THE EVENING CRITIC.

17TH YEAR--NO. 5,217. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1885. PRICE TWO CENTS.

GOVERNMENT GOSSIP.

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL IN AND ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS.

Appointments by the President To-day—Mr. Keiley Will Not go to Italy—Mr. Bayard's Health—The International Postal Convention—Delegate Crawford's Return—No Successor to Judge Wylie Yet Named.

DESCENDANTS OF JEFFERSON.

Judge Bartley of this city introduced to the President to-day William Mickleham and Mrs. Mickleham, a great-grand son and a grand-daughter of Thomas Jefferson.

INDIAN SUPPLIES.

General Atkins, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, will leave the city next Monday for New York, where he will supervise the opening of bids for furnishing Indian supplies for the next fiscal year. He will be accompanied by the committee appointed the other day.

THE PRESIDENT'S CALLERS.

The President's callers to-day included the Vice-President and friends, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Navy, Senator McPherson, Congressmen Ward, Holman and Springer, Ignatius Donnelly, Judge Wylie, Rev. Dr. Bartlett and Rev. Dr. Sunderland.

LENGTHENING OFFICE HOURS.

General Hazen has ordered the extension of the hours of work from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. This arrangement will only continue, it is supposed, for a short time, as it is only designed to bring up the work now very much in arrears and secure a prompt performance of current business.

NOT MENDING FENCES.

It has been reported that the purpose of Secretary Endicott's visit to Boston has been to pacify the opposition occasioned by recent appointments in New England, which led to severe criticism of the Administration. A friend of Secretary Endicott is authority for an emphatic denial of the report that he has gone on any such mission, and says the Secretary's visit is of a purely personal nature.

PAYING FOR THE FLAGS.

The executive committee of the inauguration celebration performed its last official act to-day in depositing at the Treasury Department $257.96 in payment for the flags borrowed from the Navy Department for the decoration of the Pension building on the night of the inauguration ball, and which could not afterwards be accounted for. It is said that this is the first time on record that the Navy Department has been reimbursed for flags lent and lost.

THE NEW POSTAL CARDS.

The postal cards which will be issued under the contract to be awarded July the 1st next will be of a much better quality than those now in use. Third-Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen, who has been on a visit to the paper manufactories in New York and the East, has selected a creamy-colored paper of extra strong quality up to which the samples of all bidders must come, and which must be maintained in the cards furnished after the contract is awarded.

JUDGE WYLIE'S SUCCESSOR.

The Attorney-General was asked at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting yesterday whether the selection of Judge Wylie's successor had yet been considered. He replied that the President and himself regarded the matter as one of importance, nationally as well as locally, and that a choice would not be made in haste. The subject had no" yet been considered, and Judge Wylie's letter of resignation had not been acted upon. The matter would be one of the first to claim his attention.

SUSPENDED INSTEAD OF RESIGNING.

Among the appointments of internal revenue collectors is that of Hamilton Shepherd for the Sixth Virginia District, who is to succeed William E. Craig, suspended. Collector Craig, it will be remembered, recently declined to resign when requested to do so by Commissioner Miller. Commissioner Miller forwarded the correspondence to the President with a recommendation that he be suspended for cause. The President acted upon the recommendation with a readiness that is causing other internal revenue collectors to tremble.

UNLAWFUL OCCUPANCY OF LANDS.

Sometime ago the United States brought suit against the Brighton ranche of Nebraska for the unlawful occupancy of the public land. A survey of the land was made by the Government for the purpose of prosecuting. Afterwards the ranche people changed their fences and threw off about 25,000 acres of land. They now claim that the suit against them cannot hold because of the change of fences. Commissioner Sparks decides that such a suit can hold under the act passed just before the adjournment to prevent the unlawful occupancy of the public domain.

MINISTER KEILEY'S DECLINATION.

Minister Keiley called upon the Secretary of State soon after his arrival in this city and declined the Italian mission. Up to that time the State Department had been in doubt as to what action he would take, and as he held his commission as Minister to Rome, his movements were watched with considerable curiosity. The question as to whether Mr. Keiley will be assigned to some other post is believed to be still open. Some persons claiming to know Secretary Bayard's feelings on the subject say that Mr. Keiley's recent speech at Richmond rendered it impossible that he should be selected to represent this country at any foreign court.

SELLING ARMS TO BELLIGERANTS.

"I am very much surprised," said a prominent State Department official, "to see a diplomatist so prominent and erudite as ex-Governor Curtin quoted as saying that American manufacturers could not sell arms and ammunition to England or Russia after a declaration of war. This idea is unfounded. All through the Franco-German war and all other recent wars American manufacturers have continued to sell arms to either or both of the warring nations. In time of war belligerants and neutrals each have rights and responsibilities which are established by law and precedent. The right of citizens of a neutral nation to sell arms to nations at war has never been questioned. The persons so doing take certain risks and forfeit rights to certain protection and indemnity, but the United States is in no way bound to prevent such shipments from her ports."

REDUCTION OF LETTER POSTAGE.

Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen has, at the request of Postmaster-General Vilas, prepared a most interesting and careful statement in regard to the results during the first year of the reduction of letter postage from three to two cents. The actual revenue for the year ended September 30, 1884 (the first year during which the reduced rate prevailed), was $42,184,809, or $7,476,809 less than the estimated revenue upon a three-cent rate, and the loss by the reduction of the rate to two cents was $523,100 less than the estimated loss. The immediate falling off in the issue of postal cards was 18.6 per cent., amounting to 83,034,287 cards. General Hazen demonstrates that the actual loss growing out of the reduction was much less than these figures show because of business depression. In view of the probability of an early revival of business prosperity it is not unreasonable to expect in the near future a very large increase in the receipts from letter postage, especially as from July 1 next the unit of weight on letters is increased from half an ounce to an ounce, when we shall have in this country literally the "penny postage" of Great Britain, which, General Hazen is convinced, will prove beneficial to the Department as a revenue measure.

MR. WHITNEY'S NEW YORK VISIT.

Secretary Whitney pronounces wholly untrue the newspaper story that he went on to New York to confer with leading Democrats relative to the distribution of patronage. His sole purpose was to look after affairs at the navy-yard and wind up the business of his law office.

A THIRD AUDITOR APPOINTED.

The President has appointed John S. Williams of Indiana to be Third Auditor of the Treasury, vice Auditor Keightly, resigned. Mr. Williams is an earnest and life-long Democrat. He is a brother of General George B. Williams, well known as an internal revenue official of this country and Japan. Mr. Williams had the support of the Vice-President and nearly all the Indiana Democrats.

COLLECTOR CRAIG'S SUCCESSOR.

Hamilton H. Shepherd, who has been appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the Sixth Virginia District, in place of Wm. E. Craig, suspended, is a resident of Warrenton. At the last session of the Legislature Mr. Shepherd was a candidate for Secretary of the Commonwealth, but was defeated on a close vote by Judge H. W. Flournoy. In the late Presidential campaign Mr. Shepherd was secretary of the Virginia Democratic Committee.

SECRETARY BAYARD'S HEALTH.

A report has been published recently that Secretary Bayard is a chronic invalid, and by advice of his physician never devotes more than three or four hours a day to official work. Inquiry at the State Department elicited the information that Secretary Bayard is in robust health and is one of the hardest and fastest workers in the Cabinet. After disposing of his mail at home, he arrives at the State Department at 10 o'clock and rarely leaves his office before 6 p. m. During the business hours of the day he is constantly employed with official business.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS TO-DAY.

The President made the following diplomatic appointments to-day: Charles L. Scott of Alabama, Minister Resident and Consul-General to Venezuela; Warren Green of Kentucky, Consul-General at Kanagawa, Japan; John E. Bacon of South Carolina, Charge d'Affaires to Paraguay and Uruguay. To be Consuls: Berthold Greenebaum of California, at Apia; Albert Loening of New York, at Bremen; Joseph B. Hughes of Ohio, at Birmingham, England; John H. Putnam of Ohio, at Honolulu; Victor A. Sartori of Pennsylvania, at Leghorn, and Robert E. Withers of Virginia, at Hong-Kong.

GENERAL LAWTON'S CASE.

The President has written a letter to General Lawton saying that the opinion of the Attorney-General upon the General's alleged disability "under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was so completely satisfactory, and removed so entirely from my mind all doubts as to your eligibility, that upon reading it I at once decided to ask you to accept the position." The President adds that he has been informed by the Secretary of State that General Lawton has positively declined the Russian mission. "I," he says, "sincerely regret this determination on your part, so unselfishly formed and patriotically expressed; and, while I must reluctantly accept it as an announcement of your deliberate desire and personal wish, I can but feel that the country is greatly the loser by it."

JUDGE WYLIE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Judge Wylie paid a call of a few moments upon the President this afternoon. At its conclusion he told a CRITIC reporter that he had called on a personal errand at the request of a friend, and no reference had been made to the judgeship. Judge Wylie said that he had received no reply to his letter of resignation, and no intimation as to how soon his successor would be appointed or who he will be. "I have refrained," he said, "from making any recommendation or suggestion on the subject and have declined to express an opinion as to whether it would be best to select a man from the District of Columbia or elsewhere. My inference would be that the matter will be acted upon promptly, but I have no information to that effect. To-morrow will be my last day in court, but a vacancy for several days would not do any harm, and this is all that I know about the matter."

OUR FORCES ON THE ISTHMUS.

The Secretary of the Navy returned from New York to-day. He spent the greater portion of the morning with the President and Secretary of State. He received a dispatch this morning from Rear-Admiral Jouett stating that the marines have returned from Aspinwall to Panama and that he expects to effect a peaceful settlement of the difficulties. It is understood that further orders will be issued after consultation with the Secretary of State. Secretary Whitney said to-day that he was not fully informed as to the reasons why the marines had been withdrawn. The United States forces had no right to interfere in the Government of Panama, and were bound to recognize the authority of the insurgents, whom they found in undisputed possession. The Secretary said that Admiral Jouett was certainly right in stopping the erection of barricades, and was probably right in withdrawing upon the promise of the insurgents to preserve the peace.

COLLECTORS APPOINTED.

