The Week.

The House has passed but two measures of national importance during the week, one, the Anti-Polygamy Bill of Mr. Cullom—if, after so much altercation, he would still choose to be called the father of it; the other, a bill fixing one year’s residence as a necessary qualification hereafter for appointment to any cadetship from any given district. With this, and with sundry resolutions aimed at parties not members of the House, and asking for their dismissal or court-martial, the investigations closed, and the committee was discharged. The Tariff Bill has been discussed with as much vigor as if anybody expected it to pass, Messrs. Allison and Kelley being the principal speakers, of course, on opposite sides. The President’s message on the decline of American commerce was received on Wednesday, but excited no particular interest. It was on the same day that Gen. Ames’s case was under discussion in the Senate, with Mr. Carpenter to vindicate the Judiciary Committee and its respect for constitutional provisions. No decision was reached. On Friday, Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to reduce the army by one-fifth, but in a way to mitigate the hardships of reduction, spare the feelings of deserving officers, and, at the same time, effect a material saving in that branch of the service. The Senate has, however, been chiefly engrossed, in executive sessions, with the San Domingo treaty, on which Senators Sumner and Schurz have spoken with great force and ability, and Senator Morton at least with a vast deal of patience, since he is said to have traced the progress of the island from its discovery by Columbus to the present day—no slight job, as everybody knows who has attempted to study the history of either half of Hispaniola. On Tuesday, Mr. Sherman pushed the Texas Bill through the Senate, and the proclamation of the Fifteenth Amendment will probably have been made ere this reaches our readers.

The San Domingo treaty seems to have no chance of ratification, the majority of the Senate being apparently, and doubtless, for various reasons, unalterably, opposed to annexations of territory—a result over which hardly anybody will grieve except the President, who, it must be admitted, in getting this scheme up chose a most unfortunate subject for his enterprise. With the South in the condition it is in now, and a committee sitting at Washington to take evidence on Ku-Klux outrages, and the army dwindling to a handful, it would be madness to annex territory occupied by blacks who have passed half a century in intestine war, and whom it would probably take half a century more to reconcile to the humdrum of peace. By the way, we trust that any enquiry that is made into the condition of Tennessee will be conducted with gravity, and in a sedentary, spirit. What has occurred in Georgia has given a large hordes of adventurers a direct interest in getting up stories of “outrages,” and we trust they will be well sifted before Congress again sets about overturning a State government by way of keeping the peace. We have heard nothing yet said about Tennessee as an excuse for fresh reconstruction which may not be also said of New York. If Senter was elected by fraud, so was Hoff- man; and if life be unsafe, justice badly administered, and prisons loosely guarded in Tennessee, so they are here. So if Senter be ousted, and a provisional government set up at Nashville, justice and comity will call for a similar display of vigor at Albany.

The Tariff Bill is making very slow progress, and it begins to appear tolerably certain that there will be no change this session. For an increase of duties, either directly or indirectly, the House does not seem to be prepared, while there is a strong demand out of doors for a decrease; and, under these circumstances, protectionists, for the first time in nine years, show signs of timidity and of willingness to con-
tent with what they have got. But then, with the tariff as it is, rest is impossible; it is only by changes every year or so that its object can be accomplished.

