

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letters and telegraphic dispatches must be addressed New York Herald.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—The Lion. Matinee at 1 1/2.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Union square, near Broadway.—The Wicked World. Matinee at 2 1/2.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—Everybody's Friend, &c. Afternoon and evening.
BROADWAY THEATRE, 728 and 730 Broadway.—A Lady's Dress. Matinee at 1 1/2.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Eighth av. and Twenty-third st.—Ballet. Matinee at 1 1/2.
PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn, opposite City Hall.—Masks and Faces. Matinee at 2.—New Madras.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, 25th st. and Broadway.—Fortune. Matinee at 1 1/2.
LYCEUM THEATRE, Fourteenth st.—Still Waters Run Deep.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, Sixth av. and Twenty-third st.—Ticket of Leave Man. Matinee at 1 1/2.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street and Irving place.—Italian Opera. Matinee at 1.—Musons.
METROPOLITAN THEATRE, 55 Broadway.—Variety Entertainment. Matinee at 2 1/2.
MRS. F. R. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—Gretta Cross. Matinee at 1 1/2.
THEATRE COMIQUE, No. 54 Broadway.—Variety Entertainment. Matinee at 2 1/2.
GERMANIA THEATRE, 14th street and 3d avenue.—Der Lehrling.
OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Broome sts.—The Black Crook. Matinee at 2.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston sts.—The Black Crook. Matinee at 1 1/2.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 21 Bowery.—Variety Entertainment. Matinee at 2 1/2.
BRANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av.—Nasco Minstrelsy, &c. Matinee at 2.
RAIN HALL, Great Jones street, between Broadway and Bowery.—The Fulgrim. Matinee at 2 1/2.
STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—Grand Afternoon Concert.
ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th avenue.—Grand Concert. Matinee at 2.—Dramatic Recitals.
THE RINK, 3d Avenue and 6th street.—Menagerie and Museum. Afternoon and evening.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Saturday, Dec. 6, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

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THE ONLY WAY to settle the Cuban question is to take Cuba.

THE LATE STORM, which was comparatively light along the Atlantic seaboard, assumed the character of a summer hurricane in its course west of the Alleghanies, from Memphis to the Great Lakes. At various intervening points there were lightning and thunder, hail and rain, and in numerous localities trees, houses and barns were blown down and fences swept away. A tempest so violent and sweeping over such a vast extent of country as this we may confidently expect will soon be followed by a great reaction.

IT IS REMOVED that Fish is again about to write warlike despatches to Madrid. We hope not. It would be too crushing. Vox et præterea nihil.

NOTHING COULD BE FAIRER than the last mild request of Captain General Jovellar that our government refrain from pressing its demand until such time as the bravos of the Casino Español can be conciliated. Having conceded almost everything else to appease the Spanish wrath, why not "give up the ship" too, or, at all events, wait for it until we can get it without hurting the tender feelings of the Volunteers?

The Defiance of the Cuban Volunteers—Shall We Longer Delay the Vindication of Our National Honor!

The dangerous policy adopted by the authorities at Washington in the Virginia case has produced its natural results. Our forbearance is mistaken for weakness, or, perhaps, for cowardice, by violent men who only understand the logic of brute force. From the first moment we warned the government that its efforts in the cause of peace would end in failure, and now the soundness of our views has been vindicated by the stern logic of events. The milk-and-water policy of Secretary Fish has compromised the dignity of the nation without even securing the ignominious peace he sought to thrust upon us. We are no advocates of war, but we want no hollow peace when the honor and the interest of the nation are the price at which it is to be obtained. Had the President consulted his own strong common sense and patriotic instincts we should have been saved the ignominy of seeing our overtures for compromise rejected with disdain. But it is our misfortune to be represented in our dealings with foreign States by men who think no sacrifice of dignity too great to secure peace. When once questions involving the national honor are handed over to the care of our diplomats the result ceases to be doubtful. Intermittent despatches are exchanged, filled with words signifying nothing, and only intended to mislead public opinion and induce acquiescence in a peace-at-any-price policy. Mr. Fish has already distinguished himself by an ability to muddle plain questions in a way to puzzle the public and turn the nation's attention from points of vital interest. The result has been most unfortunate for our national reputation. We have taught the world to believe that we can be insulted with impunity and that outrages committed against our national sovereignty can be compounded at the cost of a few thousand dollars.

