

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, March 16, to TUESDAY, March 22, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has appointed on the Commission created by the Inter-State Commerce Law: Thomas M. Cooley of Michigan, for the term of six years; William R. Morrison of Illinois, for the term of five years; Augustus Schoonmaker of New York, for the term of four years; Aldace F. Walker of Vermont, for the term of three years; Walter L. Bragg of Alabama, for the term of two years.

The President spent his fiftieth birthday, March 10, quietly at the White House. Speaker Carlisle and most of the Senators and members of Congress in Washington called and offered their congratulations.

Mr. C. H. J. Taylor, a colored man, has been appointed by the President to be Minister to Liberia, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. Hopkins.

A general order has been issued by the War Department to discontinue the firing of a morning and evening gun at military posts, except at the United States Military Academy, Fort Monroe, Virginia, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, because the supply of powder remaining at the close of the war of the Rebellion, which has been used for this purpose, has been exhausted.

Application has been made to the Treasury Department for the free entry at San Francisco of a joss for a joss house in that city. It is 150 feet long and is made of wood, paper, tinsel, and metal. The Department has decided that it is not entitled to free entry, as "philosophical and scientific apparatus, statuary, paintings, drawings," etc., or as "regalia and gems, statues, and specimens of sculpture, where specially imported in good faith for the use of any society incorporated or established for religious purposes."

The captain of a Gloucester, Mass., schooner, which was seized last summer by the Collector at Port Hawkesbury, C. B., for alleged violation of the customs laws, and held until a fine of \$400 was paid, has received word from the Dominion Government that the fine will be remitted.

The Trade Convention between Cuba and Porto Rico on the one hand, and the United States on the other, which was to have terminated in April, has been prolonged to November, in order to give time for the negotiation of a treaty.

The General Assembly of Virginia met on March 16 in extra session. Its especial duty is to settle the vexed question of the State's debt. Gov. Lee recommended the appointment of a commission on the part of the State to meet a similar commission on the part of the bondholders, to make a true presentation of the revenues and resources of the State, and to determine how much the State can pay.

The Democratic Congressional Convention to nominate a successor to Congressman Reagan of Texas, who has been elected Senator, on the 272d ballot chose William H. Martin.

The Republican State Convention of Rhode Island on the 18th nominated all the incumbents of the State offices for the party candidates, namely: For Governor, George Peabody Wetmore; Lieutenant-Governor, Lucius C. Darling; Secretary of State, Joshua M. Adedman; Attorney-General, Edwin Metcalf; General Treasurer, Samuel Clark; State Auditor, Samuel H. Cross.

The bill fixing the annual salary of the Governor of Ohio at \$8,000 instead of \$4,000, as now, has become a law, to take effect after the next election.

A high-license bill in the New Jersey Legislature was so amended as to reduce the fees to

a low-license system. The purpose of the measure has thus been defeated. The movement for submitting a prohibitory amendment in Nebraska has been defeated in the lower branch of the Legislature, receiving only a small majority where two-thirds were necessary.

The Legislature of Maine has abolished capital punishment after an experiment with it of several years. The condemned are to be kept in close and solitary confinement, and no pardoning power is left to the Governor and Council, unless the convict is afterwards proved innocent.

The Richmond Hotel at Buffalo was burned on March 18. The fire was discovered at 3:30 o'clock in the morning, and the house was filled with people. Ten persons were killed—burned to death, or so severely injured that they died within a few days; four others are missing, who are supposed to have perished, and as many as twenty-five received more or less severe injuries. Two days before this fire the Miller & Greiner block of buildings was burned, and there have within a week been three smaller fires in Buffalo. The total losses are little less than \$1,000,000. In East Buffalo, on the 20th, a small hotel was burned, from which several persons escaped just in time to save themselves. A fire at the Chautauqua (N. Y.) Assembly grounds, on March 21, destroyed more than fifty buildings, including several boarding-houses and several of the handsomest cottages. The total loss exceeds \$100,000. The fire was caused by a defective flue. On the same night the Grand Central Theatre, at Troy, N. Y., and the Warsaw (N. Y.) Salt Company's Works were burned.

