

IN SENATE.

TUESDAY, May 16, 1876.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D.
The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Mr. DENNIS presented a petition of citizens of Maryland, praying that the internal-revenue tax on home-made brandies be so modified as to exempt entirely from the tax a certain quantity for home consumption or reduce it one-half on the whole quantity made; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THURMAN presented a memorial of medical gentlemen of Zanesville, Ohio, remonstrating against the passage of the bill to incorporate the national surgical institute of the District of Columbia; which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. SARGENT. I present the petition of Alexey W. von Schmidt, of San Francisco, California, who recites that he is the author of an invention which is patented for removing obstructions to navigation, and that his method is being infringed upon by the Government of the United States at Hell Gate, Willett's Point, and other places. He states that if this infringement were by a private citizen he would have a remedy at law, but as it is by the Government of the United States he has none, and he therefore asks leave to bring suit in the Court of Claims. As the petition relates to operations being carried on by the Engineer Corps, perhaps it would be better that it should go to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Why not have it go to the Committee on Patents?

Mr. SARGENT. It is not a question of the extension of a patent, or anything that ordinarily comes within the province of that committee, as I understand it.

Mr. EDMUNDS. It is a question of infringement, the petitioner says.

Mr. SARGENT. The evidence whether it is an infringement or not perhaps will be best shown in the Court of Claims. If the Committee on Military Affairs, on consultation with the War Department, are satisfied that there is a collision between the rights of this party and the action of the Government, I suppose they would authorize a suit of that kind. As they are in communication with the War Department in ordinary business, perhaps they would have more facility for investigating the case. I am not particular, however, about the reference to the Committee on Military Affairs, but suggest that committee on account of the intimate relation between it and the Department.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Undoubtedly that would be very convenient; but, on the same principle of the relation of committees, if an Indian agent were infringed in the use of his patent by the Government his claim of infringement would have to go to the Committee on Indian Affairs. I think the essential reason of the thing is that if it be a matter which grows out of a patent-right and a claim upon the Government in respect of the Government infringing the use of the patent, the Committee on Patents is the proper committee, because they are supposed to be able to understand better than the rest of us on a cursory examination whether there is any *prima facie* ground for the claim.

Mr. SARGENT. I am very well satisfied with the Senator's reasoning.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Of course the Senator sees the point of my objection to the petition going to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. SARGENT. I have no doubt the Committee on Patents will act fairly, and I am satisfied with the reference suggested by the Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The petition will be referred to the Committee on Patents, if there be no objection.

Mr. WHYTE presented the memorial of Alexander Brown & Sons, C. Morton Stewart & Co., and other merchants of Baltimore, in relation to the distribution of the balance of the Geneva award and in favor of the passage of the bill providing for the payment of war premiums, hulls, and cargoes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BOOTH presented a resolution of the Legislature of California and a petition of the State officers of California and 700 others, praying immediate legislation on the part of Congress to quiet the title to certain school lands donated by Congress to the State of California; which were ordered to lie on the table, as he was about to report a bill on the subject.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. KELLY, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 270) relating to pre-emption claims, reported it with amendments.

He also, from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 351) to create an additional land office at Colfax, in Whitman County, Washington Territory, reported it without amendment.

Mr. SHERMAN. I am directed by the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 149) to amend the act entitled "An act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved June 3, 1864, to report it back and ask to be discharged

from its further consideration. The purpose of the bill is to enable creditors to proceed against the stockholders of a banking association upon the failure of the receiver or comptroller to answer the complaint of the creditors. This matter has been already provided for by amendments reported from the committee to a House bill, so that this bill is not necessary.

The report was agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 456) to reduce the interest upon the public debt; provide for a safe and elastic currency; for the speedy appreciation of the value of Treasury notes and national-bank notes to that of coin; and to guard against panics and inflation of bank credits, asked to be discharged from its further consideration; which was agreed to.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I am instructed by the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 686) to amend the second, fourth, and fifth sections of the act entitled "An act to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of this Union, and for other purposes," approved May 31, 1870, and as a substitute for sections 5506 and 5507 of the Revised Statutes, to report it with amendments. This is the bill introduced by the Senator from Indiana [Mr. MORRIS] to endeavor to bring the statutes of the United States up to a "concert pitch" with the decisions of the Supreme Court on the subject of civil rights and the right of suffrage. The committee have carefully considered it and have made such amendments as they thought were desirable. I wish to give notice that at the earliest opportunity, which I shall endeavor to find very soon, we shall ask to have the bill taken up and disposed of.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 2826) to refund and remit certain duties to Peter Wright & Sons, reported it without amendment.

Mr. OGLESBY, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 1947) granting to the city of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, a certain piece of land, reported it without amendment.

He also, from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 2110) for the restoration to market of certain lands in the Territory of Utah, reported it without amendment.

He also, from the same committee, to whom was referred a memorial of the board of county commissioners of Saline County, Kansas, in favor of the passage of the bill (H. R. No. 1545) declaring lands heretofore granted to certain railroad companies subject to State taxation, asked to be discharged from its further consideration; which was agreed to.

He also, from the same committee, to whom were referred two petitions of citizens of Emmett County, Michigan, praying for an amendment of a law in relation to public lands in that State and in favor of extending the time for actual settlers to make homestead entry for one year from March 3, 1876, asked to be discharged from their further consideration; which was agreed to.

Mr. OGLESBY. If it will meet the favor of the Senate I would be very glad if the Senate would take up and pass—for I think there will be no debate about it—House bill No. 3136, reported from the Committee on Public Lands yesterday, extending the time within which homestead entries upon certain lands in Michigan may be made. The reason why I ask its present consideration is this: There are one or two townships in Michigan where certain tribes of Indians were to have title and be settled under some legislation to be had subsequently. That legislation has all been had, and the title those Indians have to the land has been settled. Patents have been issued to them in regard to those lands. There are certain valuable pine lands in the same townships, timber lands valuable for the pine upon them. That pine land was reserved for the public by the act. There are also in the township other lands not pine lands, not mineral lands, and not Indian lands; simply public lands. The act, which passed a year ago, held that land for occupancy by homestead settlers open for one year. That year expired in March last. Sixty days from that time it will be open again to entry by purchasers. The committee thought that as it was simply public land, and not the township's land, and free from any objection in the world, it should be open to homestead settlement. This bill simply provides that the homesteaders may settle upon it and get the benefit of it, as they do in every other State and Territory in the Union. The sixty days will very soon expire. The bill has passed the House, is now in the Senate, and, if there be no objection to it, it will pass in a minute or two, and then the homestead settlers may take about 10,000 acres of land left yet for that purpose.