The growth of this sentiment is fraught with danger to our citizens and to our interests. Had a more worthy policy been followed no foreign State would have dared to haul down our flag on the highway of the sea, and to slaughter the men who had trusted their lives to its protection. We shall not enter on the discussion of the aims or motives of the men taken on board the Virginia. The question we have to deal with is one of principle. To uphold the doctrine that an American ship, carrying the national flag, is an integral part of our territory America has before now drawn the sword, and, whatever the cost may be, we must insist that American vessels on the high seas shall be free from visitation or search. We have been charged by the Hessian press with favoring war, but we have urged strong measures only because we have been convinced that an honorable peace could not be obtained. We knew the men with whom the nation had to deal, and that, however well disposed the government at Madrid might be to do justice and afford satisfaction, it was powerless to enforce obedience in Cuba. The soundness of these views can now be judged when no misrepresentation of partisan newspapers can longer conceal the gravity of the events transpiring in Havana.

The seizure of the Virginia at sea was a flagrant violation of international right. The ship was known, both at Washington and Havana, to be an American ship entitled to the fullest protection of the American flag. The question of her seizure was therefore lifted out of the domain of diplomatic chicanery, and ought never to have been allowed to become the subject of lengthened correspondence or discussion. The duty of the government was clear. An act of war was committed by a foreign ship, resulting in the capture, imprisonment and death of American citizens. Such an outrage called for signal and speedy reparation. The insult to our flag was deliberate and should have been atoned for in a manner that would have left no room for doubt that apology, to be followed by ample reparation, had been made. But Mr. Fish's paltering policy led us into the devious paths of diplomacy, from which we emerge with honor and dignity torn to shreds. The insult to our flag that should have been answered by a demand for instant satisfaction, and, if refused, by immediate action, has been allowed to become the subject of long-winded discussion, while our trampled flag, wet with American blood, lies on the deck of the captured Virginia a worthless rag, to be spit upon by the vile Havana rabble.

When the seizure of the Virginia and the massacre of a portion of her crew became known throughout the civilized world there was but one voice of universal condemnation, and nations looked to see the American government vindicate the honor of the flag in a manner worthy of a great people. No one dreamed that the outrage would have been tamely endured and made subject of rose-water despatches. The insult in its nature demanded swift punishment or signal reparation. Had our fleet gone down to Cuba with orders to bring back the Virginia and her surviving passengers, by force, if necessary, our action would have met with universal approbation. Even the English press was prepared to approve the annexation of the island as the best means of putting an end once and forever to the atrocities of the Hispano-Cuban volunteers. Now the English press begins to question the legality of our pretensions. This is not to be wondered at, for England has ever desired to exercise the right of search. We can therefore comprehend the motives for the sudden change of opinion. But America has always refused to permit the right of search on the high seas in time of peace, and no administration would dare to abandon our traditional position on this most important point.

We have been urged by the Spanish partisans in this country to take no action which might embarrass the government of Castelar. While we have the fullest confidence in the good faith of the President of the Spanish Republic we hold, and have held from the beginning, that he is powerless to make the orders of his government respected in Cuba or to force the volunteers to obey. We shall regret being compelled to adopt severe measures against even an insubordinate province of a sister republic; but we cannot allow the safety of our citizens, or the honor of our flag to be imperilled by any people, no matter under what form of government they may choose to live. We demand that the rights of our citizens shall be respected by all men, and

when the government of a country is unable to secure our flag from insult at the hands of a portion of its subjects we must take upon ourselves the punishment of the wrong doers. This is our position to-day. It has become evident that Spain can no longer control the Hispano-Cuban volunteers. She can no longer offer guarantees for the execution of her treaty stipulations in Cuba, because the violence and passion of a section of the population will not permit reparation to be made to the offended dignity of our country. We cannot submit to this mob dictation, and, since Spain can no longer make herself obeyed, we must step in and enforce respect to law and vindicate our injured honor.