The succession of fatal fires in hotels has caused a bill to be prepared, which will be introduced in the New York Legislature, to require every hotel to have a rope in every room above the ground floor, so fastened as to hold a weight of 400 pounds, and coiled in plain sight by a window, so that any person will be sure to see it.

The important addition is to be made this year to the summer instruction offered by Harvard College of a course in physical training for teachers of both sexes. It will consist of lectures, examinations, and exercises, and the various opportunities offered by the University will be opened to the students under the direction of Dr. Sargent.

Mr. Robert Garrett of Baltimore, an alumnus of Princeton College, has given \$8,000 towards the new art school of Princeton. This will permit the work on the building to begin. Mr. Robert Garrett's brother, Mr. T. Harrison Garrett, gave \$7,000 towards the same purpose last spring.

Subscriptions have been opened in Brooklyn towards the erection of a monument to Henry Ward Beecher, and for the building of a free public library to his memory.

A mass meeting was held at the Cooper Union March 21, called by the Municipal Council of the Irish National League, to protest against proposed coercion for Ireland by the English Government.

Walter E. Lawton, a dealer in fertilizers, has disappeared from New York, and left obligations to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000.

The snow blockade on the Canadian Pacific Railroad has been raised, and the line is open to the Pacific Coast.

A flood in the upper Missouri River on March 18 washed away a part of the high trestle of the Northern Pacific Railroad at Mandan, Dak. The bridge and the telegraph poles were swept away, and for a number of days the town was cut off from communication in any way with Bismarck, which is on the east side of the river. At one point, where the river is usually three quarters of a mile wide, it became more than six miles wide. The ice from a broken gorge struck the railroad

warehouse at Bismarck, which is one of the largest in the world, and drove it against the bluffs. A meadow of 6,000 acres was inundated, and ice was driven over it by the current at the speed of ten miles an hour. The water rose a foot higher than the highest previous water-mark. Traffic has been delayed on the Northern Pacific since March 17. It is expected that passengers and mail will be transferred by boats on March 24. Conflicting reports have been made of the loss of life by the washing away of houses near the river bank.

An earthquake shock was felt at Summerville, S. C., on March 18, which was more severe than any since last summer.

FOREIGN.

The celebration of Emperor William's ninety-third birthday (March 22) was extended over two days. On the afternoon of the 21st he gave a special audience to foreign envoys. Every European court had sent a royal representative. Afterwards there was a state dinner to the royal guests. In the evening more than 3,000 students, bearing flags, banners, and torches, formed in procession and marched to the palace. The Emperor and Empress appeared at a window and bowed. The students called for cheers for the Emperor, "for the victorious commander in glorious battles, for the beloved father of his country, for the author of the union of the German races, for the defender of the frontiers of the empire, for the guardian of the peace of the world." The procession cheered loudly at Prince Bismarck's palace, and paid a similar compliment to Gen. von Moltke. While the procession was passing the palace the multitude bared their heads, and the cheers became wilder and wilder until the Emperor, overcome with emotion, was compelled to withdraw. The procession passed through the town to an open space, where the torches were thrown into heaps, and the students sang patriotic songs. In the rear of the procession was a long row of carriages containing deputations from German and foreign universities. Most of the schools celebrated the event a day in advance. Children in most of them received portraits and short biographies of the Emperor in memory of the occasion. On the morning of the 22d the Emperor received the congratulations of his household, and at eleven o'clock appeared at the window dressed in parade uniform, standing firm and erect, and repeatedly waved vigorous salutes to the crowd. He came to the window often during the day. The greatest outburst of enthusiasm occurred when, after the arrival of Prince Bismarck and Gen. von Moltke, all three appeared, the Emperor in the centre, with Bismarck on his right and Von Moltke on his left. The royal visitors offered their congratulations during the day, and in the afternoon the Emperor and Empress dined at the palace of the Crown Prince. In the evening they attended a soirée in the castle. During the interval between the parts of the entertainment the Emperor walked about and exchanged greetings with his guests, shaking hands with the ambassadors and their wives, saying a few words to a number of the diplomats. After the performance the company adjourned to the four supper rooms, the members of royalty occupying one, the diplomats another, and the suites of foreign princes the two remaining. The Emperor retired to rest before midnight. At all the European capitals the German Ministers held receptions.

