Albany Register.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17, 1871.

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION for the past week has been engaged in discussing the subject of competative examinations. So far so good. Would it not be more beneficial, both to the government and the people, if they would only employ a few of their leisure hours in examining into the status of some of the larger fish, those who handle the government's funds? Can they not give us a reform in this quarter? It is needed here more than in any other place. Frauds have become so numerous of late that if they do not attempt a reform in this direction very soon, I have the best assurance for saying that Congress will take the matter in hand, and pass a law providing that none but men of known honesty and integrity, shall hold these positions, and that those who recommend person for such position, shall be held accountable, as well as bondsmen, for the faithful execution of the duties required of the person they recommend. This may to a great extent do away with the loose manner in which some of our public officers transact business.

It is the duty of the Commission to look after such things; it was instituted for this purpose. A great many of our prominent officials are beginning to look upon the Commission with disfavor, because they have not made a move in that direction, instead of spending all of their time discussing whether a goverment clerk that can do sums in geometry, should be promoted when his fellow-clerk who has good common sense and business tact can only work out sums in arithmetic.

AUSTRIAN MISSION.

Just now our fashionable circles are in a flutter in anticipation of the expected marriage of Mr. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy. This marriage has been reported as to come off time and again, but the time passed by and the bachelor of the Navy Department still remained single. Now dame rumor has it, that he will certainly throw off his bachelor robes early in December next, and as a bridal present, the President will tender him the position of Minister to Austria.

Mr. Jay, the present Minister, writes to the Department, that he cannot serve in that capacity much longer, and would be gratified if his resignation would be accepted, as pressing business engagements require his attention in this country.

STOKES.

A few days ago the grand jury of this Territory, found true bills against Hon. Wm. B. Stokes, of Tennessee, and Victor G. Powell, of the Second Auditor's office, for defrauding the government. No day has been set for the trial. Stokes has employed able counsel, and feels confident that he can prove his innocence as soon as the case is brought to trial. The government, it appears, bases its proof on documentary evidence, and this of the most positive kind. The amount involved foots up to $68,400.

WOMEN.

A short time ago some ladies, residents of this Territory, attempted to exercise the elective franchise, and were refused. Feeling aggrivated, they brought suit in the Supreme Court of our Territory. The case was fully argued by able counsel on both sides, and a decision at last arrived at, which is rather lengthy, or I would give it. Women are declared citizens of this Territory, and of the United States; but are debarred from voting, by the act creating the Territory having the word *male* placed therein. And before they can exercise the privilege, Congress will have to legislate on the subject, as it has jurisdiction over the entire length and breadth of the Territory. An appeal will be taken, and the case carried to the Supreme Court of the United States.

ABSENT.

On Saturday next (the 18th inst.) Mr. Davis, the Assistant Secretary of State, will sail for Europe, to attend the Geneva Conference. Gen. Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of the census, is still absent on our frontier, on a special Indian mission. He will not return until the first of next week.

Gen. B. R. Cowan, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Department, who has been absent on a western tour for the benefit of his health, has returned much improved, and was at his desk to-day.

APPOINTMENTS.

During the week the President made the following Internal Revenue appointments: Robert C. Hatton, Collector of the Fifth district of Michigan; Edwin Kilbourn, Assessor for the Fifth district of Mississippi; Robert E. Chandler, Collecter of the Sixth district of Iowa; Jacob C. Frick, Collector of the Tenth district of Pennsylvania. He also made the following appointment: W. S. Kerns, of Philadelphia, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania, vice General Gregory, deceased. TOM.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The city of Guatimala, South America, was visited by a destructive fire November 4th. Insurgent troubles cause much anxiety to the people.

San Salvador has signed a treaty of peace with Costa Rica, and much rejoicing is the result.

Political affairs in Peru are complicated. The press generally is placed under sever censorship. The editor of the *National* was arrested. A revolt is threatened.

The Prussian army has been fixed at 400,000 men for three years, at a cost of about 90,000,000 thalers.

All classes in France are anxious to learn the fate of Gen. Rossel.

News from Berlin, Prussia, dated Nov. 27th, state that the King opened the Diet in person. His speech from the throne proposes a general increase of official salaries, and recommends the encouragement by the Diet of railway enterprises —was well received.

A convention, guaranteeing the inviolability of trade-marks between the United States and Austria, has been signed by the Minister of each.