Spain entered into a solemn engagement to restore the Virginia to the American nation as some apology for the outrage committed against our flag. And now a wretched cut-throat mob has interposed its veto to the fulfillment of a treaty engagement between two great nations, and we must pause, and our injured honor must wait, and make conditions with a vile rabble! This is what is meant by a demand for delay in the fulfillment of an engagement to secure which Mr. Fish sacrificed no small portion of the nation's dignity. What a monstrous sight! Two great nations bullied by a truculent mob! It is not possible for this country tamely to submit to such dictation, and no course remains for President Grant but to appeal to force. There is now no question between this country and Spain. The Havana volunteers have virtually declared themselves independent by defying the orders of the Madrid government. They have no longer the right to cover themselves with the Spanish flag, and we hope General Grant will take decisive steps to crush this nest of land pirates. Whatever the Hessian press may say, the people will support the President in an energetic and decisive policy. Spain admits, through the mouth of Captain General Jovellar, that she can no longer enforce obedience in Cuba to her government or her laws. She cannot, therefore, quarrel with us, because we shall only step in to punish outlaws who have defied the government of their own country and heaped insult and outrage on a friendly nation. If she should make such action on our part a cause of quarrel she must abide the consequences. Spain fails to fulfill her engagement to deliver up the Virginia, and there remains no choice for us but to take her by force. Whatever it costs, the Virginia must be taken to an American harbor. We owe this much, at least, to our dignity and to our safety. The nation will expect to see the fleet go down to Havana and bring the Virginia back. If the mob refuse to let her go, then we must appeal to force. Run out the guns, and let them speak.

JOVELLAR HINTS VERY PLAINLY that the Spanish Volunteers are a greater power than the combined forces of the United States and Spain. Really we are not sure but he is right.

Safety on the Ocean.

Some good propositions have been made in the Chamber of Commerce on this subject, to which Congress will be asked to give the sanction of its legislative authority, and to which it will be requested to call the attention of other governments as proper matters for international regulation. The one important and immediately practicable point is in regard to laying out courses for steamers. Hitherto this has been only suggested and recommended, and the recommendation has been so little attended to that only one company has given orders to its captains in accordance with it. It is now proposed to enforce by law the sailing of steamers in definitely indicated courses, which would certainly render it impossible for steamers to collide with one another and would reduce to the lowest possible point the chance of collision with sailing ships, as these would then know exactly where to look out for steamers. Unfortunately, Congress has but little authority in this matter, and none over the vast majority of seagoing steamers, as they are under foreign flags, and we cannot legislate to control their conduct beyond our jurisdiction; but no doubt the representation of our government would have much weight with other Powers. It is also proposed that every ship shall carry an electric light, and that the stairways and passageways on steamers shall be kept lighted all night. Perhaps the electric light will be a subject of some difficulty on account of its expense, but the latter proposition is one without that objection and should be accepted without hesitation by every steamer company. At the hour when the Ville du Havre was struck the stairways were all in darkness, for the lights are generally out at midnight, and, perhaps, many a one now gone down lost, while groping in the dark, the valuable time that would have sufficed to reach the deck. Any one can see in a moment's thought what confidence, as well as assistance, a light would give in such cases, and it is to be hoped the steamer companies will understand this as readily as the public may.

CONGRESSIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.—By the number of bills for the return of the grabbed salary we are shown a new trait in the Congressional character—the grab showed that the members would filch the public purse, and the bills show that they will try to play honest when caught at it.