After yesterday's Cabinet meeting the following appointments of collectors of internal revenue were announced: Cornelius Voorhis, for the Fourth District of Missouri, vice David A. Stewart, resigned; John Whiteaker, for the district of Oregon, vice John C. Cartwright, suspended; D. Frank Bradley for the district of South Carolina, vice Ellery M. Brayton, suspended; Hambleton Shepperd for the Sixth District of Virginia, vice Wm. E. Craig, suspended. John Holson was also appointed as collector of customs for Oregon. These appointments were made upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and in accordance with the request of the Democratic Congressional delegations of the States interested. Shepperd's appointment was also requested by all the Virginia Democratic Members, and the Missouri Senators and Members united in asking for Voorhis' appointment. Brayton had the indorsement of the South Carolina Senators. Whiteaker was indorsed by ex-Senator Slater, and was the first Governor of Oregon.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MATTERS.

Mr. Crawford, late superintendent of the Foreign Mail Division of the Postoffice Department, has just returned to this country from Lisbon, Portugal, where he went as one of the delegates on the part of the United States to the International Postal Convention. Judge Otto, also of this city, another delegate, did not return with Mr. Crawford. He will make quite a tour through Europe before coming back. The Postal Convention did not make many changes in existing regulations, and these made were without great importance. The efforts of our delegates were directed chiefly to preventing certain propositions from being adopted. One of these was the scheme to do away with the transit charge for international mail matter. The United States and Great Britain fought this and defeated it. Another proposed change was the reduction of international registration to five cents. As our domestic registration fee is ten cents, such a reduction would militate against us. The proposed reduction was defeated. Mr. Crawford had a rather peculiar experience. He went away from here as superintendent of the Foreign Mail Division. When he arrived in Paris from Lisbon on the 1st instant he picked up a copy of the *New York Herald*. The first thing that he saw in it was the announcement that Mr. Nicholas Bell had been appointed to succeed him.

Minor and Personal.

Frank A. Aman has been commissioned postmaster at Hyattsville, Md.

The President invites a member of the Cabinet or some other intimate friend to dine with him daily.

It is said that the President has decided to materially decrease his hours of labor after moving to the Soldiers' Home cottage.

Captain E. W. Gould is being strongly urged for appointment as Supervising Inspector-General of Steam Vessels to succeed General Dumont.

General C. S. Williams of Wisconsin, an ex-member of the House, has resigned the position of register of the land office at Watertown, Dak.

W. H. Faulkner has been appointed a special agent to conduct the Nez Perces Indians from Indian Territory to Idaho and Wyoming Territories.

The Secretary of the Navy has received information that the crew of the Iroquois performed heroic service in suppressing a conflagration at Aukland, New Zealand.

General Sheridan, accompanied by Colonel Gregory, of his staff, will leave the city on Friday for a brief tour of inspection among the military posts of the West.

Howard B. Abbott of Virginia, a clerk of class four, in the General Land Office, and George S. Emery of Vermont, a clerk of class two, in the pension office, have resigned.

General Chenoweth, the newly-appointed First Auditor of the Treasury, visited the Department to-day and paid his respects to the Secretary. He will assume his new duties on May 1.

Charges have been preferred by the Journeymen Stonecutters Association against Architect Clark of the Capitol. Mr. Sydney A. Jonas has been appointed to hear the complaints.

The Secretary of the Treasury has refused to interfere to permit the reshipment to Colon of a cargo of cartridges seized at Panama by Commander Kane and shipped to New York.

Ex-Mayor Robert Liddell of Pittsburg opposes the candidacy of Mr. John B. Larkin for postmaster at that place. In a letter to Postmaster-General Vilas he calls Mr. Larkin a well-dressed loafer and a political Judas Iscariot, and says that he is a man who would apply for the position of rat-catcher if there was such an office.

The recent decision of the Second Comptroller that officers of the army who held brevet rank in the army during the Mexican war are entitled to three months extra pay, stipulates that the officers are only entitled to this compensation on condition that they were assigned to and performed duty during the Mexican war under the brevet rank.

In accordance with a decision of Comptroller Durham, items to the amount of $9,000 have been disallowed in the account of William Muirhead, chief supervisor of elections in Jersey City. The principal items disallowed were one of about $7,500 for transcribing the records of registration and another of $1,500 for expenses attending the examination of voters and houses.

Arrangements are being made for the destruction of the plates from which the District of Columbia 3.65 bonds were printed. The plates will be turned over to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and destroyed by a committee of which Colonel Tichenor, Auditor of the District; Mr. J. F. Olmstead of the Bank Note Company, and Mr. Denham of the office of the Commissioner of the Sinking Fund of this District will be members.

General Black, Commissioner of Pensions, says that, to fill the position of examining surgeon, personal integrity, at least five years' active professional practice and diligence are requisites, a preference being also expressed for men who have been in the military service. General Black also says that the business of the Pension Office has been greatly accelerated during the present month, and that a larger number of pension certificates have been issued than ever before.

The *Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette* states that Mr. Aaron B. Cleveland, second cousin of President Cleveland, has been appointed a whisky gauger in the Sixth Internal Revenue District of Ohio. Mr. Cleveland was a Republican until last fall, when he voted the Democratic ticket. A few years ago he was the Republican candidate for county treasurer in Clermont County. The *Commercial-Gazette* further says Mr. Cleveland attended the inauguration as the special guest of the President, whom he had not seen since their boyhood days, and was the recipient of much attention at the White House by the Chief Magistrate and his maiden sister.