Prince Bismarck has assured the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria-Hungary, who represented his father at the Emperor's birthday celebration, that Germany's foreign policy is pacific, that peace is assured for 1887, and that there is no cause for disquietude in either the East or West. The comment of the Berlin *National Gazette* is: "The signs of peace that are coming from all sides testify that the occasion is treated in the most splendid and un-

equivocal manner as a European peace festival. The imposing assembly of princes which has gathered around the Emperor represents the common desire of Europe to maintain the existing state of things. The alliance between Austria, Italy, and Germany, finally concluded only within the last few days, constitutes one of the firmest supports of the tranquillity and security of Europe."

The German Reichstag on March 21 passed the second reading of the Army Budget Bill, agreeing by a large majority to vote the grant which was several times rejected by the former Reichstag for the construction of military schools for non-commissioned officers.

Experiments with an explosive invented by Lieut. Graydon, late of the United States Navy, have been made at the Fortress of Spandau, near Berlin, under the supervision of German officers—it is reported, with success.

The new alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy places each of these Powers on an equality. All three will undertake the protection of the interests of each of them. Annoyance has been expressed in Paris that the treaty was signed while the attention of France was fixed upon Germany. A former foreign minister of France is reported to have said: "I would have shrunk from nothing to prevent the signing of this treaty, which I consider the most serious and vexatious event for us that has happened in the past sixteen years." But the treaty is regarded as a guarantee of the peace of Europe for some time to come, unless Russia makes the breach.

More arrests have been made of persons suspected of complicity in the recent plot to kill the Czar. An institute at St. Petersburg for the higher education of women has been closed, and the Rector of the University threatens to stop his lectures. It is reported that the Czar has received a letter from the Executive Nihilist Committee, informing him that at a sitting of the Committee on February 22 he was condemned to death. In an "official declaration," made at St. Petersburg, it is said: "The Czar's advisers are convinced that the influential classes in Russia do not consider that the time has yet arrived for the introduction of a constitutional government. Nor do the Panslavist party desire constitutionalism. State socialism, recently promoted in Germany by Prince Bismarck, is being carefully studied by the Russian Government, the Czar being well disposed in favor of such progressive economic changes in the territories under Russian sway as shall conduce to the happiness and welfare of the Russian people."

The rumor is reported from Kabul that the Amir is inciting a holy war against Russia, and denouncing the Czar as a tyrant and promise-breaker.

On his return from Berlin to Paris M. de Lesseps maintained the truth of his assertion that Germany and France were natural friends having common interests. He repeated Bismarck's assurance of this in these words: "May we some day exclaim that we should be stupid to kill each other; let us join forces and be masters of the world. We should then be able to work for the progress of civilization."

Sir G. O. Trevelyan, Unionist, in a speech at Liskeard on March 16, expressed the conviction that the leaders who had been separated from the Liberal party by their objections to the Gladstone bills would never return to that party unless their objections were definitely met, but that it was possible to reconcile the differences, and to deal with the Irish question in a manner more thorough than the half-hearted style of the Conservatives.

On the 17th Mr. Gladstone spoke at a dinner given by Yorkshire members of the House of Commons, and said that there was a growing opinion in favor of home rule even among his former opponents. He counselled Lord

Salisbury to waken from his sleep if he wished to banish his "nightmare of English politics." He repeated that it was impossible to deal with other questions until the Irish question had been cleared out of the way. The most significant parts of the speech were these: "We are agreed that Ireland asks effective self-government in affairs properly and exclusively Irish, subject to the unquestionable supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. Should she extend her demands beyond this limit, I frankly tell you I could no longer promote her cause; but so long as the demands she utters are just and within the bounds of moderation, I will stand fast to her cause during what remains to me of political life." "I accept Sir George Trevelyan's desire for reunion as proof of the loyalty of his heart towards us, but I so far differ with him that if the Tories are able to settle the question satisfactorily, I wish them with all my heart to do so. The present schism in our party is useful, showing that we, as a political body, are placing national and material questions above party considerations. While there is so much talk about offers and proposals of conferences, let us not conceal from ourselves the fact that this is strictly not a question of individuals, but one of nations, and when nations collide individuals are liable to be uncomfortably squeezed." "I at once tell you this, and make the confession that in our proposal in behalf of the Irish landlords we went to the furthest point in their behalf. I cherish the hope that it will be perfectly possible to devise a plan for the safe purchase of estates in Ireland, whereby the landlord will receive perfect security with respect to the price of his property, without trenching on the imperial credit." "What I earnestly desire is a gradual approximation of not only the Liberal ranks, but of the nation at large."