ENGLAND AND THE VIRGINIA.—It is reported by cable that the London Times says Her Majesty's government must demand from Spain the surrender of the British subjects captured on the Virginia, but must not commit itself to the proposition that the seizure of the ship was illegal. If the seizure of the Virginia was not illegal it was legal, and if she was legally seized by the Spaniards the persons found on board are justly prisoners in the hands of the Spanish authorities, and England, therefore, has no right whatever to demand their surrender. As the Times is not likely to argue manifest absurdities of this sort we assume that its views are inaccurately represented in the telegram from London. English subjects, like other people, are amenable to Spanish law when charged with violating it if they have come properly into the hands of the Spanish; and the demand of England for the release of her subjects commits her to the view that they did not properly fall into the hands of the Spaniards—that is, that the ship from which they were taken was illegally seized.

Evil Committee-Making.

If Mr. Blaine went to work to appoint the committees of the House of Representatives upon the principle of giving the worst men the best places he has succeeded charmingly. Though the odor of the Crédit Mobilier exposures hangs about the garments of Dawes and Garfield and Kelley and Scofield, they retain their old places—the first as chairman of the Ways and Means and leader of the House, the second as chairman of Appropriations, the third the second place on Dawes' committee and the last as chairman of Naval Affairs. Comment upon this action of the Speaker is almost impossible, so base is the act. The reputation of these men is so soiled and besmudged that to hear Dawes and Garfield talking virtue is much like listening to the Evil One counselling sinners to pursue the straight and narrow path. Young Mr. Hale, of Maine, is not so youthful a man to hold the second place on the Committee on Appropriations as most people would suppose, for he is the Speaker's other self. Wheeler, O'Neil and Starkweather, who are on the same committee, are all men who ought not to be entrusted with the expenditure of the people's money. Poor old Mr. Hooper has been "bounced" from the chairmanship of the Committee on Banking and Currency, Maynard taking his place. In the present Congress this committee is one of the most important, and it is unfortunate that it should have a Cheap Jack for a chairman. Eldridge retains his place on the Committee on the District of Columbia, and altogether it is arranged as a convenient instrument of the Washington Ring, Sypher, a young man who earned a very bad reputation in a very short time, is chairman of what ought to be an important committee—that of Expenditures in the Treasury Department—and has the second place on the Committee on the Pacific Railroad. There is neat irony in making General Butler chairman of the Judiciary Committee—a position for which he is amply qualified—and giving his bitterest enemy, E. R. Hoar, the second place on his old committee, the Revision of the Laws, of which Poland is chairman. Last year Blaine doomed Butler to this Botany Bay of the House, and Judge Poland for some offences—blundering, we infer, in C. M. transactions—is sentenced to penal servitude this year. The democratic members from this city all get good places and the republicans bad ones. Wood takes Brooks' place on the Ways and Means, Cox succeeds to Wood's old place on Foreign Affairs, Roberts goes on the hard-working Committee on Claims and Creamer is put upon the Pacific Railroad Committee; but, of course, democrats do not count in this Congress. On the whole, Mr. Blaine did his work as badly as it was possible to do it.

NOT A SINGLE AMERICAN WAR VESSEL has yet been seen about Havana. If the sanguinary Volunteers should rise to-morrow and attempt to massacre American residents where could they find protection? And yet, with this terrible danger menacing hourly, our government hesitates to send a fleet to Havana, lest the Volunteers might take offence.

Give Them Time, by All Means!

We are a polite, forbearing and patient people, and the buchu diplomat who signs protocols for us is the paragon of politeness, forbearance and patience towards anybody who will help him in any of his buchu plans. He was so patient with Castelar that we almost wept when we saw how anxious he was to concede everything which American honor demanded rather than hurt Castelar. Castelar wanted a little time, and Secretary Buchu conceded it. Admiral Polo wanted until Christmas Day before Spain should purge itself of contempt to our flag by saluting it; Secretary Buchu bobbed his topknot in the dust in his haste to grant all that the Spanish Admiral wanted. From Castelar we come to Jovellar, and now the latter wants time. Can Secretary Buchu refuse? Castelar got what he wanted, why not Jovellar or Burriel or any other-ar? Castelar got a month; let us be more generous to Jovellar. The bloody-minded Casinos are at fever heat, and it may take a year or two to cool them off. Let them have time—as much as they want of it. Señor Soler wants time too. He should have half a century. American honor is such an elastic thing, under Secretary Buchu's policy, that it can surely stretch as far as to accommodate Jovellar and Soler as Castelar. Now, let them be given a year, or two years, or seven years, to settle all the business they have on hand—to cool off the volunteers. Let Congress vote several cargoes of ice to aid the cooling process; but let our war ships be got ready, let our volunteers be mustered, and then let these hot gentlemen of the bloody minds be peppered until the island of Cuba is rid of them. Give the officials and everybody all the time to cool they want, but let them do it in their way, and in their own country, while we make Cuba too hot to hold them.

