

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1886.

The Week.

THE Boston *Journal*, while printing in full the speech of Senator Evarts at the Merchants' Association dinner, which was mainly occupied with the silver question, finds it "impossible to say whether he would vote for the repeal of the law providing for compulsory silver coinage." Not daunted by this difficulty, however, the *Journal* overhauls the report of the Paris Monetary Conference of 1881, and quotes two extracts from the speech made by Mr. Evarts in that meeting, which it thinks will suffice to answer the question which the distinguished orator failed to answer at the Boston dinner. After due and careful examination of both the Boston speech and the two extracts, we are unable to agree with the *Journal* that the deficiencies of the former are made good by the latter. We beg to remind that painstaking newspaper that it is one thing to favor international bi-metallism, and quite another thing to favor the repeal of the compulsory-coinage law. When, therefore, the *Journal* declares that a person who supports the former must necessarily hold "that this result is deferred rather than hastened by the continuance of compulsory silver coinage," it runs ahead of the orator and ahead of any known facts. Nearly all the supporters of the Bland-Allison Bill favored international bi-metallism. The first Paris Conference was authorized and called by the very bill which set the compulsory coinage going, and the second conference was authorized by the same party that authorized the first. So it is a *non-sequitur* to say that the supporters of international bi-metallism are in favor of repealing the Bland Act. The truth is that some of them are in favor of repeal and others not. Which class Mr. Evarts belongs to has not been made known by himself, although he occupied considerable time at Boston with the silver question.

At one point in his speech Mr. Evarts appeared to be on the very threshold and verge of declaring his opinions on the matter under discussion, but just as he had roused expectation to the highest pitch he disappeared in a cloud and made himself invisible, like an Eastern necromancer. The most that he could say that was intelligible was, that the question is to be decided by the nation and not merely by Congress, and that the nation is to act upon Congress by pressure on the one side and on the other. There is nothing so certain to secure results in Congress as pressure in cases where Congressmen do not know which side they are on. No law in physics can be relied upon with greater confidence. We should be inclined, therefore, to award to Mr. Evarts credit for a notable aphorism if he had told us which of the two sides was likely to develop the greater amount of pressure. If he had even told us on which of his own sides he felt the most pressure, we should have been wiser than we are. We suggest now that he make a speech and tell what his views really are on the

silver question. Pressure is all very well in its way, but it should be borne in mind that there are many people who do not know on which side they ought to press, and that they look to Senators and Representatives in Congress to tell them. The Boston *Journal* hints that Mr. Evarts is holding back his views for delivery in the Senate, not wishing to anticipate himself by a premature announcement of them. This is quite possible, but, however lucid his exposition of them may then be, we shall still think that he has done himself an injustice by not contributing something beforehand to the pressure by which his vote is to be decided.

A few years since a tempest broke loose in the West and South on the head of the Secretary of the Interior in consequence of his endeavors to put a stop to depredations on the timber lands of the United States. Mr. Schurz was charged with every sort of infamy, including cruelty to women and children, because he had sent out a few special agents to report facts and to obtain evidence for the prosecution of the more unprincipled violators of the law. The Senate of the United States took up the matter, and several speeches were made in which the Secretary was denounced as a Prussian and a despot, as an oppressor of the widow and the fatherless, and as a tool of railroads and grasping monopolies. If he insisted that the laws were made to be enforced against individual woodcutters, he must have a private motive, and this could be no other than a desire to hold the Government timber for the eventual enrichment of soulless corporations. The spectacle presented, as a consequence of this endeavor to put a stop to a peculiarly injurious form of theft, was not an encouraging one to his successors in office, yet it is believed that some very valuable forests were saved from destruction, and that considerable money was turned into the Treasury that would otherwise have gone to swell the profits of lumber companies and railroad contractors. It was never proved that any widow was prevented from collecting dry twigs sufficient to boil her dinner, that being the dreadful apprehension of Senator Sargent, of California.