Before the Parliamentary Committee appointed to investigate the charges against the London Corporation on March 18, Mr. Firth, formerly a member of Parliament, deposed that a special committee had been appointed in 1882 to oppose the Reform Bill, and that £50,000 was expended by the Committee. He said that practically the city accounts had never been audited. Meetings held in support of the Reform Bill were raided by ruffians who had been supplied with thousands of forged tickets of admission by Corporation officials. A man named Hodge made an affidavit that he had been engaged to bribe ruffians to break up reform meetings.

The closure rule was adopted by the House of Commons on March 18, only forty-one voting against it.

The House of Commons was in session all night March 21-22, and did not adjourn till 1:25 o'clock the next afternoon. The Government insisted on disposing of the Naval and Civil-Service Bills, but the Home-Rule members, by obstructive tactics, prevented action on either measure as long as possible, because Mr. Balfour, Secretary for Ireland, had given notice of the introduction of a coercive measure. When the House met on the evening of March 22, Mr. William Henry Smith, the Government leader, moved that the bill for the amendment of the criminal law in Ireland have precedence over all orders of the day. This precipitated a long and spirited debate. Mr. Morley denied absolutely Mr. Smith's assertions as to the lawless condition of Ireland, and demanded that the Government give comparative statistics of crime in Ireland, which, he said, would show that beyond a certain very narrow area the country had seldom been quieter. The Government's proposed restrictive legislation would only aggravate such evils as existed, and would weaken and spoil whatever remedies they had in store. His deliberate conviction was that there had never been a more wanton, gratuitous, and unjustifiable resort to the ever-failing, ever-poisonous remedy of coercion. Mr. Smith and Mr. Balfour replied at length. Although neither of them made any explicit

statement of the Government's Irish measures, an analysis of their speeches shows that a definite policy has been decided upon and fully elaborated. The programme begins with the Coercion Bill conjoined with a tenants' relief bill, to be introduced in the House of Lords. The relief proposals will consist of giving tenants power to stay evictions by declaring their inability to pay full rent and wiping out the claim by surrender to the Bankruptcy Court. A measure for land purchase, based upon Mr. Chamberlain's land-bank scheme, will follow. If the Government should be defeated at any point in the development of their policy they will not resign, but will appeal to the country.

A feature of the observance of St. Patrick's Day in England was the appearance of many Englishmen wearing shamrocks.

Father Keller, a Catholic priest, was arrested on March 18 at Youghal, Ireland, for refusing to give information concerning the plan of campaign, which, he declared, he had received in confidence from members of his flock. He was carried to Dublin, and on the way crowds cheered him as the "martyr priest." At Dublin, on the 19th, he was driven to court in the Lord Mayor's carriage. Father Keller, being sworn, refused to testify as to his custody of tenants' money as trustee under the "plan of campaign." He was then committed for contempt and was ordered to enter a cab in the custody of officers. The people made a rush for the vehicle, removed the horses, and dragged it through the streets to Kilmainham Jail, where the priest was locked up. Archbishop Walsh, Mr. William O'Brien, Lord Mayor Sullivan, and Mr. Timothy Harrington, M. P., followed the priest to the jail in carriages. The people marched after them singing "God Save Ireland" and "We'll hang Judge Boyd on a sour orange tree," and they uncovered their heads on arriving there. Mr. O'Brien predicted in an address to the crowd that the conflict which had been begun would end in the destruction of Tory power and "the present infamous system of alien misrule." Father Keller remarked that his journey had been more like that of a conqueror than of a humble pastor. Archbishop Croke, in an address presented to Father Keller, said: "No Government has ever grappled successfully with Irish priesthood. The present Government will rue the day it threw down a fresh gage of battle." Mr. John Dillon, in the House of Commons, protested against the arrest, and Mr. Parnell declared that Mr. Balfour would not escape "retribution and the judgment of history as one who had entered upon a task of bloodshed with a light heart, or as one who, during a short period in office, had shown more callousness and indifference than any previous Secretary."