SECRETARY FISH IS ANXIOUS not to give offence to the bloody murderers of poor Fry and his fellow victims. But the butchers of Santiago de Cuba did not hesitate about giving offence to us when they trampled on our flag and slaughtered those who had trusted their lives to its protection.

THE CONGRESSIONAL PANIC.—The conscience-stricken Congressmen who supported the back-pay larceny and the increased salary bill last session, following the lead of Senator Conkling, are rushing in bills by the score for the repeal of those measures. A single bill would answer all purposes, but every terrified sinner desires to be able to say to his constituents that he had a finger in the repeal pie. Many a culprit has convicted himself by shrieking out his innocence as soon as the weight of the policeman's hand has been felt on his shoulder, and these Congressional grabbers, by their eagerness for repeal, only render their responsibility for the larceny of last session the more apparent.

CONGRESS HAS A GREAT DEAL to say about back pay, but not a word about Cuba. Our Representatives are more concerned about their own political standing than about the honor of the American nation.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON a draft of fifty convicts was made from Sing Sing and sent to the prison at Auburn. Among them were Walworth and Ingersoll. We are afraid this will be very disagreeable news for the criminals' friends, as it certainly will prove most depress-

ing to the spirits of the criminals. What the convicts at Sing Sing particularly dread is transportation to Auburn, where the discipline is more strict, where the chances of escape are fewer and more difficult, and where the convict is uncheered by the spectacle of the river and the passing ships. No friend of humanity can regret that the bonds are tightening around two culprits, who, whatever may be the difference between the kind and intensity of their guilt, have done more than ordinary criminals to deserve the doom which has been accorded them.

Russia and England in Asia—The Future.

The interest shown in Asiatic affairs by the American people finds an interesting expression in a communication which we print in another column from "An Englishman." The comments of the HERALD upon the Russian movement into Asia and that future, swiftly coming, as many men believe, when the Englishman and the Cossack will stand sword point to sword point on the confines of India, do not meet with the approval of our correspondent. It is not the tendency of the English mind to underrate any danger, and it is hard to understand how the Crimean war, which taxed the resources of the British and French empires, would have been fought in obedience to the drifting and shifting public opinion which our brilliant correspondent informs us now exists in England in reference to the Russian question. We can well understand the present Czar is an easy-minded, stout-hearted gentleman, who drinks champagne as he leans over the back of a chair, and cares more for peace and quiet than for Russian aggrandizement; but there were Czars before Alexander, and there will probably be Czars after him who will have more earnest and ambitious purposes. What Russia may be to-day is no criterion of what she may be in the future, with a more enterprising monarch—one like the first Czar named Alexander, who believed his mission was to reconstruct Europe in a sort of mystical obedience to the Greek religion, or some of his ancestors, like the foolish prince who fell in love with Frederick the Great, and the prince, still more foolish, who would have joined in the alliance with Napoleon if he had not been killed one night by a party of conspirators. In a government like that of Russia—called by Talleyrand, we think, an absolute despotism tempered by assassination—it is a mistake to accept the doctrine laid down by our correspondent, that there is an indifferent policy towards Asia in the minds of its rulers, and that to this policy public opinion in France and England is even more indifferent. We have seen no Power grow with more steadiness, more zeal for aggrandizement, than Russia. The anxiety shown by the Russian government during the Prussian and French war to break the Black Sea treaty; the sensitive feeling in England in reference to this very Khivan movement in Central Asia; the ever growing thought that these two Powers, separated by nature and space and civilization upon one continent, will some day meet face to face in another; the happy feeling that seems to have come to those who believe in peace by the proposed marriage of an English prince with a Russian princess; all these indications, added to those which we see every day in the journalism, in society and in politics in England and Russia, only strengthen us in the conviction that our correspondent underrates the value of the Asian question and knows Russia well enough to see the humorous phase of her strange people, but does not examine her closely enough to give her rulers credit for the ambition of the future.