Mr. MITCHELL. I should like to inquire of the chairman of the Committee on Public Lands whether the bill will probably lead to debate?

Mr. OGLESBY. Not at all.

Mr. MITCHELL. If not, I have no objection to its present consideration; but, if it is to lead to debate, I must object.

Mr. OGLESBY. The explanation I have made about it is all there is of it.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senator from Illinois asks the present consideration of the bill he has named. Is there objection?

Mr. OGLESBY. I am under the impression that another matter, perhaps of rather more pressing importance than this bill, will be worthy of the attention of the Senate; and that that subject may re-

ceive due and prompt attention I yield the floor to the Senator from Oregon [Mr. MITCHELL] and withhold my motion to take up the bill until to-morrow morning.

Mr. McMILLAN, from the Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 129) for the relief of the heirs of Asbury Dickens, reported it without amendment.

Mr. WRIGHT. I present the views of the minority upon the bill, which I ask may be printed with the report of the committee.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. That order will be made.

Mr. CLAYTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. No. 1071) for the relief of Lieutenant James B. Sinclair, United States Army, reported it with an amendment.

Mr. BOOTH, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. No. 805) relating to indemnity school selections in the State of California, reported it with an amendment, and submitted a report thereon; which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. CAMERON, of Wisconsin. I am directed by the Committee on Claims, to whom were referred the bill (H. R. No. 2160) for the relief of Lewis Goodwin, and the bill (S. No. 103) for the relief of Lewis Goodwin, late keeper of the light-vessel at Brant Island Shoal, in the State of North Carolina, to report adversely upon them. At the request of the Senator from North Carolina, [Mr. MERRIMON,] I ask that the House bill go upon the Calendar, but that the Senate bill be rejected.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The House bill will be placed upon the Calendar with the adverse report of the committee and the Senate bill will be rejected, if there be no objection.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. McMILLAN asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 832) to increase the pension of Helen M. Stansbury; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Pensions, and ordered to be printed.

He also asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 833) granting a pension to Johanna Luskey; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Pensions, and ordered to be printed.

He also asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 834) to restore to the pension-roll the names of Bridget Ahern and Catharine Maloney; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Pensions, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DORSEY asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 835) for the relief of the Industrial Home School of the District of Columbia; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HARVEY asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 836) for the relief of Alexander Repine; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KELLY asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 837) to provide for a reduction of the area of the Nez Percé and Fort Hall Indian reservations, in the Territory of Idaho; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DENNIS asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 838) for the relief of William C. Spencer; which was read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

IMMIGRATION OF CHINESE.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, I gave notice yesterday that I desired to-day to submit a few observations on the general subject of Chinese immigration; and if it is the pleasure of the Senate that I shall proceed now I shall feel under many obligations.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. Is there objection? The Chair hears none.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Do I understand that to be a desire on the part of the Senator to proceed beyond half past twelve o'clock?

Mr. MITCHELL. I should like, if it be the pleasure of the Senate, to have the time extended until I shall have finished what I desire to say.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I certainly have no objection as an accommodation to the Senator, if there is unanimous consent.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. Is there objection?

Mr. SHERMAN. How long does the Senator desire to speak?

Mr. MITCHELL. Half an hour or three-quarters.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Chair hears no objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, the bill of the honorable Senator from California, [Mr. SARGENT,] presented by him yesterday, not having been printed, I have not had an opportunity, of course, to examine its provisions. I have, however, a general knowledge, I think, of their import. I move, therefore, to take up the resolution introduced by the Senator from California a few days ago, having reference to the reformation of the treaty with China.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senator from Oregon moves to take the resolution offered by the Senator from California [Mr. SARGENT] from the table. The Chair hears no objection, and the following resolution is before the Senate:

Resolved, That the Senate recommends to the President that he cause negotiations to be entered upon with the Chinese government to effect such change in the existing treaty between the United States and China as will lawfully permit the application of restrictions upon the great influx of Chinese subjects to this country.

Mr. MITCHELL. I was about to say that not having had an opportunity to examine into the provisions of the bill introduced by the Senator from California yesterday, I desire more especially to speak to the resolution now before the Senate.

The importance of the questions involved in the pending resolution and the magnitude of the evil sought to be remedied have induced me to vary from my more usual course of keeping silence in this Chamber. Nor would I now depart from my customary course were it not for the fact that the Pacific States and Territories are, more than any portion of our country, the theater upon which this new evil, dangerous, threatening, imminent as it is, as I believe, to our moral, social, and political structure, is exhibited in all its loathsome features and degrading tendencies. Perhaps, Mr. President, no question of graver import could be presented to the consideration of the American Senate than that involved in the general subject of Chinese immigration and the results it must necessarily have upon our civilization. It is a question, to my mind, that the Congress of the nation cannot evade if it would, and one that it cannot afford to ignore if, by any possibility, it could.

The evil, Mr. President, which this sudden and alarming influx of the Mongolian race is casting upon our common country is one which to my mind, which to the minds of the people of the Pacific coast, menaces to-day the stability and purity of our moral peace, the integrity of our social and political structure, and jeopardizes and disturbs the civilization of our age. And, sir, as the offal of the slaughter-house and the putrescence of the cess-pool will the more readily and the more completely impart impurity and general pollution to the small stream near the mountain-side than to the deep, broad river nearer to the sea, so will communities that are new, sparse in numbers, weak comparatively by reason of their infancy, like those of the Pacific States and Territories, be more likely to be trampled down, corrupted, and defiled by this species of immigration than will be those communities that are older and more firmly established, like those that exist on the Atlantic coast.