Bishop Keane of Richmond, Va., preached a sermon on Sunday in the Irish Franciscan Church of St. Isidore, at Rome, on the subject of St. Patrick and the Irish nation, in which he emphatically expressed a desire for greater Irish liberty.

The April number of *Macmillan's Magazine* will contain Tennyson's Jubilee Ode to Queen Victoria.

At a meeting of citizens of Halifax on March 17, it was decided to offer a silver cup valued at \$500 for a yacht-race prize on June 21, in connection with the Queen's jubilee celebration. Halifax is the only imperial military station in British North America, and on that date there will be a naval and military review there.

A public consistory was held at Rome on March 19, when the eight new Cardinals, Archbishop Gonzales of Toledo, Mgr. Aloisi-Masella, ex-Nuncio at Lisbon, Archbishop Taschereau of Quebec, Archbishop Gibbons of Baltimore, Archbishop Bernadou of Sens, Archbishop Place of Rennes, Archbishop Langénieux of Reims, and Archbishop Giordani of Ferrara, were hatted by the Pope with the imposing ceremony of the Church.

DEMOCRATIC PREPARATIONS.

It is said to be the confident belief of a considerable number of shrewd men in the Democratic party that "Cleveland cannot be renominated," and all the subsiding and pipe-laying which is now going on in this State in preparation for the Convention next year is said to be conducted on this assumption. Of course, the reasons for this opinion are various, but the most powerful one is his unsatisfactory behavior both with regard to appointments and dismissals from office. He has kept too many Republicans in their places, and he has in filling vacancies paid too little attention to recommendations. In other words, he has taken the reform talk of his party in its platforms and on the stump too seriously, and he has not taken Congressmen into his confidence as much as party custom is thought to require. Whenever the tale of these woes is told to a listener on whom they do not seem to make sufficient impression, they are apt to be fortified by a whisper that "Cleveland does not really want a renomination, and would not take it if it were offered him to-morrow"; that he is tired of official life, and longs for retirement, with the accompaniment of domestic happiness, which is now for the first time within his reach. The authority for this statement is never given, but it is usually garnished with enough nods and winks to make it appear that it comes direct from either the President and Mrs. Cleveland, or Col. Lamont, his private secretary, and therefore there is no use in attacking it on the score of improbability.

Now, we do not propose to dispute with the various adroit gentlemen who are engaged in overhauling and oiling the nominating machinery in this State, either as to the merits of Mr. Cleveland's Administration or as to the chances of his renomination. They know as well as we do, and better than we, the uncertainties which attend the action of conventions, the frequency with which the politicians of one State find their most careful arrangements completely upset by countercurrents of sentiment from other States when the Convention meets. Delusion on this point is likely to be unusually great in New York this year, owing both to the fact that President Cleveland is a New York product, and to the fact that this is the only State in which the politicians have gone to work to manufacture a rival and successor for him. Those who go to the Convention to rail and intrigue against him from his own State will think themselves greatly strengthened, therefore, by being able to offer a substitute. What we have to suggest is, that they should take into account now the absolute ignorance of that portion of the community which lies outside the circle of managing politicians, about the things which most damage Mr. Cleveland in their eyes. The reasons why he cannot be renominated are, we venture to assert, not known to-day to over one thousand of the eleven or twelve millions who will cast ballots at the election of 1888.

This, it must be admitted, is for Mr. Cleveland's enemies a state of things which cannot be remedied too soon. It will not do to let the Southern and Western delegates get together

under the impression which, we venture to assert, now prevails among their constituents, that Mr. Cleveland has done so well that not only is there no reason why he should not be renominated, but that his renomination is an absolute necessity to the party if it wishes to retain control of the Government. This, of course, may be a very false impression. It may be that the managers in New York could destroy it if they chose. It is certain, however, that it cannot be destroyed suddenly. It will take time to do it. It is no easy matter, as every one knows who has had to do with the shaping of public opinion on any subject, to rid the popular mind of an opinion once formed. Anybody who undertakes the work cannot begin too early, or repeat himself too much. Any one, therefore, who means to have the Convention throw Mr. Cleveland overboard when it meets, unless he can count on a letter from Mr. Cleveland positively declining the nomination before the Convention meets, should go to work at once to prepare reasons against his nomination which will bear publicity.