If anything would strengthen this belief it is the correspondence which we have printed from the Russian column in Khiva. The movements of the army of General Kaufmann and the policy which has controlled the Russian General in dealing with the powers of Central Asia in themselves controvert the opinions of "An Englishman." What we see in the critical statements of our able correspondent is that Russia presumed to quarrel with the Khan of Khiva, marched a well-commanded army into his dominions and has taken possession of the Khanate under circumstances which show an intention to hold the country. Yet with diplomatic tact this is done so as to excite no jealousy on the part of England or create a policy that might lead to war. When a complaint is made of Russia advancing into Khiva the answer is that the Czar, having imposed a fine upon the Khan, simply holds his army in the territory of that Prince until the indemnity is paid. The imposing of an indemnity by a power like Russia upon such a potentate as the Khan of Khiva is as absurd a proceeding as it would be for the American government to inflict upon the Modoc Indians an indemnity for the cost of the Modoc war and to send an army into their country to hold it until the successor of Captain Jack would find the means of satisfying the demand. In other words, the indemnity is simply a pretext. It satisfies England, France, Germany and those Powers who may care to trouble Russia for information as to her intentions in Asia. But we all know, as our correspondent so clearly and logically shows, that before this indemnity can possibly be paid the advance of Russian civilization, and the steady, silent progress of her armies will succeed in time in giving the power of Russia as permanent a hold upon the half-civilized people of Khiva as it now has in the Caucasus and the Crimea.

At the same time there are many opinions expressed by "An Englishman" which will have a peculiar interest at this time when American readers are called upon to follow General Kaufmann and his army through the deserts of Central Asia. As a criticism upon Russian society and manners it is of great value. But we do not accept the conclusions at which he arrives. We still feel that Russia does not go into Central Asia simply to drill her troops or give a holiday to her officers; but with the stern, inexorable purpose to hold Khiva, and to go beyond, even to the borders of India; and that the time will come, unless we have such a change in Asiatic politics as appears to be impossible, when the Englishman and the Cossack will stand sword point to sword point and dispute through many a battle the dominion of those ancient and fertile Empires.

BOTH CONGRESS AND THE CABINET have a pacific tendency—some Southern Pacific and others Northern Pacific.

Our Latest Degradation—The Miserable Subterfuges of the State Department.

The people of the United States are disposed to be very lenient with the authorities at Washington who at present hold control of the government in regard to the Virginia trouble. War is an evil to be avoided as we would avoid a plague or any other great calamity, and if the administration can procure peace consistently with the honor of the Republic it will be entitled to the gratitude of the country. But there is a point beyond which the patience of the people cannot be expected to go. Secretary Fish recently arranged with the Spanish Minister terms of peace which every American felt to be disgraceful, but which many preferred to war. The Virginia was to be delivered up to us immediately, at a port to be agreed upon between Mr. Fish and Admiral Polo. This was the first and chief condition of the protocol. But the Spanish-Cuban authorities declare that the Virginia shall not be surrendered at all; and now we are told that our government will so far recede from its position as to "wait until the delivery can be effected in a way that will give the least offence to Spanish pride." We are further informed that the arrangement between Secretary Fish and the Spanish Minister did not contemplate that the Virginia should be delivered up to us in Havana or any other port, but that she should be "taken from the harbor of Havana and conveyed beyond its jurisdiction, and then delivered to such United States vessel as might be sent to receive her."