General Sherman has written a characteristic letter on the Army Bill, addressed to Senator Wilson, the Chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate, in which he says, in his usual forcible style, many things which it is very creditable to the House of Representatives that it should have been left for him to say. He alleges that the law of 1862, which broke up twenty regiments of infantry, prohibited all further appointments or promotions in the staff corps till the prohibition should be removed by Congress; so that the whole staff corps and departments are now disappearing as fast as the present officers die, and the present bill makes no provision for their continuance. He speaks with some bitterness of the proposed absolute discharge of two major-generals and two brigadiers, and the degradation of the heads of bureaus from the rank of brigadier, which they now hold, to that of colonel—this being really, as he points out, in the nature of a penalty which should never be inflicted except by sentence of a court-martial. The saving of $3,000,000 a year, which General Logan promises as the result of the bill, General Sherman declares will not be secured, insomuch as the money to be taken from the higher grades is proposed to give to the lower grades. As to the "invidious comparisons" which have been made between the salaries of the Chief-Justice and cabinet ministers and that of the General, he points out that whatever shame there is in the matter arises out of the fact, not that the salary of the General-in-Chief is too high, but that those of the Chief-Justice and cabinet ministers are too low, and that he holds it to be a shame that a country with forty millions of people should stint their Chief-Justice and cabinet ministers as this Government now does. Finally, in an outburst of honest indignation, he says (in substance) what some member of the House should have said for him, that he has earned his pay, be it high or low; that, during the war, when filling the world with his fame, helping in no inconsiderable degree to save the country, and commanding more men than the Duke of Wellington ever commanded, he lived and supported his family on less pay than Wellington’s private secretary received, and asks—what the economical saints and purists of the House will find it hard to answer—"What money would pay Meade for Gettysburg? What, Sheridan for Winchester and Five Forks? What, Thomas for Chickamauga, Chattanooga, or Nashville?"

One of the interesting and instructive features about this Army Bill is, that its principal supporters are now or have been also hearty supporters of some scheme for cheating the public creditors, and are among the most hostile or indifferent to the reform of the Civil Service, by which savings of enormous amount might really be made; from which we deduce the conclusion that it is not economy they seek so much as the degradation in the public eye of training, skill, and honesty—three things, the due appreciation of which by the people would drive them into private life. Were these men to have their way in all things, we should present, by the year 1873, probably the most debasing spectacle which God has ever permitted to appear on earth—a powerful and rich people swindling the men who lent them money in their adversity, giving their highest offices to their principals, and the lower offices to their minor souls, corrupting their fountains of justice by a parsimony so small as to bring them neither comfort nor relief, and turning adrift on the world the sons of the soldiers to whose valor and skill they owed their existence, and haggling with the rest in order to ascertain the smallest sum on which the sorrowful souls of their heroes could be kept in their scarred or mutilated bodies. The sweet suggestion which has been made that the discharged officers can go out and get a quarter section of Western land and work it, and therefore have no right to complain, seems to have been conceived in for-
getfulness of the fact that they might have done that without risking their lives on the battle-field or spending the best years of their lives in learning to soldier. There is, indeed, no end to the employments to which they can turn, from grinding a hand-organ up to "politics."

Col. Baker reports to Gen. Sheridan that, "after having made every effort to get the judgment of the officers of the command," he is satisfied that the surprise of the Piegans involved nearly the following loss of life, viz.: in all, 173 killed; of whom 120 were able-bodied men, and 53 women and children. The captives amounted to 140 women and children, subsequently released. "I believe," he adds, "that every effort was made to save the non-combatants, and that such women and children as were killed were accidentally killed." There may be better testimony than this, but we should not know where to look for it, unless from some other member of the expedition.

There is, perhaps, nothing in which Grant's Administration has won such honorable distinction as in its judicial appointments. In this it forms a marked contrast to Mr. Lincoln's, which treated the bench as a retreat for faithful hacks, and gave us Underwood and Busseed. The selection of Mr. Bradley, of New Jersey, to the vacant justiciary of the Supreme Court is probably as good a one as could have been made had the bar been searched over. Curiously enough, too, he has been confirmed without difficulty by the Senate, although under the rule laid down in Judge Hoor's case—that a judge must be a resident in the circuit to which he is assigned—he is incompetent. The disregard of the geographical qualification of course shows clearly, what everybody previously believed, that the objection to Judge Hoor was invented to cover the real and more discréditable one, and that his hostility to jobbing office-seekers was what undid him. It shows, too, that the carpet-baggers, besides being unscrupulous, are unblushing. Decency required them to try and cover up their treatment of Judge Hoor by dealing out the same measure to Mr. Bradley. However, their decision is useful not only in putting a good judge on the bench, but in vindicating Judge Hoor and upsetting an absurd precedent.