The same kind of a tempest has now broken on the head of Commissioner Sparks of the General Land Office. That glaring frauds have been and are daily committed under the homestead, preemption, and timber-culture acts, involving millions of acres of land, and that these frauds militate against the actual settler more than against anybody else, has been matter of common notoriety for years. Yet so much has public attention been taken up with "forfeited land grants" to railroad companies that no effective action could be secured to protect the public domain against a far greater evil. Whatever may be said of forfeited or forfeitable land grants, none of them involve the crime of perjury. The facts upon which a railroad makes claim to land under act of Congress are open, patent, and cannot be concealed. They

are triable before the Land Office and before the courts, and they are not so numerous that they cannot all be tried. Not so the fraudulent seizure of land under private entries. Here nearly everything depends upon the oath of the entrymen, and the cases are so numerous that only now and then can one of them be tried by way of sample. The result is that perjury has become the common method of acquiring title to the public lands, and the beneficent intentions of the homestead, preemption, and timber-culture laws have been to a large extent frustrated and brought to naught. But this is not the worst. Numerous cases are reported where bona-fide settlers have been driven from their claims by fraudulent entries alongside of them, made by "cowboys" in behalf of cattle companies, cutting the settlers off from the water courses and isolating them from the society which they expected in time to collect about them.

Our wood-choppers must be protected. Their gallant efforts to cut down our remaining forests must be encouraged. We have given them a bounty of 20 per cent. as against the pauper wood-choppers of Canada, but that is not sufficient. The pauper bag-manufacturers of England are selling sugar sacks to the Cuban planters at such low rates that the Cuban demand for hogsheads has been cut down to a mere nothing, and the cooperage industry is crippled. Acting upon the grand theories of protection and the noble principle of asking Congress to do something whenever anything goes wrong in trade (for which we have so many valuable precedents), the hogshead makers have petitioned for a discriminating duty of one-quarter of a cent per pound on sugar imported in sacks, in order to compel the Cubans to buy our hogsheads. This is a fine idea. It is apparently borrowed from an old English statute which, in order to help the weavers in a period of depression, required that all corpses should be buried in woollen shrouds.

The prohibition in Mr. Edmunds's Utah bill of female suffrage in the Territory has brought him into collision with Mr. Hoar, who maintains that all women not "plural wives" ought to have the franchise, and points with pride to the results of female voting in Wyoming and Washington Territories. Mr. Edmunds offered a sort of compromise by promising to support the majority of women in any State or Territory in demanding the franchise; but, under this rule, should he not take the sense of the Utah women before abrogating the local law which has enfranchised them?

If any Republican in the country is qualified to speak with knowledge regarding the situation in the South, it is certainly ex-Gov. Daniel H. Chamberlain, of South Carolina, who discusses the present aspects of the Southern question with noteworthy candor in the January number of the *New Englander*. Mr. Chamberlain takes the somewhat unnecessary pains to expose the impossibility of curing the trouble by Senator Sherman's quack remedy, prescribed on the stump last fall, of reducing the basis of representation in those Southern States where

the Republicans do not poll as many votes as the party managers at the North think they ought to poll, and rightly concludes that there is no practicable constitutional remedy. He then points out—and it should be remembered that it is the Republican ex-Governor of a Southern State who says this—that “the evil in question is plainly the result of the want of intelligence, experience, and good judgment on the part of the class who are deprived of the right to vote, and of the race prejudice and political ambition of the class which inflicts the wrong, intensified and made reckless, in respect to the right to vote, by the insupportable corruption and maladministration of most of the Southern State Governments from 1868 to 1876.” He confesses that such results as we now see at the South are inevitable “whenever in any community those who hold nearly all its property, intelligence, and experience in self-government are set against those who are for the most part without property, education, or experience of public affairs.” Such being the case, the course for those who sincerely want to see a better state of things is, in his opinion, to “abandon all efforts to prolong, through party proclamations and appeals, a controversy which has resulted so disastrously to those in whose interest it has professedly been carried on,” and to leave the problem to solve itself, through the progress of intelligence, as, by the admission of all, it is now doing. In short, the true policy, in Mr. Chamberlain's view, might be summed up in four words, “Furl the bloody shirt.”

The Pacific Coast delegation in Congress has agreed upon a new anti-Chinese bill, which is intended to make it still more difficult than it is now for a Mongolian to surmount the wall of exclusion which has been built against his race. The San Francisco *News Letter*, however, does not think that the proposed changes would accomplish much, and says that “the home of the oppressed of all nations has got to erect many more barriers before it will succeed in keeping the little brown man out.” Meanwhile there are some signs that public sentiment in California is beginning to revolt against the un-American warfare upon foreigners from China, which the worst foreigners from other nations have been thus far permitted to wage by native citizens. The editor of the San Francisco *Argonaut* tells the truth in such plain words as these:

“The refuse and sweepings of Europe, the ignorant, brutal, idle offscouring of civilization, meet weekly upon the sand-lot in San Francisco, to determine whether respectable, industrious foreign-born citizens and native-born Americans shall be permitted to treat Chinese humanely and employ them in business vocations, or unite with this idle and worthless foreign gang in driving them into the sea.”