The Commissioner of Pensions has directed the suspension at the Philadelphia agency of 102 pensions, which have been drawn, although the pensioners are dead. In some cases the persons in whose names the pensions were drawn have been dead since 1871. He has also directed the suspension at the same agency of pensions to seven widows who remarried in 1881, but who have continued to draw pensions ever since. General Black has requested the Attorney-General to direct that proceedings be instituted against the pension agents who made the payments and their bondsmen to recover the money thus unlawfully paid out. "This has nothing to do with my administration," said Pension Agent Norris of Philadelphia last night. "The clerk, Lawrence, who pocketed these dead men's claims, is now in the penitentiary. I helped to collect the evidence in the case against him. He simply corraled the evidence of the deaths, forged the vouchers and collected the money. I directed that these names be dropped from the rolls a long time ago, and they were dropped."

$30,000 for Injuries.

Junius Simmons has sued Leadingham & Co., livery-stable keepers, for $30,000 damages for injuries received in being run over by one of the defendant's cabs on May 16 last.

The Young Housebreakers' Case.

In the case of Mickie Walsh and Freddy Josephs, taken to the Court in General Term on a defect in the indictment, the decision was to-day reserved by the court.

A New Trial Asked.

The contestors of the Admiral Powell will, who were defeated in the Circuit Court Monday, have filed a petition for a new trial.

The Best Dressed Woman in Europe.

The Queen of Portugal is supposed to be the best dressed woman in Europe. The statement that she never wears a dress twice is an exaggeration. What are evidently referred to are dresses worn on public occasions. This is in accordance with court etiquette. It may not be generally known that the Queen of Portugal has all her morning dresses made in London, and a morning costume just finished for her Majesty is in blue and brown, a plain skirt in brown brocade in a floral design, the outline of the pattern being in pale blue. Over the skirt is draped a pointed tunic of brown cloth, with black draperies of the same. The bodice of brown cloth is shaped somewhat like an officer's shell jacket, with little gilt buttons all round the edge. Where the jacket is cut away in front a loose vest front of pale blue silk is revealed, a sash of the same being ranged like a scarf drapery passing under the basque of the jacket behind, tied in two loops.—[Cardiff Mail.

MOVING ON HERAT.

THE CZAR'S ADVANCE ANNOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Profound Sensation Created—Military Review at Aldershot—A Neutral League Reported Between Germany, France and Austria—Italy and Turkey Invited to Join the Alliance.

LONDON, April 29.—A gloomy feeling prevails here this morning, the belief being general that the commencement of open hostilities between England and Russia is now only a matter of a few days. The stock market is weak and prices have declined almost uninterruptedly this morning. The whole list is lower, but the greatest depression is in Russian bonds. Consols are fractionally lower.

THE RUSSIANS IN FULL ADVANCE.

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, announced in the House of Commons to-day that the government had received definite and reliable information to the effect that the Russians were now in full advance on Herat. He also announced that the report of the occupation of Maruchuk had been confirmed. The announcements created a profound sensation, and much bitterness was expressed by the members.

A REVIEW OF THE TROOPS.

The Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief of the army, inspected the troops who have been ordered out for active service in case of war at Aldershot to-day. The men were in the best of spirits, and their fine appearance called forth many remarks of admiration from the onlookers. The Duke in a few words complimented the soldiers, and expressed the hope that in the event of war they would acquit themselves as nobly as their predecessors did in the Crimea.

A NEUTRAL LEAGUE.

Dispatches from Berlin say that active negotiations are going on between the governments of Germany, France and Austria looking to the formation of a neutral league by those powers in case of a war between England and Russia. Italy and Turkey have been invited to join, but it is stated that neither of the latter powers have given decided replies.

The Importance of Maruchuk.

LONDON, April 29.—During the meeting at Rawal Pinde the Ameer told Carl Dufferin that though he regarded the occupation of Penjdeh as of little consequence, yet he attached the greatest importance to the retension of Maruchuk, which is half way between Penjdeh and Cala Murghab. Once the Russians gain that point they will be able to threaten Balka and cut off communiaction with Cabul. The latest Russian advance therefore is expected to bring the pending question to a crisis. The current belief is that Russia is really preparing for war much more rapidly than she appears, the Russian papers biing warned to secrecy.

RUSSIA'S INTENTIONS.

It is reported that the Khan of Bokhara earnestly warned the Ameer not to neglect Cabul and Balkh while taking steps to protect Herat, as the Russian army was massing in Turkestan near Samarcand with the intention of marching on Balkh and proclaiming Ayoub Khan as Ameer, while the Afghan army was engaged at Herat. His letter to the Ameer concludes: "I know for certain that the Russians intend not to march beyond Herat, but will cut off your line of retreat to Cabul and England's line of retreat to Candahar."

The Game of the Russian Authorities.

LONDON, April 29.—St. Petersburg advices state that despite the fact that most of the rumors prevalent are warlike, the authorities evidently wish the idea encouraged that peace is still probable.

Vassel Owners Fearful of War.

LONDON, April 29.—Two hundred and seventy vessels have applied to the British Consul at Odessa for charters for the Black Sea ports, being anxious to employ the last pause before war breaks out for freighting Russian grain to England. Though the localization of the war appears doubtful, yet Italy seems inclined to maintain a strict neutrality.

Gladstone's Speech but a Preface.