King Victor Emanuel opened with a speech, Nov. 27th, the first Italian Parliament held since the occupation of Rome. He said at the beginning, that Italy was restored to herself, had regained her place in the world. He was convinced that Rome would remain the seat of Pontificate. The relation between Italy and all other nations was friendly. He warned Parliament that they would be held to a strict accountability in the future, if they neglected to perfect a thorough organization of the military and naval forces of the Kingdom.

Gen. Sickles was married in Madrid, Spain, on the 28th of November, to Miss Creach, and immediately started for New York. His visit is a mystery.

News from Mexico to Nov. 28th, state that Cortina had appropriated the pay of the Government troops to himself, causing a revolt and disbanding of the troops. A general revolt against the Government is expected on the 1st of December.

TREATMENT OF WOUNDED.—An American, who was in Germany during the war with France, and had an opportunity to see much of the treatment of the wounded, says: At one end of the hospital the mode of dressing was to clean the wound gently from the outside, not allowing the fluid to enter deeply; then zinc foil, lint above this, and the whole bound with adhesive plaster. The results from this mode of dressing seemed perfectly marvelous, leaving always a clean, healthy granulating surface, and avoiding all the inconvenience of lint dirctly applied. The zinc foil seems to act through the oxide which it forms in contact with pus, and exerts a healthy influence upon the wound.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

On the night of November 24th, nine gamblers were arrested by the police, in San Francisco, and held to bail in $1,000 each.

Pat King, missing from San Francisco, since the 15th of Nov., was found drowned in the Bay.

Hon. Frank Clark's lottery bill, of Washington Territory Legislature, has been killed by the Council. Good.

The bill for the division of Clark county has passed the House of the Washington Territory Legislature, and it is thought will become a law.

John Foster, the villian who enticed the young girl away from the State Fair Ground, to Portland, and there accomplished her ruin, was last Saturday sentenced, by the Court at Portland, to three years imprisonment and hard labor in the Penitentiary.

A week ago last Sunday evening, the coyotes went into the town of Baker City, and barked and howled furiously, says the *Democrat*.

From seventy-five to one hundred half breeds from British America having established themselves for winter quarters in the vicinity of the Milk river Agency, Montana, recently, with a view to supply the Indians with liquor and amunition, General Gibbon directed a portion of the Seventh Infantry to suppress this, spoil the liquor, destroy the huts, bring away whatever was valuable and drive them from that part of the country.

Brigham Young, having failed to return to Salt Lake City last Wednesday, forfeited his bail. The papers say the bail has been raised by contribution among the people.

Old settlers in Utah say that the storms they are now having there are more terrific than they ever knew. In consequence of them, work is generally suspended and everybody is gloomy.

A slide is reported in Cottonwood Canyon, by which four men lost their lives.

Preperations are being made in San Francisco for the reception of Prince Alexis of Russia.

A clerk in a store in Santa Rosa, Cal., recently shot a burglar through the door, seriously wounding him.

At Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 29th, a six-year old daughter of Henry Fagh died from drinking boiling water from a kettle.

Also, Richard Chapman fell from a loft in a barn and drove a spike into his head. Condition critical.

Mrs. Cornelia Boyle, a Vallejo lady, has been announced as candidate for copying clerk of the California Assembly.

A workman employed in a saw mill in Portlnd ascended a ladder for the purpose of oiling some of the machinery. The ladder started to fall, and the man in trying to save himself, fell to the ground, and was caught in the machinery, and had one of his legs dreadfully lacerated, says the *Bulletin*.

From the Jacksonville *Times* we learn that Samuel Hawkins has sold his claim on Rogue River, six miles below the mouth of Applegate, to Evan Taylor and Edward Neely, who are at present making preparation to work their claim. His last half day's work on the claim amounted to about $25, among which was a nugget weighing $13. After selling his claim for $2,000 he went two miles further down and struck diggings as rich as those he had just sold. He obtained $3 from a single pan of dirt in his new diggings, and expresses the belief that the vein or channel is eight or ten miles in length, and that it will require between sixty and eighty feet digging to reach it.

The "Hattie C. Besse," recently chartered in San Francisco to carry a cargo of lumber from Puget Sound to Shanghae, China, was driven ashore in a recent storm and went to pieces twenty miles south of Cape Flattery. The captain and crew saved themselves by taking to the boats previous to the ship striking the rocks. They succeeded in landing upon the beach. The Besse was owned by Messrs. Harris & Holman, of Portland. She was valued at $40,000, with $15,000 insurance.