Standing, therefore, in their infancy, comparatively, as do the people of the North Pacific coast, face to face with a population of over four hundred million people, in the very gateway, if you please, of the Chinese empire, of a people the dregs and the debased of whom are by the thousands upon thousands to-day flooding our country, is it at all strange that this people should appeal to the Congress of the nation in terms of more than ordinary earnestness for some measure of relief against this great evil?

It would be useless for me, after the very able argument of the honorable Senator from California, in which he elaborated truthfully the evils of Chinese immigration upon the Pacific coast, to detain the Senate for any great length of time in any attempts on my part to add, or attempt to add, either to the verity or the loathsome character of the picture so truthfully and so vividly drawn by him. He has stripped of its bandages this festering sore which, like a plague-spot, has fastened itself upon the very vitals of our western civilization and which to-day threatens to destroy it. And, Mr. President, almost at the expense on his part of a violation of the conventionalities of speech in reference to delicacy in the use of terms in this presence, he has presented this sore to the gaze of the Senate, the country, and the world, in all its sickening putrefaction and contaminating touch. He has arrayed before you witnesses from the courts, from the prisons, from the almshouses, from boards of trade, from chambers of commerce, from city, county, and State authorities, and from private citizens as well, whose concurrent testimony establishes beyond the possibility of successful contradiction the alarming facts, that the effect of Chinese immigration upon the Pacific coast is to degrade the industry of the country, to subordinate the labor of the honest, hard-working, free American citizen to that of the dishonest, servile legions of a rice-eating and heathen race; to establish within our borders a system of serfdom equal to, and, I think I may say with safety, infinitely worse in some respects, than any that has ever heretofore cursed our country with its iniquity; to debauch and defile our youth; to corrupt the channels of trade; to set upon the face of our beautiful cities the degrading seal, the disgusting impress of Asiatic life and manners; in a word, to contaminate and blast our civilization with the degrading tendencies of a people numbering nearly, if not altogether, one-half the entire population of the globe; a people whose history, customs, habits, modes of life, and aspirations have for ages, and must of necessity continue to be for centuries yet to come, surrounded in the shades and consequent darkness of heathenism.

O, but says one, even admitting our physical power to inhibit this class of immigration to our country, yet upon the broad principles of humanitarianism, on the doctrine of the right of expatriation, our doors should not be closed. No, say they, not even against the criminal heathen of the nations; but, on the contrary, this asylum of ours, of which we are all so proud to speak, and the more especially in this centennial year, should, like the gates of gospel grace, stand forever open night and day to all people, of all lands and creeds and tongues and customs and habits and dispositions and aspirations, and of all virtues and vices as well.

This, Mr. President, is all very fine, and in sentiment and theory may be all very well; and I concede, as a general rule, with exceptions perhaps as to criminals and paupers, it may with safety to our institutions be applied to the Christian nations of the world. But it does seem to me that the people of America, the people of the United States, should have some regard for themselves, and while they are willing that the light of our civilization should be diffused among the millions, that

the humanizing and Christianizing influences of our institutions should be extended to all lands and among all peoples, yet at the same time we do absolutely owe something to ourselves; and the question here presents itself whether our civilization, pure, ennobling, strong, powerful, and good as it is to-day, can afford to stand the corruptions and the deadly vices that must necessarily result to it from flooding our land with a nation of criminal, debased, and debasing slaves; whether we can afford that our land should be overrun and our institutions permeated with the influence of a pagan people, uneducated, as a rule, save in the worst vices of a dark age, a people schooled in a forum presided over by neither God nor conscience, guided and controlled in their course of conduct only by the gratification of their lusts, restrained solely by a cruel superstition, which in most cases transforms the most infamous crimes into the fancied virtues of their race, such as the abandonment of their young, their sick, their aged, their decrepit, their dying, to the tender mercies of the elements; a people that never have been and never can become attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, nor be well disposed toward the peace and good order of our country; a people whose religion is pagan, and whose god an idol, whose element of warfare against decent, respectable society is that irrepressible stench that inevitably arises from the dens and caverns in which they in our cities do congregate more like unreasoning beasts than reasoning men. The question is whether we can afford to submit our civilization and our institutions to all the untold horrors that must necessarily result to us and our posterity, to the peace, the good order, the general welfare, the tranquillity of our country, by planting in our midst a people such as this? Can we afford, in justice to the poor, hard-working, toiling millions of the land, men and women, who earn for themselves and their families their daily bread by the sweat of their faces, to see their means of subsistence filched from them by a species of serfdom, by a slavery, if you please, the very counterpart of which, in years not long gone by, evolved an issue in this country which drenched our land in blood?

The question presented, Mr. President, is not an old one. As stated in an article recently published in the New York Nation, and referred to by the honorable Senator from California in his speech the other day—

California—
And the editor might have added the whole Pacific coast—is the only American community and, in fact, the only western community from the beginning of history which has had any experience of the actual effect of a Chinese immigration. The immigration from which we in the Eastern States are obliged to draw all our inferences as to the probable effect of such an experiment has been from countries which are allied to our own by race, language, religion, or customs; and the few Chinese whose acquaintance we have made have been chiefly objects of curiosity to us. To California they have come in numbers, and, speaking a different language, worshipping unknown gods, keeping alive imported customs and traditions, they form almost a separate caste. Now such a state of affairs is, under our system of government, very difficult to deal with. In mediaeval times it would have been simple enough, because laws and customs would have arisen based on the inferiority of one race and the superiority of the other.

The question then, Mr. President, is a new one, and it is as difficult, complicated, and intricate as it is new. It is not a question as to obligation, or duty, or power with reference to our attitude toward or our dealing with those inferior races and classes of people which from time immemorial, from the earliest period of our country's history, have formed a part and parcel of our population. From those, under the judicious management and guidance of our Government and our people, our civilization has nothing to fear; while in fact the attitude of our Government in that direction in years but recently passed has brought new stars to the crown of our civilization. The question of dealing with those born on our own soil, and with those who from the Christian nations of the world seek an asylum, a home here, is one thing; while throwing wide our doors to the vassals, the criminals, the lepers, and the debased of the Asiatic countries of the world is quite another and a very different thing. And the very fact that a large part of our population, of those who shape and control its legislation, State and Federal, once bore allegiance to some of the Christian European powers, tends to a feeling of international unity and adds to our peace, our commercial and political prosperity among the nations of the world.