PARIS, April 29.—The journals of this city all contain editorial articles on Mr. Gladstone's speech in the House on Monday last, and are almost unanimous in saying that the Premier's remarks can only be regarded as a preface to the actual commencement of hostilities between England and Russia.

Wolseley to Return to England.

CAIRO, April 29.—General Wolseley has left for Suakim. It is believed that he will make arrangements for the immediate withdrawal of all the British troops now in Egypt. He is expected to return within a fortnight and sail at once for England.

At a Scene of Gayety.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 29.—M. De Giers, the Russian Premier, and Sir Edward Thornton, the British Ambassador, both attended a soiree given by the German Embassy last evening to the representatives of the various powers here.

News was received at the State Department late this afternoon to the effect that negotiations for peace are at an end and war practically declared.

Prescription for a Lady's Eyes.

General Hunt's father was one of the homeliest men in Washington. He was a physician. After he had practiced his profession for a time he married a Miss Ringgold, one of the handsomest young ladies in all of Maryland. This story of a marriage has been told me by an old Washingtonian: "One time I was visiting General Jackson's family when he was an occupant of the White House. During my stay I was taken seriously ill, and the General called upon Dr. Hunt to attend me. When he came into my room, where I was confined to my bed, President Jackson came with him. The two thought I was asleep, and not wishing to disturb me, they sat before the fire and began a conversation. I heard the General say: 'Hunt, how did you ever happen to marry Miss Ringgold?'

"'I'll tell you,' said the physician. 'When she was attending boarding-school her eyes were injured and she was blinded. I was called to prescribe for her. For some time I kept her eyes bandaged, and she finally recovered her sight, but she did not see me. About a year afterward we chanced to be together at a reception. She knew that I had previously attended her, and that evening she came to me, complained of suffering from a severe cold, and asked me to prescribe. I took from my pocket a blank prescription and wrote: "Dr. Hunt; to be taken immediately."

"'She read it, and looked up laughing.

"'"It's a bitter pill, doctor," she said, "and must be well gilded if I take it."

"'Our engagement followed, and soon after our marriage occurred. I didn't have much gold to gild the medicine, but managed to make enough to keep her from starving.'"—[Pittsburg Times.

General Schofield's Home Life.

Ambrose McNeill, the well-known Chicago artist, at present in Milwaukee, recently spent several weeks at the residence of General Schofield, the veteran soldier, who was lionized at the military ball, and had a good opportunity of studying the General's domestic traits. "Mrs. Schofield," said Mr. McNeill yesterday, "is a very intellectual and companionable lady, of simple habits and plain tastes, and with a kindly disposition. The General is hospitable, naturally dignified, and a great disciplinarian, but very considerate for the happiness of all around him. There are four children, but one lives in San Francisco. The family is a truly happy one. General Schofield is a friend and patron of art, and is, in fact, very much of an artist himself."—[Milwaukee Sentinel.

GREATLY IMPROVED.

General Grant Feeling Better and Thinking of Work Again.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The ulcerated portions of General Grant's throat, from which broken-down tissue has been sloughed away, have materially improved. The cancerous trouble, at the base of the tongue, is neither lessened nor is it at present aggressive. It is quiescent. The weather of the past two days has been as a tonic to the system and spirits of General Grant. He has now so far improved physically that his mind is becoming engaged with the blocking out of work upon his book. The General slept well last night and felt better than on Sunday, which was at that time the best day since the improvement began.

DECORATION DAY.

Extensive Preparations for Celebrating the Event This Year.

Extensive preparations are being made by the Grand Army of the Republic for their annual memorial celebration on Decoration Day, the 30th of next month, and from present appearances the ceremonies will be more generally indulged in than in the past. Secretary Lamar has written a letter cordially approving of subscriptions being taken up in his Department for Decoration Day expenses, saying:

"You have my full authority to present subscription lists to the persons employed in the Department, and to others doing business there or happening to be there, for such contributions as may be willingly made."

It is also understood that like permission will be issued by the heads of the other Departments. A meeting of the Memorial Committee was held last evening at Grand Army Hall, corner of Ninth and D streets, which was largely attended.

The principal business transacted was the appointment of committees to select orators, poets and singers, and to arrange for bands and decorations. A new feature in the preparations for the decorations for this day last year was the contribution of flowers gathered by school children. Several wagon loads were gathered in this manner. It was also decided to ask again the co-operation of the school trustees in having the school children to gather flowers. The following is the list of committees appointed:

Reception — Department Commander Brooks, Senior Vice-Commander Burke, Junior Vice-Commander Wisner, Assistant Adjutant-General Cameron, A. G. M. G. Gunning.

Finance—Comrades Faunce, Dowd, Knockey, Fleetwood, White, Hopkins, Weaver and Urell.

Decoration and Grounds—Ingram, Smith, Thatcher, Arnold, Hitchcock.

Transportation—Wisner, Lewis, Husted, Music—Fitbian, Blakelock and Holland.

In charge of Soldier's Home—J. H. Jochum; Congressional Cemetery—J. M. Piper; Battle Cemetery—N. B. Prentice, J. W. Butcher; Oak Hill Cemetery—D. W. Houghton; isolated Graves—John O'Reiley; Invitation—Commander Brooks; Press—Cameron, Husted and Ingram.