Is our government demoralized? Do the authorities at Washington suppose that the American people will patiently suffer their standing as a first class Power and an honorable nation to be thus hartered away by a miserable diplomatic huckster? Translated into plain English, this new degradation means that we are to prowl about the harbor of Havana, waiting patiently until by some ruse the Spanish agents of the Madrid government can steal the Virginia, sneak with her out of reach of the volunteers and the guns of Morro Castle, and deliver her into our possession. Having been robbed by a highwayman we are to stand shivering round a corner until a policeman stealthily brings back our property and restores it to us. We are not to confront the robber, lest our presence might give him offence. And for such a "surrender" of the Virginia we are asked to overlook the violation of law and treaty in the seizure of the Virginia, the outrage on our flag, the bloody slaughter of poor Fry and his fellow victims, the insults to our Ministers and Consuls, and all the other wrongs inflicted upon us by the outthroats of the Spanish colony. We may well ask, who has been the offender in this matter—the United States or Spain? The dastardly conduct of our administration would put Spain in the position of the injured party and make us the real aggressors.

Congress.

During the last two days (to say nothing of the Senate) the table of the House has been deluged with bills introduced from all sections of the Union and upon a great variety of subjects. Conspicuous among these bills were the numerous projects presented for the repeal or for modifications, more or less, of the obnoxious increased salary and back pay bill of the last Congress. The necessity of "work meet for repentance" has evidently fallen upon the House and all in that body concerned in that scandalous back pay experiment. Next, numerous financial projects were introduced—good, bad and indifferent—and still they are coming in. In the miscellaneous list which followed were bills to regulate railway freights; to aid in the construction or widening of several grand canals, North and South; to assume the debts of the Southern States; to reduce the postage on letters; to restore the franking privilege; to repeal the iron-clad oath and to grant belligerent rights to the Cubans.

The Senate was not in session yesterday, having on Thursday adjourned over to Monday; but in the House the day down to the announcement by the Speaker of the standing committees was occupied in the introduction of more bills. The number already on the House calendar for this session is hardly less than five hundred. "If we have such things in the green tree what shall we have in the dry?" An interesting little resolution, offered in the House yesterday and adopted, was that of Mr. Hoar, directing the Secretary of the Navy to communicate any facts he may possess tending to show what legal or equitable claims the owners or officers or crew of the Tigris or any other persons may have on the United States for assistance rendered to the officers and crew of the Polars. This means that all such persons are to be rewarded for the timely and valuable services, and we hope soon to announce the passage of the bill.

SECRETARY FISH HAS KEPT ALL our war vessels away from Havana out of consideration for the "pride" of the "pirates and slavers" of the Casino Español. If American citizens should be butchered in Havana Secretary Fish would be responsible for their lives.

MEXICO AND CUBA—INTERESTING INFORMATION.—We have a special despatch from the city of Mexico, via Matamoros, from which it appears that a commissioner from the Captain General of Cuba had arrived in the Mexican capital to buy provisions, mules, &c., for the Spanish forces in Cuba. This looks as if our Spanish belligerents in Cuba were preparing for the possible contingency of a more active campaign than any they have had for some years past. We are confident, however, that a force of five thousand American volunteers could settle with all the fighting Spaniards from one end to the other of the island. The trouble lies in the fears of our Secretary of State. He has heard so much of the terrible fighting qualities of those Spaniards in Cuba that they have frightened him. In his present frame of mind he would probably agree to furnish those terrible Spaniards all the provisions and mules they want with a promise from the Casino Español not to carry their war into the United States.

THE PROPOSED NEW MODE FOR ELECTING A PRESIDENT.—The Indianapolis Sentinel, a paper that is supposed to speak by authority on the special topic, asserts that Senator Morton is sanguine that his new scheme for electing a President will meet with general support. He thinks he has adjusted the details so as to meet all objections by small States that would be lost sight of in a massed vote of the people.