Since the beginning of our history no such question has been forced upon us; and can we, upon the ground of humanity, upon any principle of world-wide patriotism, on the doctrine of the right of expatriation, on the principles of the Christian religion, upon any of these or upon all of these combined, afford to have our land deluged by the dregs of the Mongolian race? A race which, according to the well-selected language of the "Nation" to which I have attracted attention, "speak a different language, worship unknown gods, keep alive imported customs and traditions, and form almost a separate caste."

I know that their influx into this country will widen the field of the missionary within our own bounds. I know that so long as they are permitted to come some of their number, but the very fewest, will be lifted from the depths of their degradation, and through the commendable efforts of Christian men and Christian women be placed upon the higher and broader and better plane of American civilization and of Christianity. But will even this, either in a moral or Christian point of view, compensate for the pestilence, the moral, social, political pestilence with which the countless thousands that will come, and who are necessarily unreclaimed, will infect the present and fu-

ture generations of our people? I am not unmindful of the value of an influence that will result in lifting even one soul from the depths of heathenism; but, much as that influence is to be valued, it is no more to be prized than is to be deplored that other influence which will result in leading even a solitary American youth away from the traditions of his fathers and the influence of his country down to the doors of moral death and to a grave of infamy and disgrace.

But, Mr. President, it is said there is no danger, after all; but few will come, and there is no reason for alarm. Let me say that in my judgment the man who believes this, the statesman who acts upon this to-day, will be like certain men we read of who believe a lie and are damned. Asia can spare fifty million and scarcely miss them from her shores, and they are coming. Already the tide of immigration has set in across the waters of the Pacific, and to-day they are coming by the thousand into the ports of California and Oregon and Washington Territory, and all the other ports of the Pacific coast, bringing with them—what? Intelligence, wealth, virtue? Not much, but rather ignorance, and poverty, and crime, pestilence, moral, social, political, in their most alarming and dreaded forms.

A reference to a few arrivals of steamers recently on the Pacific coast will give some idea in regard to the alarming character of this immigration at the present time. In a dispatch from San Francisco, April 16, I read:

The British steamer *Crocus* arrived to-day from Hong-Kong via Yokohama, with rice and eight hundred and eighty-two Chinamen. She reports two other British steamers there up for this port.

Three days after we have another dispatch dated April 19, 1876, which says:

The Pacific Mail steamship *Great Republic* arrived in this port from China yesterday morning after a smooth passage of twenty-four days. She had on board one thousand and seventy-five Chinese, having lost one through suicide. The *Great Republic* reports the *Belgie* to follow with about six hundred Chinese. She also reports leaving the *Quang Se* ready for a shipment of coolies. The officers of the *Great Republic* say that all steamers from China for the next four months will be crowded with coolies.

So we see that in a short space of three days we have two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven Chinese arriving in the port of San Francisco alone, and it is a matter of history that for the past number of months and to-day they are arriving in San Francisco alone at the rate of from a thousand to twelve hundred per week; from four to five thousand per month; at the rate of sixty thousand a year. The man who imagines that this flood will not increase in volume and in power so long as our gates are open, until we have an *imperium in imperio*, an Asiatic government within our own founded upon the worst elements of human depravity, mistakes in my judgment the signs of the times, and fails to correctly trace the inevitable logic of events.

But, sir, what is the remedy for this evil? Is there any remedy, I ask, that can be applied with complete effect to this great, this new evil short of that of absolute prohibition of the Chinese immigration? I believe that there is not; and, until this is done, all the efforts that may be devised by the brains of the wisest statesmen intended to regulate this species of immigration will stand a dead letter on the statute-book. A law which cannot be enforced by reason of the peculiar circumstances surrounding its violation is as no law at all; and in the mean time the evil intended to be interdicted goes on with giant strides, boldly and defiantly. And such, let me say to the Senate, is the present condition of our congressional legislation on the subject of prohibiting the importation of coolies and of women for immoral practices. Why, sir, the whole of the present Chinese population of our country, with the exception of a mere fraction, is composed of these two classes; and therefore, to this very large extent, is the present immigration from China in direct violation of law. But, notwithstanding this, on account of the unrestrained fraud, the black perjury, the subtle chicanery, the dark-eyed conspiracy peculiar to this class of people, and for which those who engage in this nefarious business are notorious, conviction is simply impossible. The remedy, therefore, in my judgment, that is, the complete remedy, is in a large limitation upon, or an absolute abrogation of, the right of the Chinese subject both to expatriation and immigration, in so far as our country is concerned.

But here we are met with the objection again that this is a favored doctrine of our Government, and especially with the present Administration and the republican party, and that it was incorporated in terms by this Administration in the Burlingame treaty. This is all very true, and, as a general rule, I contend that the doctrine of the right of the subject of any civilized European country to abjure his allegiance to his own government and better his political fortunes by attaching them to another government is one that ought to be upheld by the civilized world, one that should receive the approbation of mankind; and especially should intelligent, free America extend this doctrine to the civilized governments of Europe, and not only extend it to them but insist upon it with reference to all such governments whose subjects—either in large or small numbers—may desire to better their political condition by seeking a home and asylum in our country, by becoming citizens of our Republic, and thus availing themselves of the superior immunities from political oppression afforded by our peculiar form of government.

But, Mr. President, there are nations, in my judgment, that are exceptions to this rule, and if they do come technically within the rule, as no possible good can come to the subject, nor to our own country,

but on the contrary an infinitude of harm, then I contend they should mark the exception, and thus add stability and force and power and strength to the rule itself.

