of New York, Fessenden of Maine, Gurley of Ohio, Hanchett of Illinois, Hickman of Pennsylvania, Hutchins of Ohio, Julian of Indiana, Kelley of Pennsylvania, Lansing of New York, Loomis of Connecticut, Lovejoy of Illinois, McKnight of Pennsylvania, McPherson of Pennsylvania, Moorehead of Pennsylvania, Morrill of Maine, Morrill of Vermont, Nixon of New Jersey, Olin of New York, Patton of Pennsylvania, Pike of Missouri, Pomeroy of New York, Potter of Wisconsin, Rice of Massachusetts, Rice of Maine, Riddle of Ohio, Rollins of New Hampshire, Sergeant of California, Shanks of Indiana, Sheffield of Rhode Island, Shellabarger of Ohio, Sherman of New York, Sloan of Wisconsin, Stevens of Pennsylvania, Stratton of New Jersey, Train of Massachusetts, Van Horn of Pennsylvania, Van Valkenburgh of New York, Verree of Pennsylvania, Wallace of Pennsylvania, Walton of Maine, Walton of Vermont, Washburne of Illinois, Wheeler of New York, White of Indiana, Wilson of Iowa, and Windom of Minnesota—67.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen of Ohio, Biddle of Pennsylvania, Blair of Virginia, Browne of Rhode Island, Browne of Virginia, Calvert of Maryland, Cobb of New Jersey, Corning of New York, Cox of Ohio, Cravens of Indiana, Crittenden of Kentucky, Delano of Massachusetts, Delaplaine of New York, Diven of New York, Duntap of Kentucky, English of Connecticut, Fisher of Delaware, Grider of Kentucky, Haight of New York, Harding of Kentucky, Harrison of Ohio, Horton of Ohio, Kerrigan of Pennsylvania, Knapp of Illinois, Law of Indiana, Lazear of Pennsylvania, Leary of Maryland, Lehman of Pennsylvania, Mallory of Kentucky, Menzies of Kentucky, Mitchell of Indiana, Noble of Ohio, Nuell of Missouri, Norton of Missouri, Nugen of Ohio, Odell of New York, Pendleton of Ohio, Perry of New Jersey, Price of Missouri, Richardson of Illinois, Shiel of Oregon, Steele of New York, Smith of New York, Steele of New Jersey, Vallandigham of Ohio, Voorhees of Indiana, Wadsworth of Kentucky, Ward of New York, Webster of Maryland, White of Ohio, Wickliffe of Kentucky, and Worcester of Ohio—52.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, desired not to be placed on the committee.

Mr. YOUNGES, of Indiana, offered a preamble and resolution, setting forth the injustice of the tariff passed at the extra session. It concludes with a resolution, instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to repeal that law and substitute another bill, based on the principle to collect an adequate revenue for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Government, and not for the benefit of manufacturing interests of the country.

Mr. STEVENS moved to lay the resolution on the table. Agreed to.

The SPEAKER announced that the morning hour had expired, and the special order was the consideration of the Tax bill, as amended in the Committee of the Whole.

The Clerk then proceeded to read the various amendments. The House struck out the amendment, adopted by the committee, that all distilled liquors now in the market shall be taxed.

The House, without disposing of the bill, adjourned.

CITY INTELLIGENCE

DEEPENING THE CHANNEL.—At a meeting of the Board of Trade of Baltimore yesterday a preamble and resolutions were adopted approving the measure introduced in the Second Branch of the City Council several days since by D. H. Miller, Esq., of the Eleventh and Twelfth wards, in reference to the completion of the work of deepening the Patapsco river channel. The preamble recites that whereas the Board of Trade of Baltimore, with a zealous watchfulness of all proceedings which have for their object the advancement of the interests of the city, and especially of its trade and commerce, have observed, with a lively sense of its importance, the proposed favorable action of our City Council in the passage of a preamble and resolutions calling upon the Government of the United States, through our representatives in Congress, for further aid toward the completion of the ship channel in the Patapsco river; and, whereas the Board of Trade were of the first to demonstrate the practicability of the undertaking, and have continued unceasingly to feel the deepest interest in its successful prosecution and completion, as not only of the utmost importance to the commerce and trade of the city, but of vital interest to the General Government, by providing a channel of sufficient depth to allow the free ingress and egress of our national steam frigates of the largest class, and to avail of the immense supplies of the bituminous coal of the Allegany and Cumberland regions, acknowledged to be unsurpassed for generating steam. The two resolutions, adopted unanimously, approve of the application to Congress, and instruct the Secretary of the Board to furnish each Branch of the City Council with a copy of the preamble and resolutions; and also the representatives of Maryland in the United States Congress. The Secretary, Geo U. Porter, Esq., last evening communicated the proceedings of the meeting to the City Council.