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 11, and the committee were urged to hasten their work and make a final report at the next meeting.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT NOTES.

BIDS FOR STREET SWEEPING.—The Commissioners received bids to-day for street sweeping. There were only two bidders, Messrs. J. S. Filbert and L. P. Wright. The contract is to begin on July 1 next. The bids of Mr. Filbert were 29½ cents per 1,000 yards for 1 year, but if given the contract for 3 years he will do it at 28½, and if he is allowed to do it for 5 years, 27½. Mr. Wright bids 28½, 28½ and 28 cents.

PURCHASE OF MACHINES CONTEMPLATED.—The Commissioners are looking into the advisability of buying machines and doing the sweeping themselves. Mr. Filbert, who has several patent sweeping machines, offers to sell them to the District for $750 each.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.—Building Inspector Entwisle has issued a number of orders to take down wooden buildings and repair other buildings that are dangerous. He stated to a CRITIC reporter that the new building regulations give him control of wooden buildings now that are dilapidated beyond one-half of their original value. He has condemned a large number of buildings, and ordered some of them to be taken down and the remainder to be repaired. Walter A. Smith is notified to take down house 921 Eighth street in 30 days. Samuel Norment is notified to take down house No. 923 Eighth street in 30 days. Charles Shreves is notified to take down 2340 Seventh street extended in 30 days. Henry Hepburn is notified to strengthen the back building of 945 Maryland avenue in 15 days. Frank Browning is notified that the back building of 121 A street northeast is dangerous, and will have to come down in 30 days. Thomas E. Waggeman, agent, has been notified to take down the back building of 916 Delaware avenue in 15 days. Frank Tibbett has been notified that the openings in party wall between houses 1618 and 1620 Fourteenth street being 4-inch walls, will have to be changed to 9-inch walls. C. Cattleman has been notified to repair the rear wall of 715 Seventh street in 15 days. F. T. Browning is notified to repair the rear wall of 713 Seventh street in 15 days.

PERMITS TO BUILD.—Permits to build have been granted to C. F. Reed to erect a store and dwelling on Eleventh street, between Q and R streets, which will cost $4,000; Misses R. and M. Garrett, to erect dwellings on Tenth street, between D and E streets southwest, $3,000; Thomas T. Keane, to erect a dwelling on Third street, between D street and Virginia avenue southwest, $1,000.

Wants His Property.

Charles H. Asher has filed a petition in the Probate Court for the property of his father, John Asher, deceased. The property consists of $1,300 in money, and is in the possession of General P. H. Sheridan.

PERSONAL MENTION.

—Hon. John Keenan, New York, is at the Ebbitt.

—C. E. Gladstone, London, Eng., is at the Arlington.

—Rev. C. H. Turner, Fort George, Fla., is at the Ebbitt.

—Frank E. Griswold and wife, Albany, N. Y. are at the Arlington.

—Ex-Marshal Henry left last night for his home at Cleveland, Ohio.

—Pierce Dergan of Idaho, a wealthy mine operator, is the guest of Mr. Hugh Wallace.

—Robt. Menss, Northampton, Eng., and M. G. Freebody, London, Eng., are at the Ebbitt

—Theo. Wright, C. A. Griscom and Howard Pusey, all prominent Philadelphians, are at the Riggs.

—Hon. John I. Martin of St. Louis left for the West this afternoon. He was at Norfolk yesterday and made thorough inspection of the Russian corvette.

—William M. Merrick of Maryland, an applicant to succeed Judge Wylie on our District bench, was born on September 1, 1818, consequently he will be 67 years old in September next. He is half brother of Hon. Richard T. Merrick of this city.

—A large party of excursionists from Philadelphia registered to-day at the Riggs. The party consists of John H. Dye and wife, George S. Webster and wife, C. W. Close and wife, Wm. Albertson, wife and daughter, J. Kay Little and wife, Joseph Johnson and wife, Miss Vogles, W. C. Crammer and wife, W. H. Batt, Miss Robinson, Thomas Daly, Samuel L. Smedley, F. Milton Tilton and wife.

EDWARD L. SCOTT, colored was acquitted of a charge of embezzlement in the Criminal Court this morning.

ADVERTISING FOR SUPPLIES.

Paymaster-General Smith Describes the Method Employed.

Before the Naval Court of Inquiry to-day Paymaster-General Smith described the manner of advertising for supplies. The advertisements are prepared in the office of the Secretary of the Navy, but are based on memoranda furnished by the several bureaus. According to the witness' recollection the first contract made with the bureau was that of November 11, 1882.

The witness was asked if Mr. Brown was a regular dealer within the meaning of the law in the articles which he contracted to supply. He said that was a matter of construction which was not determined by the bureau but by the Secretary of the Navy.

For many years Mr. Brown and many other merchants were accepted as regular dealers in many miscellaneous articles of supply, which they were not allowed to furnish. Since the contracts in question were made, Secretary Chandler had made a decision under which Brown and many others were ruled out. Brown had appealed from the decision of the Paymaster-General to the Secretary, but the latter had sustained his Paymaster-General, and Brown had not been admitted as a dealer in a certain class of supplies to furnish which he had heretofore been a bidder.