The inaugural address of Mayor O'Brien, of Boston, fully justifies the confidence of the Mugwumps whose votes gave him such a large majority last month. After referring to the great responsibility imposed upon the Mayor by the new charter, and remarking that if the Mayor employs this power to stop waste and extravagance, he makes determined enemies of men whose sole object is public plunder, he describes his own course during the past year and lays down his policy for the coming year in these plain words:

“Regardless of threats, regardless sometimes of adverse criticism from parties who do not understand the true facts, I have given no quarter the last year to any who have abused the trusts confided to them, and, with such an emphatic endorsement from my fellow-citizens, I feel encouraged to go on with the work. Political tricksters who have merely some selfish purpose to gratify, will receive no countenance from me, no matter what party they may be identified with for the time being.”

Mr. O'Brien shows that he clearly understands the cause of bad city government when he says that “it is by yielding to these men, on account of the few votes that they control, that municipal governments, in all the large cities of the country, have become a synonym for waste and extravagance and corruption”; and he points out the only way to secure reform, in this admirable passage:

“If political parties put unscrupulous men to the front, they ought to be voted down. If political parties make combinations with men whose morality and integrity are questionable, such combinations should be discouraged and discountenanced by every good citizen. If no quarter is given to men who have no moral principle behind them, who connect themselves with leading parties merely for plunder, they will soon be stamped out, and the business of the city will be conducted, like any other large corporation, on business principles.”

The Democratic papers which felt so sure a few weeks ago that Mugwumpism was stamped out, are invited to study with attention these words of Boston's Democratic Mayor.

We find in the Boston *Herald* some remarks addressed to General Butler in reference to the alleged shortage in his accounts with the National Soldiers' Home, which are so pertinent that an early and specific response from him appears to be in order. The *Herald* alludes to the fact that the Military Committee of Congress reports a shortage in the accounts of \$200,000 in bonds and \$21,000 in cash, and thus comments:

“General Butler is getting along in years, and whether we consider him or the Soldiers' Home, a part of whose endowment seems to have disappeared, there is a demand for prompt action. General Butler has testified before a Congressional committee that he kept some of the accounts of the Home with his own private accounts, and appears to have profited by holding large balances belonging to the Home; and the question now is whether he abstracted the funds of this worthy institution and used them for his own benefit. We should be sorry to believe that a man credited with large wealth would yield to such a temptation, however much he might love money, and General Butler, who seems to have no political purpose to serve at present, cannot afford to live under the imputation of theft, especially theft of this particularly infamous character. Let us have the question settled in the courts.”

This is very disagreeable talk for the General to hear from a newspaper which is printed in the city where he lives, and which is the most widely read journal in the State of which he was a few years ago the Governor. As the lifelong friend of the soldier, as the avowed champion of the laboring man, and as only a year ago the candidate of the People's party for the Presidency, he cannot afford to remain quiet under a direct intimation that he has stolen money from soldiers, and what is much worse, disabled soldiers. By all means let him take the matter into the courts.

The *Evening Post* prints an article, translated from the Berlin *Nation*, on the general fall of prices of which the whole civilized world is complaining, and we commend it cordially to the attention of those who think that it is possible to

put prices up by some piece of fancy legislation. It is not scarcity of gold or silver, or any other form of currency, which is making things cheap. Money in any form is not scarce. It is abundant, and can be had at low rates by any one who thinks he can employ it profitably. Gold is not scarce, and cannot, in the nature of things, be monopolized by any one country. Whatever is the currency of the civilized world, wherever it may be, lies at the order of any nation which is in unusual need of it. No matter in what treasury or bank gold may be, any country which wants it can have it, by lowering the prices of the commodities it has for sale. In fact, gold goes around the world, like the “ocean tramps,” in perpetual search for a good market. It never rests or stagnates anywhere. Any community can have it by offering to sell cheaper than its neighbors. Moreover, there is little or no prospect that we are going to see again what we used ten or fifteen years ago to consider high prices. The chances are that we are now passing through a period which ten years hence will be considered by those who look back a period of high prices. The means of transportation and of communication have been so much improved, and are improving so rapidly, that whenever in any corner of the globe signs of dearth or scarcity in any commodity show themselves, it is speedily deluged with supplies from every other corner. The gradual disappearance of the great commission houses in every country illustrates the cheapening process as well as anything. Formerly foreign trade was almost entirely carried on by these houses. Dealers in other countries relied wholly on them for their information about the home market, and sold their goods through them. Now every dealer learns all he wants to know about foreign markets by telegraph, and makes his offer directly by the same medium, so that transactions which used to take from three to six months are arranged in an hour or two.