THE BALTIMORE POST-OFFICE.—It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that the clerks in the Post-office receive the poorest pay, and perform more labor than the employees of any other department under the General Government. This should not be the case, for it is a department of the public service in which reliable and substantial persons should be employed at remunerative prices. The following statement will show what work has been done, as well as the pay which has been received by the employees at the Baltimore Post-office during the last eleven months of the year, which ended on the 31st of March, 1862. The amount of commissions received for the months of May and June, 1861, fell short one-third of what it has been in the corresponding months of the previous year; consequently the clerks received their pay at a discount of 33⅓ per cent for that portion of the quarter ending June 30, 1861. The next quarter, ending September 30, 1861, the commissions reached within one-fourth of the usual amount of pay for the clerks. The quarter ending December 31, 1861, the commissions amounted to within about two hundred dollars of the amount received during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The commissions for the quarter ending March 31, 1862, amounted to something over eleven thousand dollars. The work of this latter quarter exceeded by far any previous quarter's work ever performed in the Baltimore Post-office, and was accomplished with a clerical force numbering six less than were employed prior to the administration of Col. Purnell. In addition to the letter-matter received at and sent from this Post-office there are bags, boxes, barrels and baskets of newspapers daily received and sent through the office in excess of what has ever before passed through it.

JURORS OF THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.—The following named persons have been selected by United States Marshal Bonlant as Petit Jurors for the April term of the United States Circuit Court, which commenced yesterday morning:—Columbus O'Donnell, John S. McKim, James Curley, S. W. Gosnell, Lasey, S. Corkran, Oliver Wood, W. Disney, W. Collins, John Dugan, N. Christopher, and George B. Price, of Baltimore city; James A. Stanford, W. G. Vance, N. Hutchins, P. F. Cockey, John E. Ensor, and James Thompson, of Baltimore county; W. R. Sanderson, Jas. Whitehill, and Joshua Troxell, of Frederick county; John Mobler and E. M. Mobley, of Washington county; J. G. White and John Bonifant, of Montgomery county; W. Burdett and J. L. Billingslea, of Carroll county; A. W. Clancy and G. W. Metwell, of Anne Arundel county; F. C. Duvall and R. Clarke, of Prince George's county; D. Lee and R. B. McCoy, of Harford county; F. P. Jones and J. R. Thomas, of Cecil county.

THE BODY OF LIEUT. FITZ JAMES O'BRIAN.—On yesterday the body of Fitz James O'Brian passed through this city *en route* for New York. Mr. O'Brian for a number of years has been connected with the press of New York city. He was a ready and an able writer. One of his most famous articles was the "Diamond Lens," furnished to the *Atlantic Monthly*, which brought to the author much reputation. He accompanied the New York Seventh regiment in its three months' enlistment, and on its return home he was tendered a position on the Staff of Gen. Lander, which he accepted.—In a skirmish two months since he was wounded, and after lingering for weeks died of lockjaw. A committee of his literary friends met the body in this city and accompanied it to New York.

PUBLIC SALES.—Messrs. Gibson & Co., auctioneers, by direction of Stewart Brown, Esq., trustee, yesterday sold at the Exchange salesroom a lot of ground on the south side of Reed street, west of St. Paul, having a front of 23 feet 4 inches, and a depth of about 104 feet to Hovegrove alley, subject to a ground rent of $200, and improved with a three story and basement brick dwelling; purchased by John Williams, Esq., for $2,500. Also, two lots on the same street, west of St. Paul, of the same dimensions, improved each with a dwelling of the same character, and subject to the same ground rent; purchased by the same gentleman—the first lot at $2,200, and the other at $2,100.

FIRE.—The barn of Talbot G. Shipley Esq., of Howard Co., Maryland, near Poplar springs, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, with its contents, including three valuable horses. No insurance. The fire was evidently the work of an incendiary.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.—The anniversary meeting of the Baltimore Orphan Asylum will be held this afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the Institution on Stricker street. As usual on these occasions, addresses will be delivered by ministers of various denominations.

MORE ARRESTS.—On Sunday a number of young men were arrested on Back river, on the charge of attempting to run the blockade to Virginia, for the purpose of joining the Confederate army. They were brought up to Fort McHenry and confined. The names of the party have not yet transpired.

BEATING HIS FATHER.—Yesterday a young man by the name of John Smith was arrested on the charge of assaulting and beating his father.—He was committed to jail for Court by Justice Hiss.

A BALTIMORE BARK CHASED BY CHINESE PIRATES.—Captain Peterson, of the bark Cornelia L. Bevan, of Baltimore, arrived at Hong Kong on the 20th of Jan. from Nagasaki, reports that on the 23d Jan., off Turnabout Island, she was chased by a fleet of 15 junks—that two or three were beginning to overhaul her, when a large screw steamer passed up close in shore, and they then sheered off in different directions.

SALAD OIL

In every lvariety, fresh