The witness said that when it was evident that a bidder was offering articles at a preposterously low figure it was customary though he was the lowest bidder not to give him the contract, but to some other dealer whose bid was evidently the most advantageous to the Government. The witness said that the contract for the mattresses had been awarded to H. G. Ostermoor & Co., though A. P. Brown was the lowest bidder. The prices offered by Brown were regarded fictitious. Ostermoor & Co. are the only manufacturers of the mattress that was required. Brown had never, as the witness knew of, furnished mattresses.

The contract for 100,000 pounds of sugar was given to J. R. Michaels at 9 5-16. A. P. Brown was the lowest bidder at 9¼. The witness did not recollect why Brown had not received the contract. It was probably because he withdrew his bid.

THE ODDEST CLAIMANT OF ALL.

A Man Who Wants to Sell Out His Postal-Card Inventions.

The following peculiar claim was received by Postmaster-General Vilas to-day, from Jersey City, N. J.: "I, M. K. Mycoeth, am the inventor and sole owner of the model now used by the people of the United States and sold at the postoffices. The model is called 'United States Postal-Card.' It has a picture of my face engraved on the post-card model. I got it up for use of the business-men of the United States, but for the accommodation of the general public I allow it to be manufactured by the United States Government and sold at the United States postoffices. I have been very liberal with the Government, and am a pretty good fellow, as the saying goes. You might like to make some more cash than your salary to go on the road, so I want a settlement and some of those little jokers called golden dimes. And now comes the question—I want to see you about this postal-card matter. I will sell the model of the United States postal-card, from which thousands are now manufactured and sold to the people. I will sell out for $200,000 in Government bonds or cash. To own it is a money mint. Let me hear from you by return mail. You was out when I was in Washington, and I cannot come en again just yet, but will sell or must have some arrangement made with the Government. You know I own all above the cost of manufacture, but want to give you a chance to make money. I have something new, for I want to adopt a two-cent postal, and one good turn deserves another. There is money to be made and we can all use it. I am sole owner of all the inventions for one-cent, two-cent and three-cent postage-stamps. I want to see and hear you, for I own the inventions for all Europe in postal-cards."

Accompanying this letter were a number of small pictures clipped from old magazines. One of these was labelled as follows: "Child's picture of M. K. Mycoeth, born in the United States: am now 36 years; I will try and run for President of the United States four years from now, God willing."

Metropolitan Club Matters.

The following appears in the Washington correspondence of the *New York World*:

"A contest is going on in the fashionable circles of the Metropolitan Club here. When the club was first organized an attempt was made to guard against gambling. The laws in the District are very strict on that subject. Nearly every club which has been formed here in the past has been involved in some scandal through the gambling of its members. The Americus Club here last season was raided by the police. It retorted after the raid with the charge that there was no more gambling within its walls than in the Metropolitan Club. It claimed that the gambling in the latter resort was of such a character as to warrant its being raided also by the police. It further charged that the members of the latter club enjoyed immunity only because they had more influence. There has been very high play at poker in the Metropolitan Club this year, which has been kept up this spring. The conservative members of the club are trying to have poker abolished in the club, and have prepared a petition for circulation in the club. In this petition they allege the necessity for abolishing the game of poker in the club upon the ground of possible scandal, which would cloud its name. The petition has already from fifteen to twenty signatures."

Meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

The meeting of this society will occur at Baltimore on the 6th and 7th of May. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, ever alive to the wants of the public, have arranged to sell tickets for this occasion on the 6th and 7th, good to return until the 7th, inclusive. Among the organizations which have signified their intention of attending this meeting at Baltimore are the following: Washington Cadet Corps, under command of Major C. A. Fleetwood; Capital City Guards, commanded by Captain Thomas S. Kelly, and Morton and Sumner Posts of the G. A. R. These organizations will leave here on Thursday, May 7, at noon, via Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Fare for the round trip $1.50.

Birds' Flight to Newark.

One hundred and ten homing pigeons belonging to the Newark Club were released in Washington at twenty minutes to eight yesterday morning. The sky was rather cloudy, and consequently the time made was slow. The first bird to arrive at the owner's coop in Newark belonged to George S. Bond, but the first carried to the rendezvous was a silvered bird owned by Mr. A. A. Allen. It was stipulated that the bird first carried to the corner of Broad and Market streets should be adjudged winner. Mr. Allen's boy made the best speed by running behind a wagon with one hand on the tailboard and the other clutching the bird. He arrived at the designated corner at 1h. 21m. p. m., making the time five hours and forty-one minutes for 196½ miles. Mr. Bond's bird was one minute later and one of A. P. Baldwin's birds came to hand 1h. 38m. William Bennert's bird was fourth at 1h. 40m.

SALVATION OIL, the great pain-cure, is sold by all druggists and dealers in medicine at 25 cents a bottle.

MIDDLETON IN A BOX.

CRITICAL CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN THE NORTHWEST.

The Halfbreeds Planning Further Mischief and Inspired With Fresh Confidence by the Result of the Recent Military Engagement With the Dominion Troops.

WINNIPEG, MAN., April 29.—There is no news from General Middleton, the wires being down, but a Qu'Appelle dispatch says the halfbreeds and Indians are concerting a plan of attack. There are 500 halfbreeds there who want to rob and plunder. Their sympathies are with Riel and their friends are fighting with the rebels. The result of the recent engagement in the north inspires them with contempt for the military and with faith and confidence in Riel. The Indians have been disaffected for some time on account of harsh treatment by those in authority over them, and it is known that they are secretly preparing for a rising.