In fact, dearth, that is, difficulty in procuring the good things of this life, and above all the kindly fruits of the earth, is being rapidly hunted out of the world by civilization. Every discovery, every invention, cheapens first one thing, and then and in some degree all others. There is no use in trying to stem the tide by playing tricks with currency, or piling up high tariffs. These are only the temporary expedients at best. The volume of supplies which human industry now creates every year is too great to be long stayed by any dam that any one nation can construct. The grain and cotton trade, which we commented on a week ago, illustrate this admirably. The monopoly which we enjoyed in these things is clean gone, and it is gone because steam and the advance of order have opened up vast fertile regions which were fifty or even twenty years ago, for all practical purposes, as far from the great markets of the world as if they were in the moon. And yet we are only beginning to tap the new sources of supply. We are getting from India only a fraction of the quantities of cotton, wheat, tea, and coffee which she will probably turn out in ten years from now. The same thing may be said with regard to other commodities, of South America, of our own great Northwest, of New

Guinea, and above all, of Central Africa. The productiveness of all these vast regions is simply a question of railroads and soldiers to keep order. The notion that we can save ourselves from them by "poor man's money," or scarcity patents like the tariff, is simply an immense hallucination. The cheapening process is one which has been going on, now slowly, now rapidly, ever since the western world began to recover from the fall of the Roman Empire, and it will continue to go on until the human race has exhausted its powers of extracting sustenance and comfort from the earth. We shall of course every now and then have a good deal of squealing over it from various sects of economists and socialists, who think they can now and then get the better of nature by acts of Congress; but, like the squealing we are now listening to, it will pass. Nature has in her time disposed of a great many cranks and visionaries, as well as of a great many types and species, and to her they may be safely left.

Interesting evidence that the average length of human life has been steadily increasing for some time past is deduced from a comparison of the ages at death of Yale College graduates early in the eighteenth century and late in the nineteenth. Mr. Dexter's recent volume on the annals of that institution from 1701 to 1745 shows that of 473 graduates during that period 153 lived beyond 70 years—that is to say, 32 out of every 100. On the other hand, of 672 alumni whose deaths were reported between 1875 and 1885, there were 271 who had passed their seventieth year—or 40 out of every 100. To put it in another way, during the first half of the eighteenth century a graduate stood only 32 chances out of 100 of becoming a septuagenarian, while in the last quarter of the nineteenth century he stands 40 chances out of 100 of reaching that age. The gain in longevity is naturally greatest among educated men familiar with the laws of hygiene, but this showing is hardly more striking than that recently made in England of the extent to which the average of human life has been prolonged within the past forty years.

The action of the Virginia Legislature on Saturday will relieve Northern Republicans of one apprehension aroused by the victory of the Democrats in the November election. It will be remembered that the Republican Convention in Virginia last July adopted a resolution in favor of generous appropriations by the Legislature for pensions to disabled rebel soldiers. This became one of the chief issues in the canvass. The *Richmond Whig*, the Republican organ, insisted that the only way for the voters to insure such pensions was to elect a Republican Legislature, and it appealed to the record in support of this claim. It declared that "it was the Bourbon usurpers who killed the bill in the last General Assembly to appropriate \$10,000 to aid in establishing the home for Confederate veterans," while "the Republicans did their best to pass it," and it recalled the damning fact that at the extra session in 1884 "Mr. Hazlewood, Republican, introduced a bill to appropriate \$65,000 for the relief of enrolled and certified disabled soldiers of Virginia, and the Bourbon usurp-

ers killed it." The pledge of the Democratic Convention to remember the faithful Confederate soldiers was denounced as unworthy of belief when made by a party with such a record. The overwhelming victory of the Democrats must have aroused the keenest apprehensions regarding the fate of these rebel soldiers, and the Republican organs have been fully prepared to denounce the successful Bourbons for their expected infidelity to the Confederate cause. But the organs are not to enjoy the satisfaction of saying "I told you so." The Democrats have really turned over a new leaf, and a bill was passed on Saturday which makes as liberal an appropriation for the relief of disabled soldiers as could have been expected if the other party had been in the majority. But the organs have one consolation left—they can at least "point with pride" to the adoption of the policy of pensioning rebel soldiers by the Virginia Democrats as only another illustration of their claim that Democrats everywhere are always imitating Republicans.