Let us look at this rule for a moment and at the exception, because I claim that there is an exception, and that it is in this case. We go down then into the depths of Asia, among the Chinese of China, if you please; we look upon that strange people, the history of whose imperialism runs back into the ages, yes, even so far back that the penetrating eye of the nineteenth century fails to trace its origin in the shades of departed time; and we ask of them, "Do you desire a change in your government?" and they answer, "No." We then say to them, "Do you, as individuals, desire to better your political condition; do you desire to abjure your allegiance to imperial power: do you desire to attach your allegiance to our institutions, to our country; do you desire to become citizens and sovereigns in America?" and they again answer, "No!" emphatically, "No!" They will say to you in their broken tongue, "Me no likee Melican man; me no sabe Melican Government." And then we go to the better classes of the people of that country, and say to them—I refer now to men engaged in commerce, in agriculture, in manufactures, we go to the merchant, the manufacturer, the artisan, and the professional man, to the better classes, if you please, of China and of Asia generally—and we say to them, "Do you desire to change your domicile across the water? Do you desire to establish yourselves firmly in business in America, there to better, if you please, your political and your personal condition, there to add intelligence, wealth, and power to our institutions and government, there to live and there to die?" and you will be again met in nine cases out of ten with a negative answer. But there is another class—I refer to men who traffic in human flesh and female virtue; who subsist on the fruits of crime; whose history, from its birth, is marked with treason against morality, and peace, and law, and order, and good government, and these, and these alone, are the men of the empire who have their eyes on America, and through their influence and their machinations our shores on the Pacific coast—you may not feel it here, but our shores, the golden shores of the Pacific are to-day being flooded with the serfs, the criminals, the mendicants, the opium-eating gamblers, the leprous prostitutes, the most debased, in every sense of the word, of the Chinese Empire.

To permit this, when no possible good can come to the Chinese subject, as I have already shown, and when, instead of adding to the intelligence, the wealth, the prosperity, the dignity of our country, it but brings poverty, and disease, and pestilence, and crime, simply out of a desire on our part to adhere to a principle, is, to my mind, to subordinate the truest and best interests of this Government, the general welfare, and the domestic tranquillity, to the vindication of a mere idea in political ethics. It is one, in my judgment, that cannot be sustained for one solitary moment by any element of true statesmanship; and, sir, if it is persisted in, I predict here and now that the people of the next centennial, if not of the next generation, will eat of its bitter fruits and drink of its poisoned waters.

Mr. MERRIMON. May I ask the Senator a question?

Mr. MITCHELL. Certainly.

Mr. MERRIMON. I ask whether any portion of the Chinese on our western shores are naturalized; and, if so, do they belong to the voting population of California and Oregon?

Mr. MITCHELL. They are not naturalized; and not only that, but they do not desire to be naturalized; and that is the very point I have been trying to make, that the country from which they come is an exception to the nations of the world to which the doctrine of the right of expatriation ought to be extended by our country.

Mr. MERRIMON. Suppose they are content to be naturalized and our people are content that they shall be and become voters among them?

Mr. MITCHELL. That is simply supposing a case that never will occur, as I have been endeavoring to show. I have been endeavoring to show that all their inclinations and aspirations and dispositions are in the other direction. They do not desire either a change of government in their own country or a transfer of their allegiance to this.

Mr. SARGENT. If my friend will allow me, I will say that the people of the Pacific coast do not wish them to be naturalized. Naturalization would only add to the mischiefs. Put the ballot in the hands of the sixty thousand Chinese in California, and they would be marshalled in squads at the polls by their masters, the six companies, with ballots prepared beforehand and dictated to them, and the influence of white men in the government of California would soon cease to exist. California would be a mere Asiatic province.

Mr. MITCHELL. This is unquestionably true, and the same thing applies in relation to the State of Oregon. The whole immigration is not a voluntary one; it is controlled, as stated by the Senator from California, by these six companies, by these masters, if you please, in whose control and under whose subjection is every Chinese, male and female, that comes from the empire to our shores; and, as stated, the ballot in their hands would but add to the horrors of the situation.

But, Mr. President, can the Congress of the nation, in the face of the Burlingame treaty, provide a remedy constitutionally or consistently equal to the magnitude of this great evil? Perhaps they can. Perhaps they may upon the ground that, I understand, has been decided more than once by the Supreme Court of the United States, to

the effect that, although a treaty is the supreme law of the land, yet an act of Congress passed subsequently to the date when the treaty went into operation will, so far as it conflicts with the provisions of the treaty, abrogate it or suspend its functions. Whatever may be our power in this respect—and I concede that, if we have the power, it is one that should be approached with care and with great caution—it is certain that we have the power to appeal to the Executive of the nation, and ask of him and of our Secretary of State to enter into negotiations with the Chinese government looking to a reformation of the treaty; and this, in my judgment, after all, is the real remedy that ought to be applied in this case.

While I have said that I would approach with extreme caution any legislation by Congress upon this subject that would come in conflict with any existing treaty stipulation, still I will say that, if it is apparent to the country that the civilization of our land is in jeopardy, that our institutions are in imminent danger from this species of immigration, and you cannot reach it in any other way, then I would apply the remedy, desperate as it is, although it shake the empire to its foundations.

I hope then, Mr. President, to see the pending resolution adopted by this honorable body, and adopted at an early day. It is demanded by every consideration of humanity; it is demanded as a matter of justice to the poor, toiling, hard-working men and women of the Pacific coast who by the wages resulting from their daily toil, which at best is but meager support themselves and their families, and whose labor to-day is being brought into direct and dangerous competition with the labor of Chinese serfs, whose food and raiment and other necessities cost, under their peculiar modes of life, but little or nothing. Without families to support, their masters can afford to work them at rates far below those that are absolutely necessary to maintain one of our own citizens alone, to say nothing of his family.

But, Mr. President, it is demanded also by the merchant and the manufacturer, who in many instances on our coast are unable to compete in their productions with prices regulated by cool labor, and who are, therefore, necessarily compelled to close their stores and shut up their shops. But, above all, it is demanded by the highest considerations of justice and right that can possibly attach to the American name or direct the destiny of the American people.

And here, Mr. President, let me read for a moment—and I will detain the Senate but a very few minutes longer—a dispatch of May 1 from Antioch, California, which reads as follows:

ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA, May 1.