The so-called anti-Radical editors of South Carolina have set a precedent which many of us may live to see generally followed, by assembling in conference to decide upon the line of political policy which they will unite in urging upon the voters of the State. Hibberto, the "Conservative" papers of South Carolina have not been speaking with entirely accordant voices; manifest as it has been for years that the negro absolutely must be made a friend, there was still left, here and there, a bitter negro-hater who counselled open war to the end—"a square fight on a white man's platform"—until, peradventure, a national success for the Democratic party should give the "Conservatives" a chance to make over their reconstructed State. In the conference, however, more politic views prevailed, and the platform adopted is all that anybody has any right to ask for. The attendance of editors, though numerically small, is said to have represented the feelings and opinions of nearly all the counties in the State. They began by passing a resolution to the effect that "the conference recognized the legal right of all the citizens, white or colored, to suffrage," and proceeded to pass another to the effect that there ought to be "no limitation of the right to hold office except such limitations as are imposed by personal character and fitness." A convention is to be held which will organize a party pledged to these dogmas and acting in the hope of getting a government which shall afford "some degree of security, prosperity, and good government." These proceedings seem promising, and we are not disinclined to believe that they are taken in good faith. South Carolina events have logic, whether or not there is much sense and logic in the South Carolina Democrats, and how other conclusions could have been reached it is not easy to see. Yet, in the same paper which gives us an account of this sensible conference, we find set forth a scheme, looking towards immigration, which would seem to show that the average South Carolina land owner can rid himself of his desire to hold baronial possessions in land. The immigrants he wants are the lowest class of white European farm laborers, and he would have them distributed by bureaus and sub-bureaus to the planters as they are needed, employing them on an experimental farm till they are called for. We up here distribute laborers from Castle Garden, but we send out men whom we know to be seeking work first, and farms afterward.

That there is need enough that somehow South Carolina should get a new government, is not to be doubted. There is no dispute among observers of its performances that the Legislature which has just been adjourned was one of the most corrupt assemblages of men that ever legislated for a State, and one of the most contemptible in point of ability. The Senate was better than the Lower House, for, though it had members who looked for bribes, they did not make a show of their spoils, as did some representatives. No bill, however objectionable, could pass, it is said, unless it paid contribution to the "Forty Thieves"—an organized band, some of whom were white, some colored, some Democrats, and some Republicans. Luckily, this precious crew did not vainly itself at a high rate, and would legislature after being "recognized," or getting "light," to the extent of five or ten dollars a head. These gentlemen are said to have had a captain and other officers, to have regularly sold themselves, and to have divided gains according to rank in the organization. In this indulgent atmosphere, Mr. B. F. Whittemore, by-the-by, is now laboring to secure a return to his seat in Congress. The Republican leaders oppose him, and the meetings that he addresses are not so numerous as his audiences in old times nor so enthusiastic. In fact, they are rather quiet; but the feeling of the negro is said to be, on the whole, in his favor. It is probable, then, that we shall have him back in Washington, in view of which probability, we would refer any member who wishes to look up Mr. Whittemore thoroughly to Mr. Dirk Teupken, of Salem, Mass., who reports that when Mr. Whittemore was chaplain of the 90th Massachusetts he had some dealings with Teupken, much to the pecuniary disadvantage of that foreigner, who had previously thought that clergymen could be trusted.

In North Carolina, also, the State Government is in a bad way, and its financial policy, to speak euphemistically of what seems to have been more thieving, has been particularly unfortunate. What Governor Holden is most of our readers know. He is a small, astute politician, with a capacity for turning his cost when that performance can conduce to his comfort; and, though North Carolinians are neither the ablest nor the most suspicious people in the world, Mr. Holden was sufficiently found out some years ago, to make it certain that, but for the advent of the negro voter, he would now be editing a feeble partisan paper, as he did before and during the war, or be engaged in some similar occupation. The Raleigh Standard used to be his paper; but when, after the war, he succeeded Jonathan Worth as Governor, he sold his interest in it to a man called Littlesfield, who was hand-in-glove with a "member of the third house," called Swepson, and with these was joined a person by the name of Hawkins. Soon $16,000,000 in State bonds were issued by the Legislature and Governor bonds to be used in furtherance of certain railroad projects. About $1,000,000 worth of these bonds, it is said, have been satisfactorily accounted for; but as to the rest, that their disposition is a matter open to suspicion, to say the least, has been made so plain—to say nothing of Mr. Swepson's having fled the State—by the investigations of the Legislature now sitting, that an act has been passed with these provisions: "All acts framed at the last session, making appropriations for railroad schemes, are repealed; all bonds of the State issued in pursuance of these acts are ordered to be at once restored to the State Treasury; all moneys levied and collected under the railroad acts are to be credited to the counties of the State, and to be deducted from the amount of the county tax for the current year." It will be a matter of some interest to watch the future political career of Governor Holden. The average white North Carolinian is an honest and fairly intelligent man, and, though not very literate, events of the magnitude of these "irregularities" may be presumed to be now known to him. Nor do we imagine that the Governor will find salva-
tion at the hands of the negroes, though, to be sure, he has opportunely
done some proclaiming of martial law.