The beginning of the American opera season on Monday evening was an event of national importance, and we are glad to see that it is so generally recognized as such by the press of the city. The artistic merits of the performance are considered elsewhere in these columns. The projectors of the undertaking gave an admirable proof of the sincerity of their purpose in the character of their first night's work. There was no clap-trap and no attempt to score a cheap "popular" success. The management had other works in their repertory, much more likely to make a "hit" than the one chosen, but they wisely preferred to set their standard first and then show the resources of their company afterward. They are aiming to found an American school of music, not simply to make money out of a season of opera, and they are evidently convinced that the best way to succeed is to avoid spread-eagleism and do simple, earnest, and thorough work. They have shown at the outset that America can furnish a conductor, an orchestra, and a chorus second to none in the world, and that is surely a firm foundation upon which to build. They are confident of showing within the next few weeks that America can furnish solo artists, also, who will not fall far short of this high standard. Whatever the measure of their success, the patriotic character of their endeavors entitles them to the heartiest public support and coöperation.

The *Christian Intelligencer* says: "The sensation of the year has been the revelation by the *Pall Mall Gazette* of moral rotteness among the upper classes of English society." A Christian intelligencer ought not to make such statements, especially in the last week of the year. There is no truth in this one. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has made no such revelations. There may be moral rotteness among the upper classes of English society, but the *Christian Intelligencer* knows no more on the subject this year than it knew last year. But it is true that the *Pall Mall Gazette* did make "a sensation" by the publication of some stories of extraordinary indecency.

The reported Conservative scheme of local government for Ireland, consisting of County Boards and a "Central Council," will probably fail disastrously from the outset, for the simple reason that no representative bodies can be made to work without the approval and support of their constituencies, and the Irish will now accept nothing which cannot be called a "Parliament"—that is, which will not have more extensive authority than will be bestowed on a "Central Council." In fact, it is interesting, though melancholy, to see how faithfully Englishmen are following the old lines in dealing with this new and most serious Irish crisis. First, there is the scoffing, abusive stage; then the furious, coercive stage, both of which have been passed in this case. Then comes the stage of considering whether there is not something reasonable in the Irish demands, followed by a small offer, that is, an offer of all that the most anti-Irish Englishmen can be got to agree to. This the Irish accept, but only as an instalment, and keep up the row. Then come savage denunciations by the English press and orators of Irish "ingratitude," accompanied by magazine inquiries into the nature and origin of Irish ingratitude, and its connection with Celtic blood, and then after awhile all begins over again. The argument behind Parnell, which works while he sleeps, and which every day makes greater inroads into the English mind is, "How does an Ireland like the present one contribute to the strength and unity of the Empire?"

M. Leroy-Beaulieu has been raising a great outcry in the *Économiste Français* over the responsibility towards savings-bank depositors incurred by the French Government. The Treasury takes charge of all the funds of the banks, and guarantees 3½ per cent. on them. It holds now the enormous sum of \$444,800,000, all of it, of course, payable on demand. It is estimated that not over one-half of these deposits belong to poor persons. The other half belongs to shopkeepers in good circumstances, who, in order to get over the law limiting deposits to \$400 for each person, will often have a book for each member of the family in both the ordinary and postal savings banks, and in savings banks in different localities, so that their united claims will sometimes amount to \$4,000, \$5,000, or \$6,000, all of which they can call for at any moment, and on all of which they receive a higher interest than any other demand loan on equally good security will bring. Attempts have often been made to get this interest reduced, but they have always failed before the fear of offending the working classes in the large towns. This demagoguery is now producing its natural result. It has burdened the Government with an immense floating debt, a large part of which might be called for peremptorily at some serious crisis in national affairs, and compel once more a suspension of payments, as in 1848. M. Leroy-Beaulieu finds in the Treasury practice of treating the deposits as cash on hand an evil almost as great, because it constitutes a resource outside the regular budget which is constantly tempting the Finance Minister into small extravagances.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, December 30, 1885, to TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1886, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

CONGRESS reassembled on Tuesday. Senator Beck, rising to a personal explanation in the Senate on Tuesday afternoon, said he had made no attack on the President as regards the silver question. All he opposed was the policy of locking up so much money in the Treasury. He said then, and he was not sure that he did not believe now, that if a cyclone came and scattered all this money to the winds of heaven and the people gathered it up again, it would be better than the present policy. That was all he meant.