Nine Neah Bay Indians were caught out in one of their canoes by the same storm, and drowned.

From Reno, Nevada, Nov. 29th is the following: Monday morning Mr. Heath started from Summit Valley, to repair the telegraph lines, a distance of eleven and a half miles, to Truckee. Not reaching Truckee, on Tuesday night parties went out in search of him and found him in a house ten miles from the Summit. He was two days and one night in making the distance through snow four feet deep and sinking eighteen inches at each step. He was brought to Truckee, and will soon be all right.

Snow is reported six feet deep on a level, and drifts from twenty to one hundred feet, at Cottonwood, Utah.

The will of the late Horace Hawes, of San Francisco, is now being contested by his wife in the Probate Court of that city. She pleads that he was insane when he executed the will. Overwhelming proof has been presented that such was the case. The suit involves a million dollars.

The Walla Walla *Union* gives an account of two carpenters who narrowly escaped from drowning, in attempting to cross the Columbia river, from the steamer "Webfoot" to Wallula in a small boat. The wind blew so hard as to cause the boat to capsize. The men with difficulty saved themselves by swimming to a small island in the river. After a good deal of hallooing and delay, the half frozen men succeeded in obtaining relief from Wallula. The boat and their tool chests were lost.

The dealer of a monte bank at Walla Walla was robbed by one Schaffer of $250 on Thursday night of last week. The dealer was sacking up his money, when Schaffer walked off with the sack.

EASTERN NEWS.

From New York, we learn that Connolly was not bailed out up to Nov. 28th. His friends say that the Sheriff is unnecessarily severe in refusing men who were fully able to respond as sureties. He will be committed to Sudlow-street jail, if bail is not furnished within a reasonable time. The *Times* says that Mayor Hall will shortly be arrested on a similar complaint to that which caused the arrest of his fellow conspirators.

There were 153 deaths from smallpox in Philadelphia last week, and 92 new cases reported last Tuesday.

Gen. Schenck being connected with the Emma Mining Company in Utah, as one of the Directors is said to be the basis of the objection to him farther continuing as Minister to England.

At Hunter's Point, Long Island, Nov. 27th, forty Catholic children were expelled from the public schools, by direction of the Commissioner, because they objected to read the Bible.

Delegate McCormick, of Arizona, on last Monday, presented a petition to the President signed by all classes of citizens, asking that the control of the Indian affairs be given to the military authorities and not to the Peace Commissioners. The President hoped Gen. Schofield would satisfy the people of Arizona. The Government proposed to deal summarily and rigorously with the Apaches if, after duly notifying them to go and remain on the new East Reservation, where they would be fed and protected, they continue on the war path.

The Board of Directors of the Missouri Pacific Railroad decided recently to pay off half a million of floating debt between now and January first. $300,000 will be left which will be paid in April. The road will then be free of floating debt.

Ex-Senator Wade declined the offer made him by Secretary Fish as Umpire of the Commission between England and Siberia. His position as chief law officer of the Northern Pacific Railroad will not permit him to be long enough away.

Rev. Joel S. Edwards, a Methodist Minister of Marshalltown, Wisconsin, has been notified that an English estate, worth over $30,000,000, which Mr. Edwards' grandfather leased to the crown for 99 years in 1772, is now legally the property of himself and 34 others.

PERSONAL.—Hiram Smith, of Harrisburg, called on us Wednesday. High is as full of life and business as ever, and speaks highly of the future for Harrisburg.

Dr. Jones, of Iowa, called on us Wednesday. He is looking for a home in Oregon.

Jacob Stitzel, Grand Worthy Chief Templar of Oregon, called Tuesday evening. Sorry we were absent at the time. Come again.

Mr. Brown, late of Dayton, Oregon, Agent of the Continental Life Insurance Company, called on us Tuesday.

Mr. James Finlayson and lady returned to this city from a visit to California, on Wednesday evening's train. He is disgusted with what he saw and experienced while traveling through that State.

There is food for reflection in these figures: Of the total population of New York city, 942,292, no less than 720,999 are of foreign parentage on both sides; 34,824 have either father or mother of foreign birth, and only 160,481 are of really American parentage.