"In the Northern States the English emigrant now finds himself not
only in a foreign but in a hostile country." So Mr. Goldwin Smith
writes to the London News. "A principal source of the ill feeling, no
doubt, are the Irish." Mr. Smith goes on to say; and he is anxious
that a counterpart for the Irish North should be made out of a Vir-
ginia composed in great part of English immigrants. The native
Virginians, he says, are the most English of Americans; they are very
friendly to the mother country; and they informed Mr. Smith that they
were very anxious that their State should be filled up by English im-
migrants; slavery is really dead and buried, and the new-comer who
wished to work would not find in his way any of the old anti-indus-
trial sentiment. So much of this letter as praises the natural
resources of Virginia is to be taken as close to the facts. That State
is one of the very finest in the Union, abounding in all minerals, from
gold to gypsum; containing soils fitted for the production of almost
any crop known to American agriculture; endowed with a climate
probably unequaled by that of any other region on the continent, so
far as concerns the breeding of healthy men; half-covered with noble
forests; rich in water-courses and water-powers; beautiful for scenery,
and so connected with the West and so fortunate in respect of harbor
as to seem destined to commercial eminence as decided as its past
political eminence. Slavery once thoroughly gone—and it is fast
going—there seems to be no reason whatever why Virginia should not
be among the chief States of the Union in population, in political
influence, in manufacture, agriculture, mining, and commerce. But
apart from what he says on this general head, Mr. Smith is very much out.
All Englishmen are received here with kindness. Even Mr. Laird
and his like, though doubtless they would not be received with diffu-
sion, except in certain small circles, would probably get civility. They
would be as little likely to find themselves in a dangerously hostile
country on this side of Mason & Dixon's line as Mr. Smith when he
went down among the Virginians, whose dislike he may be supposed to
have earned by his conspicuous zeal in behalf of the Federal Gov-
ernment. The England hated here—and not, as Mr. Smith thinks,
most hated in New England—is an abstraction, and very few are the
individual Englishmen identified in the minds of Americans with the
England of the Alabama. Just as far out is Mr. Smith when he speaks
of the influence of the Irish in making their American neighbors dis-
like the English. The example of the Irish is not yet potent with
Americans. They may be considered good for any number of terrible
"John resolutions" from the hand of the distinguished chairman of
the House Committee on Foreign Relations—resolutions which the
House may very likely pass, but which, nevertheless, Mr. Smith will
do better to laugh at than to "keep awake nights" over. Both the
Republican and the Democratic parties have much tenderness for the
little embarrasments of General Banks and other gentlemen with
many Irish constituents, and will not close their mouths when they
make the speeches that are to do them good in their own districts;
but, also, they are entirely free from augnish of mind when President
Johnson prevents Fenians from going into Canada. English emigrants
are as sure of a warm welcome from Northern Americans as immigrants
from any other country whatsoever; and if we were to say a warmer
welcome, we should not, we think, be far wrong.