Contrary to expectation, Speaker Carlisle did not announce his committees in the House on Tuesday.

The bill introduced in Congress proposing to allot the lands in severalty to the Indians in the Indian Territory and open up the country to settlement, is creating much excitement among the Cherokees. The opposition to alienating any lands belonging to the Cherokee Nation is intense. Their National Council has adopted resolutions declaring: "That the United States has not now and never has had any right to appraise, take, or purchase any unoccupied portion of these lands, or to appraise any occupied portion or acquire any right therein, save by and with the consent of the Cherokee Council of the Nation."

When the Sub-Treasury in this city opened for business on Saturday morning, Mr. C. N. Jordan, the Treasurer of the United States, was present to take charge of the office. Mr. Acton refused, however, to turn over the office to him, upon the ground that he should be exposing his bondsmen to loss until he could turn over the office to an officer appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. For an hour no business was done, the vaults being under seals placed there on Thursday by Mr. Jordan. At 11 o'clock Mr. Jordan, as Treasurer of the United States, took the responsibility of breaking the seals and beginning business. Mr. Acton made no objection, and Mr. Jordan took control.

It is believed that the President will nominate ex-Comptroller Andrew H. Green to be Assistant Treasurer of the United States in this city.

Mr. Valentine P. Snyder, who had been advanced through several positions in the Treasury Department, was on Wednesday appointed Deputy Comptroller of the Currency in place of J. S. Langworthy, resigned.

Secretary Manning gave another proof on Saturday of his adherence to the reformed civil-service system. The case of Owen Kellar, of Ohio, whose appointment as clerk after a successful civil-service examination Auditor Chenoweth and Congressman A. J. Warner, of Ohio, tried to prevent, will be remembered. Mr. Kellar was on Saturday appointed a permanent clerk, having served satisfactorily through the six months of the probationary period.

Mr. Cannon, Comptroller of the Currency, intends to accept one of the eligible offers that have been made to him to go into the banking business in New York. He may not retire for some months, and it has been intimated that the Administration would be glad to retain his services. Probably he will wait until the silver discussion has taken shape in Congress, and until Secretary Manning has had ample time to select a competent successor.

The boycotting of Democratic fourth-class postmasters is reported at the Post-office Department to be increasing. Citizens in some places refuse to mail letters or to purchase stamps at the home offices, and thus reduce the compensation of postmasters. The number of offices under a boycott of this kind is said to have reached 300.

The croakers will find it difficult to believe that under the administration of the Civil Service Act a colored man has secured admission to the Post-office Department. John T. Morton, of Arkansas, however, who was recently notified by the First Assistant Postmaster-General that he had been selected for appointment as a \$1,000 clerk, proves to be a colored man. His papers showed that in the examination he had been graded 73, and was a school teacher. Nothing more was known about him; his race was unknown. The Revising Board of the Civil-Service Commission had no knowledge of the applicant, except what appeared upon the record.

The United States Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal of Paymaster-General Smith, holding that an officer of the army or navy may be tried by court-martial for actions which are demoralizing in their nature or tend to bring the service into disrepute; though such actions may have no direct connection with the military duties of the defendant as an officer of the army or navy.

The Court of Alabama Claims adjourned *sine die* on Thursday. On the previous day it completed its final lists of awards in the war-premium cases, signed them, and made formal delivery of them to the Secretary of State, who is required by law to certify them to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment *pro rata*. The exact amount found due was \$10,705,371.43. The interest added raises the amount to over \$16,000,000, but this has only been calculated in order to comply with the strict letter of the law; nobody expects to get a cent of interest, and not much more than 50 per cent. of the principal. The total expenses of the court will amount to about \$400,000. This includes over \$150,000 for printing, etc., made obligatory by the law, and a like amount for the services of special counsel in all parts of the world where testimony has had to be taken. The expenses of the previous Court of Alabama Claims, which had only one class of claims to deal with—those covered by the Geneva award—and the aggregate of whose business was less than one-fourth of that of the present court, were \$254,000.