All those reasons of which we have heard anything, or which are in circulation in the inner councils of party management, are in a certain sense secret and confidential. They are the kind of objection that men communicate to their friends after dinner, or over brandy and soda in clubs and cafés, which they have generally heard from somebody else, and which it would be base to give to a newspaper reporter. But something less delicate than this will be needed to affect the Convention. Arguments must be prepared which will bear publication of the widest kind on the stump and in the press; arguments which can not only be whispered but shouted, and which plain people who do not occupy themselves much with party machinery, can understand and appreciate. We do not say there are no such arguments. We simply say that they have not yet seen the light, and that it is time that they did. The delusion that Mr. Cleveland—if delusion it be—has made a good President is widespread and deep-seated. It would be little short of madness for his opponents in this State to allow delegates from other States to be elected under its influence, and to remain steeped in it between now and next year. We trust, therefore, we shall soon see the objections to him set out in black and white.

THE READJUSTER INCIDENT.

THE retirement of Mahone from the United States Senate marks the end of a curious incident in American politics. It is true that his colleague, Riddleberger, has two years still to serve, but Riddleberger is an utter nonentity, except when he makes himself a nuisance, and has no political weight whatever. When Mahone's term expired, the Mahone party virtually collapsed.

William Mahone was a "Confederate Brigadier" from Virginia during the civil war, and a leading Democrat in the years succeeding the war. He was openly charged by the Republicans with responsibility for some of the grossest frauds by which the negro voters were cheated out of their rights, and he remained in close affiliation with the Democratic Machine

until it refused to gratify his ambition for the Governorship. Finding that it was impossible for him to control his own party, he went to work to organize another party which he could boss. The debt question gave him just the opportunity which he needed. A considerable proportion of the white voters were ready to welcome a movement for partial repudiation. The ignorant mass of black voters could, of course, be easily solidified in support of such a movement. The only thing requisite was an unscrupulous man, familiar with the worst methods of Machine politics, and Mahone exactly filled the bill. The man and the opportunity met. In 1879 a Legislature was chosen which elected Mahone to the United States Senate as a Repudiator, under the more euphonious title of Readjuster.

Thus far the matter had been purely a State affair, with which the Republican party of the nation had nothing to do. But when, upon the opening of the special session of the Senate, after Garfield's inauguration in March, 1881, Mahone went up to Washington to take his seat, the Republican party of the nation was called upon to define its position towards him. There was but one thing for it to do. It had always opposed repudiation and prided itself upon its honorable financial record. Mahone's policy in Virginia had been opposed by the white Republicans of character and honor, and a fifth of the Republicans in the Legislature had voted against his election to the Senate. He was a boss of the most odious type, whose personal record was so bad as to forfeit the sympathy of good men. Every consideration of party and public policy forbade his receiving any support from the Republicans in the Senate.

But parties were so evenly divided just then that Mahone held the "balance of power" in the Senate. He was ready to support the Republicans if they would violate all their professions of fidelity to civil-service reform, turn out the efficient Democratic officials of the Senate, and give the place of Sergeant-at-Arms to his man Riddleberger. He held out also the hope that, if properly supported by "patronage," he could make a break in the "solid South," and turn over the electoral vote of Virginia to the Republican candidate for President in 1884. The Republicans yielded to the temptation, and Mr. George Frisbie Hoar, in a burst of bathos, thus welcomed this soldier of fortune, this boss, this repudiator:

"There are Democrats in the South who do not mean to live any longer in the graveyards and among the tombs, whose face is toward the morning, and on whose brow the rising sunlight of the future generations of this country is already beginning to be visible. Of such Democrats the *avant-courrier* has already reached the Senate-chamber after long waiting and yearning. The Republicans of the North desire to stretch forth a friendly hand."

The White House was as friendly as the Senate Chamber, and a Republican President turned over to Mahone all the patronage of Virginia. Six years have passed, and what is the result of this "*avant-courrier's*" work? The public sentiment of Virginia regarding the State debt has been utterly demoralized. The Republican party of the State has degenerated into a merely personal organization, controlled for the private ends of the ruling boss. The