We have got on so far from the days of the Ostend Manifesto, that
the news of the death of one of the chief framers of that once famous
instrument has almost an antediluvian flavor. There are some public
characters—and in this country examples are only too plenty—whose
end for usefulness and for notoriety in this world is reached so much
sooner than the end of their days, that they enjoy a temporary resur-
rection in the very act of dying. Such will have been the curious fate
of all three signers of the Manifesto, Mr. Pierre Soulé now having fol-
lowed Mr. Buchanan. He was a foreign-born Southerner, and as min-
ister at Madrid and plotter at Ostend did much to degrade the diplo-
matic service of his adopted country and to embroil us with foreign
powers; but, except for the strength which his excesses lent to the
development of the Free-Soli party, his influence on national affairs is
hardly to be mentioned. Nor does he hardly deserve to be remem-
bered as an American. Quite another epitaph must be written for
Gen. George H. Thomas, who has also been removed by death during
the week, at his post on the Pacific. He was not only one of the
greatest soldiers—not the showiest—we have ever produced, but also
one of the simplest and truest of men. His modesty was as conspicu-
ous as his merit, while his clear good sense saved him from all the
political complications of the last months of Mr. Johnson's incumbency.
By birth a Virginian, he served in Florida and in Mexico with distinc-
tion, unconsciously in the service of the very power he was afterwards
called upon to meet and overthrow. His fidelity to the Government,
and his respect for his oath, at the breaking out of the rebellion, stand
in vivid contrast to the action of Lee, and will long be a monument of
patriotism to his posterity. His loss is almost a calamity, and will be
sincerely deplored.

The "Irish Force Bill," as the latest coercive measure is called, has
passed in the House of Commons by a large majority, only thirteen
members in a full house voting against it. Its main features do not
differ much from those of many of its predecessors, but it makes simple
provision for imposing the responsibility of crimes on the district in
which they are committed. Something of the kind appears to be ab-
esolutely necessary, as in many parts of the country society seems to be
in danger of dissolution. Murders are committed or attempted every
day, but witnesses will not come forward, nor juries convict, through
sheer terror; and if the weakening of public opinion and mutual con-
fusion went much further, there would be no knowing when it would
be possible to set the peaceful machinery of society going again. No
matter what reformatory measure is passed, its effects will not be felt
for some time, and, in the meanwhile, either threats and skulls must
be protected or the Government must withdraw and let the inhabi-
tants fight it out.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte has been acquitted, as it became evident,
as the trial progressed, that he would be. This result will doubtless
be intensively exasperating to the Paris Reds, and, there can be little
doubt, is a failure of justice, and, in some respects, a misfortune for
the dynasty. It is due, beyond question, in the main to the thorough dis-
gust with which Rochefort and his company have managed to inspire
not only the class from which the jury of the High Court is drawn, but
the most sensible and intelligent portion of the French people. In
the first place, journalism, as the editor of the Marcellaise follows,
fighting, ruffianly, blabberskite, lying-journalism—from which all sense
of decency and responsibility is carefully excluded, is felt by the same
portion of the public to be a positive nuisance, which converts its con-
ductors into enemies of the human race. For some years back, too,
the wiser portion of the adventurers of the capital have drifted into
it on one side or other, and produced papers for which the only possi-
bly excuse was, that late hours, and irregular meals, and intemperance
had robbed the owners of their wits. This detestation of them on
the part of the best Frenchmen was intensified by finding, last fall, that
these gentriness, far from being satisfied with editing silly newspapers,
actually aspired to govern the country, and thought Rochefort, and
Flourmet, and Grousset fit to take charge of the affairs of a great
people. As between Pierre Bonaparte and the editors of the Marseillaise,
there is, perhaps, not much to choose, and probably the French pub-
dlic would have been well pleased if the three worthies who met to
arrange the duel about their disgusting abuse of each other on the
morning of the murder, had ended their differences by mutual slaugh-
ter. But when it came to a judicial process, of course the prince
weighed far more in the scale than the journalist. Social influences
worked for him with the jury, and court influences told with the
judges, and, as if to make his escape certain, Rochefort moved that
precious sheet, the Marcellaise, down to Tours during the trial, and
Grousset and the others behaved as badly as possible in court.
Rochefort, we believe, has admirers in this country whose enthusiasm
ought now to be at boiling point. As we have remarked more than
once before, the world of the future, which will be governed by some
of the radical heroes, will be one of the queerest places in which
humanity has ever toiled or shined.
Copyright of Nation is the property of Nation Company, L. P.. The copyright in an individual article may be maintained by the author in certain cases. Content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.