The situation is considered very grave, surrounded as Qu'Appelle is by twenty Indian reserves. Arms are being distributed to the settlers, but when the rising occurs it is feared the settlers will be in bad positions. There are two battalions of troops at Qu'Appelle, and every precaution is being taken to meet an emergency. Colonel Otter's column at Battleford is scouring the country for Indians, and expects a fight at any time. It is expected that the troops will make a descent upon Poundmaker's reserve in a day or two.

Removing West Virginia's Capital.

WHEELING, W. VA., April 29.—The work of embarking the property of the State, preliminary to removing the seat of government to Charleston, was begun yesterday, and will be continued until Friday, at the close of business, on which day this ceases to be the State capital. The State authorities have been located here ten years, occupying free of cost a handsome capitol building erected for the State by the city. In 1879 a vote of the people was had on the question of removing the capital, and Charleston received a majority of the votes cast. In 1879 the State began building a capitol building at Charleston, which is not yet completed. There has been some talk here of enjoining the government from removing, but the matter is thought to have been dropped. The present State-House will now be used as a city hall.

The American Medical Association.

NEW ORLEANS, April 25.—The American Medical Association met in annual session here yesterday. The names of about five hundred doctors were registered and three hundred more are expected to arrive to-day. The session was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Palmer, followed by the introduction to the convention of the president, Henry F. Campbell of Augusta, Ga. Dr. Samuel Logan of this city delivered an address of welcome, which was followed by the annual address of the president. A number of papers were read by members from different parts of the country, and reports of special committees were made. The feature of the night session was the discussion of reports of committees.

An Opera-House Destroyed.

RAHWAY, N. J., April 29.—The opera-house, Freeman's carriage factory and other buildings were destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. Most of the property would have been saved but for the bursting of the water mains, which prevented the firemen from doing effective work. The principal losses are the opera-house, scenery, pianos, etc., belonging to the estate of Gordon, the printing-press manufacturer, about $40,000; John Freeman's building and machinery, $23,000, and carriages, $10,000. About $10,000 worth of finished stock was saved. John Helm's dwelling was burned; loss, $3,500. There is insurance on all the losses.

A Doubtful Victory.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 29.—The sculling race between Layberger of Pittsburg and Austin Stevenson of Vallejo came off yesterday after two postponements. Stevenson won by 13 lengths. No time was taken. The general verdict is that the race was sold. Layberger was the favorite and there seemed no doubt that he could have won.

The Sailing of the Strelok.

NORFOLK, VA., April 29.—The Russian corvette Strelok quietly left the harbor at 11 o'clock last night. Her destination is unknown. The British man-of-war Garnet is still in Hampton Roads. The general belief here is that the corvette is trying to steal away from the Englishman.

A Fight Over Division Lines.

BALTIMORE, MD., April 29.—While Mr. Lamar, a wealthy planter of Prince George's County, was sitting with his wife and child on their portico on Tuesday, another planter named Morris rode up and fired a revolver, inflicting a serious and perhaps fatal wound. There was a feud between them about some division lines.

MINOR NEWS NOTES.

The Lindell Hotel, at St. Louis, Mo., was damaged by fire yesterday to the amount of about $60,000. The flames did not extend above the parlor floor, and fortunately the house was cleared of its guests without accident.

A box containing $60,000 in unsigned bank-notes of the Banco Mexicano, stored in the custom-house at Paso del Norte, was broken open and robbed of all but a $5,000 package yesterday. Three custom-house officials are under arrest on suspicion. Steps have been taken to notify all sections of the State of Chihuahua of the robbery.

The *Bosphore Egyptien* affair has been settled through the intermediary offices of England upon the following bases: Egypt apologizes to M. Tallandier, the French Chargé d'Affaires; the office of the *Bosphore Egyptien* will be reopened and the journal allowed to reappear forthwith, and France abandons her demand for the recall of the officials who forcibly entered the *Bosphore* office, in view of Egypt's apology.

The Mexican Mission.

The announcement that General Jackson had declined the mission to Mexico created great surprise in that city. A special to the *New York Herald* says:

"The decision must be a sudden one, for communications received here from General Jackson had specified the 15th of May as the time of his departure from the United States. Mr. Philip H. Morgan, the United States Minister for the last six years, who was superseded by General Jackson, received his letters of recall some time before, but has not presented them to President Diaz. It is understood at the Foreign Department that the delay is by request of the State Department at Washington, in order that there may not be an interval during which the United States should be without diplomatic representation. This, of course, was very desirable in view of the strained relations between this country and Guatemala, and of the pendency of legislation in the Mexican Congress touching the reciprocity treaty."

To-Day's Temperatures.

The Signal Office furnishes the following synopsis of the weather:

Local meteorological report for April 29, 1885: Thermometer readings at 3 a. m., 41°.5; 7 a. m., 42°.2; 11 a. m., 53°.0.

Report for April 28, 1885: Mean temperature, 55°.8; maximum, 72°.0; minimum, 48°.2; mean relative humidity, 62.7 per cent.; total precipitation, 0.01 inch.

WEATHER INDICATIONS.

For Thursday, warmer, fair weather is indicated for the Middle Atlantic States.