A fire occurred here which was the culmination of an excitement that has been growing since last Saturday, when one of the doctors informed various parties that several boys had visited a Chinese house of prostitution on the outskirts of the town and were now, in consequence, under his treatment. In a short time their parents heard of it and extreme measures were talked of, but better counsel prevailed. On Saturday morning thirty-five or forty citizens proceeded to the Chinese dens and notified them to leave town before three o'clock, or trouble would ensue. This all promised to do, and several of them started up the river in a sail-boat for Stockton and others taking the steamer for San Francisco. Among the latter was one woman who was nearly gone with disease. A boss Chinaman was sent with them, but much against his will, it requiring the efforts of two men to get him on the boat. It being supposed that the women had left for good, the excitement subsided. However, on Sunday afternoon, it was reported that the women who had started for Stockton had returned, which revived the excitement of Saturday, but nothing occurred to disturb the serenity of the Sabbath until about eight p. m., when a cry of fire was raised, and it was soon apparent that action had been taken. Chinatown was on fire, and a crowd of curious lookers-on assembled, together with the fire company, but little was done to stay the progress of the fire, and all but two of the buildings were destroyed—the inmates fleeing terror-stricken. How the fire was started, no one knows. To-day the remaining buildings have been removed, and Antioch is now free from this degraded class.

Again, a San Francisco dispatch to the eastern papers says:

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3, 1876.

The South San Francisco Anti-Cooly Club and the Young Men's Universal Reform Society held meetings last night and passed resolutions indorsing the destruction of the Chinese quarters in the town of Antioch, and advocating a similar course in this city unless the Federal Government should take immediate steps to abate the evil of Chinese immigration. Highly incendiary speeches were made and letters read from societies in the interior of the State seeking the co-operation of San Francisco anti-cooly organizations. The sergeant-at-arms of the Young Men's Universal Reform Society announced that he had received a telegram from New York saying that twenty-six hundred stand of arms could be delivered here at ten days' notice.

While such talk and action are universally reprobated by the great mass of thinking people in this city, there can be no doubt that it meets the approval of a large and dangerous class in the community, and that, in the event of no action being taken in the matter by the General Government, there is grave reason to fear serious disturbances here at no distant day.

Now then, Mr. President, while that spirit of mobocracy which sometimes invades the domain of law and order should be condemned by all good citizens at all times and under all circumstances and at all places, still when these things do occur, whether from real or imaginary causes, I contend, as did the Senator from California the other day, that it is the duty, the bounden duty of the Government to inquire into the cause of discontent, and if it is found that any real cause exists, then to apply the remedy by abating the cause.

The sentiment of the people of the Pacific coast is, universally I may say, opposed to further Chinese immigration. This is the view of everybody, of all political parties. It is not a party question. But while this is so, they, as a rule, are a law-abiding people, and they recognize the fact that the Chinese that are absolutely here are here in virtue of treaty stipulation; that they, therefore, are rightfully here; and that being here, they are in all their civil rights entitled to the equal protection of the law. If there are any others—and I

must confess there are a few on our Pacific coast—who do not recognize these facts, and who counsel a resort to violence, they do but paralyze the arms of the real reformer at home, in the East, throughout the country, in the councils of the nation, and everywhere else. They trample upon law and order. They excite to anarchy and confusion. They fan the flame of prejudice and discord; and so far from removing the cause of the discontent by such a course of action, they do but rear formidable impediments in the only legitimate way in which the evil can be corrected.

I then, Mr. President, in conclusion appeal to the Senate; I join my friend from California in behalf of the people of the Pacific coast in appealing to the Senate, and the Congress, and the President, and the Secretary of State, and to the whole people, to all men and all women everywhere throughout this land who love their country, who have a pride in its progress, in its civilization, and a high hope for its future destiny, to come now to the rescue and crush out in its infancy this viper that, if permitted to live and grow, will at last and at no distant future gnaw with deadening effect at the very vitals of the civilization of this country.

Mr. SARGENT. I ask that the bill (S. No. 829) to restrict the immigration of Chinese to the United States, which I introduced yesterday, be now ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Commerce, allowing this resolution to lie on the table for the present.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. That order will be made. The resolution will lie on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. G. M. ADAMS, its Clerk, announced that the House had passed the following bills:

A bill (S. No. 764) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to allow Mrs. Minnie Sherman Fitch to receive free from duties a wedding-present from the Khedive of Egypt;

A bill (S. No. 258) to amend the charter of the Capitol, North O Street and South Washington Railway Company; and

A bill (S. No. 293) authorizing the commissioners of the District of Columbia to cancel and annul the condemnation of ground in square 762, in the city of Washington, for a public alley, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House had concurred in the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. No. 1922) providing for the recording of deeds, mortgages, and other conveyances affecting real estate in the District of Columbia.

The message further announced that the House had passed the bill (S. No. 679) relative to interments in the Congressional Cemetery, with an amendment; in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House had passed the following bills; in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

A bill (H. R. No. 3464) for the relief of Ella Long;

A bill (H. R. No. 2962) to amend the act entitled "An act to incorporate the joint stock company of the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington;" and

A bill (H. R. No. 3012) to authorize the Southern Maryland Railroad Company to extend a railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED.

The message also announced that the Speaker of the House had signed the following enrolled bills; which were thereupon signed by the President *pro tempore*:

A bill (S. No. 153) to grant the right of way for railroad purposes through the United States arsenal grounds near Benicia, California;

A bill (S. No. 168) for the relief of the legal representatives of George Schwartz, deceased, late a private in Company F, Fifth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry;

A bill (S. No. 199) for the relief of the estate of the late paymaster Major John S. Walker, United States Army;

A bill (S. No. 384) for the relief of Mrs. Eliza Potter, widow of Lorenzo T. Potter, deceased, late of Charleston, South Carolina; and

A bill (H. R. No. 3368) appropriating \$9,000 to pay the expenses of the Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Offices in Louisiana.

IMMIGRATION OF CHINESE.

Mr. CONKLING. Not without the consent of the Senator from California, I suggest that the bill just referred to the Committee on Commerce more appropriately belongs to the Committee on Foreign Relations. I move therefore that the reference be changed, the Senator from California having no objection.