Governor Hill's inauguration at Albany on Friday was conducted with great ceremony. He was escorted from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol by a long procession. Judge Learned administered the oath of office, and the Governor then made a long speech, closing by promising to be as much a reformer as Governor Tilden was.

The canvass for the Speakership of the New York Assembly practically closed on Sunday in favor of General Husted, and at 11 o'clock on Monday forenoon the surrender of the Erwin camp was formally made. Early in the morning Mr. Erwin's friends held a conference, and, after looking the situation in the face, decided to give up the contest. Mr. Arnold, of Otsego, one of Erwin's chief workers, was delegated to go to General Husted bearing the white flag. This mission Mr. Arnold accomplished successfully. Erwin entered his canvass for reelection as Speaker with popular sentiment in his party opposed to him by reason of his action as Speaker last winter. In addition to this, for some ulterior reason, he had against him one of the strongest arrays of party managers that has been seen in Albany for years.

Both branches of the Legislature met at noon on Tuesday, and organized by the election of the caucus candidates—Mr. Pitts for President pro tem. of the Senate, and Mr. Husted for Speaker of the Assembly. The Governor's message was received and read. The most significant thing about his utterances is that even he feels the necessity of commending the work of civil-service reform and urging its continuance. He takes practically the same ground this year as last in favor of municipal reform in New York, urging the wisdom of giving the city the power of self-government, and pledging his cooperation for all genuine reform measures. He utters the usual

commonplaces about industrial interests, and throws a sop to the "labor vote" by saying that the Legislature "should generously favor whatever concerns the welfare of the toiling masses." On the prison-labor question he has nothing new to say. He recommends the abolition of the Board of Regents, as being the regents of a university which has in fact no existence, and the transfer of their powers and duties to the Department of Public Instruction; the abolition of the Board of State Charities and the creation in its stead of a single Commissioner of Charities; and the abolition of the State Board of Health and the substitution for it of a single Health Commissioner. The first public appearance of Lieutenant-Governor Jones and Secretary Cook, the former in presiding over the Senate, the latter by delivering the oath to members of the Assembly, is generally commended. Mr. Jones's address was conservative and in good taste.

Mr. Frederick Cook, the new Secretary of State, and Comptroller Chapin on Friday awarded the legislative printing to the Albany Argus Company.

The new Board of Aldermen of this city was organized on Monday and received the message of Mayor Grace. The Mayor says that it is doubtless true that the cost of the government of the city of New York is in excess of what it should be: one cause for this is alluded to in the question of legislative interference which the Mayor discusses. But that New York is misgoverned to anything like the extent claimed by the Council of Reform, is not true and cannot be maintained. The Mayor considers that the Park Department has done well and made a fair showing.

Among the articles of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State at Albany on Monday was that of the American-Pasteur Institute of New York City. The objects of the Institute are the gratuitous care and treatment by the Pasteur system of inoculation, or such variations thereof and improvements thereon as science may develop.

Ohio Republicans say that before the election for United States Senator in that State it is the intention to unseat the Democratic delegation from Cincinnati in the House, which will give the Republicans a working majority on joint ballot. The plan of the Sherman managers is to postpone the Senatorial election until this can be done. Otherwise the majority would be so small as to make a combination against him possible.

The Connecticut Supreme Court has decided that Yale students who are residents of New Haven only as students cannot vote there.

Major Kellogg, with a detachment of United States troops from Fort Ringgold, on December 29 routed a large band of Mexican revolutionists from the State of Tamaulipas who were occupying an island on the Rio Grande River near Rome, Texas, which belongs to the United States. The revolutionists crossed over to the Mexican bank of the river, and, under cover of darkness, took possession of the famous neutral island which has caused so much contention between the United States and Mexico.

The Lancaster National Bank, of Clinton, Mass., has closed its doors pending an investigation. The President, William H. McNeil, it is reported, has fled to Canada. The institution has been placed in the hands of the Bank Examiner. His investigation so far indicates that McNeil is an embezzler to the amount of about \$100,000.

A fire in Detroit on Friday destroyed the immense seed warehouse of D. M. Ferry & Co., White's Theatre, and several buildings belonging to the estate of E. A. Brush. The total loss is more than \$1,000,000, the greater part of which falls on D. M. Ferry & Co.

John B. Raymond, ex-Delegate to the Forty-eighth Congress from Dakota, died on Sunday at the age of forty-one.

Professor Charles E. Hamlin, of the Harvard Museum of Natural History, died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., on Sunday, of