Mr. EDMUNDS. I should have some question about that. I think that this matter, in accordance with the views expressed by the Supreme Court and in accordance with the Constitution, belongs to the subject of commerce, and that whatever regulations are to be made upon the subject must be made as regulations of commerce. I do not know the precise phraseology of the bill, exactly what it purports to do.

Mr. SARGENT. The bill in effect limits the number of Chinese who may be imported in any one year.

Mr. EDMUNDS. That is purely a regulation of commerce, and I submit to my honorable friend from New York that the committee of which he is the chairman is the appropriate committee to consider a question of that kind.

Mr. CONKLING. I made a mistake in not consulting my honorable friend from Vermont, instead of consulting the mover of this bill, in order to get consent to move in the Senate that it should take what seems to me its appropriate reference. Doubtless, if I had made to the Senator from Vermont the suggestions which I think I could make now to the Senate, he would have seen some reasons which are not covered by the remarks he has made; but speaking to the Senator who moved the bill, and finding that he concurred with me, I made the suggestion at once. Without going into the reasons generally, I will assign one.

The proceeding against which this bill is aimed is of course more or less in consequence of, if not by virtue of, a treaty, as all those who have listened to the very interesting and able speech made by the Senator from Oregon have perceived, if their attention has not been drawn to that before. In dealing with that subject, certainly it seems to me, the considerations involved are those appropriate to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

I have no personal objection myself—and if I had it would be counterbalanced—to considering this bill, because it so chances that I am a member of each of these committees. It is not therefore in my own behalf in any sense that I make this suggestion; but it seems to me very clear that a measure which is to execute, to coincide with, or to impinge upon an existing treaty, ought appropriately to be considered by the Committee on Foreign Relations and not by the Committee on Commerce, although in some general sense or relation the bill may be commercial in its effect. Congress has power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and anything that regulates commerce merely is appropriately referred to the committee having charge of such topics; but every Senator must see that a provision restricting emigration from a foreign land which emigration proceeds largely in consequence of a treaty made with that country, is a great deal more than a matter concerning commercial relations.

But, as I said, I am not going to be tenacious about this matter, for it is not likely in any personal sense that it would make a difference to me whether it goes to one committee or to another committee, both of which I happen to be a member of. I have no doubt, however, that the appropriate reference of the bill would be to the committee which I suggested after finding that the mover of the bill had no objections to its going there.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Mr. President, I must express a profounder humiliation to my honorable friend from New York than he seems to feel, that I should have ventured to address myself to a question which was pending before the Senate without having first consulted him, and I offer all the apology that is possible under the circumstances. I am very sorry indeed that I did not know that I was offending the sensibilities of the distinguished Senator by proposing that a bill to regulate commerce, as it is understood under the Constitution and as it is settled by the decisions of the Supreme Court, should go to the committee of which he is the distinguished head. I shall hope that I shall so conduct my duties as Senator hereafter that I shall never do a thing of that kind again without first appealing to him either privately or publicly.

Having made this apology, I will, with what little strength I have left after such a painful procedure, proceed to say a word upon the topic. The honorable Senator from New York says that this has relation to a treaty. I should be glad to know upon what principle of international law it is that a statute which simply regulates the number of persons that on a particular voyage of a ship shall be brought into the United States has relation to any treaty of the United States that now exists or that is likely to exist. The treaty of the United States with China does not provide that there shall be unlimited passengers of the Chinese nation on any particular ship of the United States or any other state or country. It provides for free emigration from both countries, or rather for the free equal right of denizenship to the subjects and citizens of each country who happen to be in the other. That is the substance of the treaty; so that we have, the treaty notwithstanding, exactly the same power to regulate the number of passengers and the kinds of merchandise to be carried upon ships which are to be brought into our ports that we had without any treaty at all. That is purely and exclusively a regulation of commerce. So the Constitution seems to say and so repeated decisions of the Supreme Court have determined it to be. Therefore I do not think that I ought to be severely censured for suggesting that a measure of this kind, in the order of the business of the Senate, should go to the committee charged with subjects of that character, and not go to the Committee on Foreign Relations, as if there was something in this bill that might be thought to invalidate or to overthrow the provisions of our treaty with the Chinese.

Mr. CONKLING. If at this moment I am not prepared to be facetious with the Senator from Vermont, I am willing to be frank; and therefore I will not be disingenuous enough to seem to display the impression made on me by the suggestion of the Senator from Vermont. He found it convenient during his brief remarks to employ several times the terms "regulate" and "regulation." It seems to me that few words would naturally be more convenient to my honorable friend. I think a mission of his of late is to regulate, not so much commerce, as the Senate and his fellow-Senators.

Now, Mr. President, when a member of the Senate moves a bill in which he is deeply in earnest, so that no other member, however suspicious he may be, has the possibility of ground to doubt that it is a serious

proceeding, and when he indicates a committee to which he is willing it shall go, and so indicates upon conference with a member of that committee, is it not true that it is somewhat unusual for any other member of the Senate to feel constrained, he being a member of neither committee, to interpose an objection, as if some serious reason existed why these two members of the Senate, (one the mover of the bill, and the other a member of each of the two committees to which it is proposed to refer it,) might not, as to the mere mode of proceeding, as to the mere detail of the treatment of the subject, arrange between themselves, without any other member of the Senate being moved for no reason except such as the honorable Senator from Vermont has suggested, to interpose and prevent it? The honorable Senator thinks, speaking his judgment, that it would be more appropriate that this bill should go to one committee of which he is not a member, rather than to another of which he is not a member. No member of either committee makes such a suggestion. As I have already said, the mover of the bill is agreed; the chairman of one of the committees proposed makes the suggestion, and nobody on either committee dissents.

Now, Mr. President, in all kindness to the Senator from Vermont and in all frankness also I submit to him that it is not a part of the obligation which rests upon him or any other Senator to be quite so alert, quite so careful in the supervision and government of the proceedings of the body and of others as this suggestion of his would indicate. I meant that frankly in my remarks; I do not disclaim it; and in order to show the Senator that I do it without any feeling ungracious toward him I say sincerely that I should have held myself guilty, if not of an affront, of something coming very near to that had our positions been reversed. Had the honorable Senator, being chairman of one of the leading committees of this body, of which it happens that I am a member, proposed that a bill which was to be sent to that committee by the formal motion made and which might appropriately go to another, of which he was also a member, should be sent to that other committee, and had the mover of the bill been entirely satisfied with that, I repeat that without some reason more cogent than the Senator from Vermont has suggested I should have thought that it was hardly courteous, hardly observant of that equality which exists in law and in fact between Senators and of that comity and regard by the members of the body for each other which makes it necessary for us to depend so little upon rules, for me to interpose at once with an objection without knowing whether convenience, some consideration having no public concern but perhaps being of some interest to some member of the body, might or might not exist. So it would have struck me, Mr. President; and yet I believe that among my many faults a chronic habit of objecting is not one. I hope no other member of this body has such a habit. I impute it to nobody; but had I made such an objection, I should have thought it signified on my part an ambition, a disposition at least, to seem to be somewhat pragmatic, somewhat more than careful in regulating the doings of the Senate and the disposition of its members. Therefore I was surprised at what the Senator from Vermont said. I made this suggestion originally, and I now adhere to it without the slightest feeling. If this bill is sent to the Committee on Commerce, as cheerfully as my honorable friend from North Carolina, [Mr. RANSOM,] who sits before me, who is a member of this committee, I shall address myself to it. I know of no reason in the world which will make me reluctant to address myself to this bill rather than to any other. Therefore I beg the Senate to understand that in that respect no imposition whatever will occur upon the Committee on Commerce should it be the pleasure of the Senate that the bill take that direction. But, on the other hand, it seemed to me a proper bill to go to the other committee. Not seeing the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations at the moment, I made the suggestion to the Senator from California. He acquiesced in it, and said on the whole he preferred to have the bill go to the Committee on Foreign Relations; and, as I did not say before, but which he will now permit me to say, it was upon his suggestion that I, rather than the Senator himself, made this motion. I did it indeed at his request, and therefore I was surprised when the honorable Senator from Vermont was not willing to allow even that little suggestion to pass without it being subjected to somewhat of regulation and supervision on his part.

Mr. EDMUNDS. Mr. President, the Senate will pardon me if I put in a second confession, because my honorable friend from New York has entirely vanquished me by what he has said now. He has stated that the ground of my suggestion must have been, as I understand it, that I am a chronic objector, and that I have interfered with what I ought not to have interfered with, and my good friend has said that he does not consider himself to be a chronic objector. I agree to that. I believe all the people of the United States know that "Barkis is willin'"; there is no objection. I am quite sure also that if I could have had the benefit of knowing by some potent and invisible influence that the Senator from California, in private consultation with the Senator from New York, had desired that this bill should go to the Committee on Foreign Relations, I should have made no suggestion about it. It is nothing to me.

Mr. CONKLING. If the Senator will allow me a moment, I beg to remind him that I made my motion in these terms: "Not without the consent of the Senator from California, I suggest" so and so. I put the wish of the Senator from California in front of my motion.

Mr. EDMUNDS. The RECORD will show what the Senator said;

but if he said what he now thinks he said, I certainly did not hear it. If the Senator from New York had stated in my hearing that the Senator from California desired this bill to go to the Committee on Foreign Relations, I should have said nothing about it, although my opinion (if I am allowed to have an opinion, as I believe I am by the Constitution, notwithstanding my friend from New York) would have been exactly the same. If there is any occult reason why the Senator from New York is shy of this question of Chinese immigration, and why his committee is shy of it, certainly I have not the slightest disposition to interfere. If the Committee on Foreign Relations is the better committee to regulate commerce in this particular instance, it is certainly nothing to me. Both committees are good ones, because, as my honorable friend from New York says, he is a member of both of them; therefore both committees will report the best possible bill, and it cannot be a bad one, because, as the honorable Senator from New York says, I am not a member of either of them. [Laughter.] So I am sure my good friend will give me the credit of not being particularly selfish or particularly proud (except in the sense of being generally unwilling, in which respect I am entirely different from him, if common report is true) in having spoken about this matter at all.

But so much, Mr. President, for the humor of the thing. I repeat what I believe I have already said, that if the Senator from California desires this measure of his to be considered by the Committee on Foreign Relations rather than the Committee on Commerce, I have no suggestion to make; but I did not know that before. Very likely it was my own fault. If he states so now, I have not a word to say.

Mr. SARGENT. It is only fair to the Senator from New York that I should state that he consulted with me in reference to the matter, and that I said I should like to have the bill go to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CONKLING. Will the Senator from California state whether I am right or not in my recollection that I so stated to the Senate in substance?

Mr. SARGENT. My recollection concurs with that of the Senator.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. It is moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The motion was agreed to.

HOUSE BILLS REFERRED.

The following bills from the House of Representatives were severally read twice by their titles and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia:

A bill (H. R. No. 2962) to amend the act entitled "An act to incorporate the Joint Stock Company of the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington;" and

A bill (H. R. No. 3012) to authorize the Southern Maryland Railroad Company to extend a railroad into and within the District of Columbia.

The bill (H. R. No. 3464) for the relief of Ella Long was read twice by its title and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTERMENTS IN CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore* laid before the Senate the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. No. 679) relative to interments in the Congressional Cemetery.

The amendment was in lines 7 and 8, to strike out the words "in the form of the cenotaph heretofore provided."

The amendment was concurred in.

IMPEACHMENT OF W. W. BELKNAP.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. Pursuant to order the legislative and executive business of the Senate will now be suspended, and the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives against William W. Belknap, late Secretary of War.

The Senate then proceeded to the trial of the impeachment of William W. Belknap, late Secretary of War.

The Senate sitting for the trial of the impeachment having adjourned, resumed its

LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

The Senate resumed its legislative session; and

On motion of Mr. SARGENT, (at five o'clock and twenty-five minutes p. m.,) adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, May 16, 1876.

The House met at twelve o'clock m. Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. I. L. TOWNSEND.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. VANCE, of Ohio. I desire to call up the motion I entered on Friday last to reconsider the vote by which the House recommitted to the Committee on Printing the report on the subject of the conduct of the Government Printing Office.