

A Representative of the Massachusetts House was so advised as to bring up a bill that required Railway Companies to give free passes to all Members of the Legislature. The press came down like a thunder-bolt on the proposal, which was defeated by a large majority; but it raised the question of deadheadism, and revealed the erroneous view taken of the subject by certain country members. In the course of the discussion it came out that the late President Orten, of the Western Union Telegraph Co., had estimated at a third of the entire business done by his Company the free messages which the Company permitted Congressmen, State officers, and State Legislators to transmit; but, he admitted that it saved money by preventing unfriendly legislation; or as the *Boston Pilot* observes, "the Company protected its privileges by bribing the law makers."

The Bondholders, through their Trustees of the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, have got up a pretty fight with the Receivers, over whom we heartily hope they will triumph. Chancellor Ross, of Vermont, has ruled that the Receivers may issue certificates for \$250,000 for repairs, which the Trustees resent, declaring that "appeal will be asked for immediately, but, should it be now refused, every legal measure will be taken to prevent the enforcing of any such lien, and payment at maturity of such certificates will be contested before the supreme court. In the meantime the proceedings in the United States Courts and elsewhere will be prosecuted, and every endeavour made to rescue the road from the hands of those whose only aim seems to be to perpetuate their control at the expense of the bondholders." The *Springfield Republican* says, "The mortgages of Vermont railroads have not fared very well in the past, and their experience moves the majority of the Portland and Ogdensburg bondholders to make a sharp fight against a policy which they believe imperils their rights."

In Nevada intense excitement prevailed over an anti-Railroad Bill brought into the State legislature on the 25th Feb. They assembled in their thousands (3,000) in Virginia City to take action, and the action proposed was very energetic. It was to hang the members who had "been bought," and it was suggested that a procession should walk to Carson, and deal out such justice as the exigencies of the case demanded. A committee of 23 met, and adopted resolutions against the demonstration, fearing it would "end in hanging and bloodshed;" they also despatched delegates to Carson to warn the members, saying they "would not be responsible for the consequences in case the procession starts."

By mail we are told of the 60 vessels of the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing fleet, which were out in the late storm, twenty-one have returned, more or less damaged. There is great anxiety for the remainder. By telegram—"It is feared that 14 fishing vessels from Gloucester, Massachusetts, have been lost off George's Bank." A message yesterday from New York, tells that five out of the 14 have returned to Gloucester, which reduces the number of the 146 missing men considerably.

Advices from Samoa, just received at San Francisco, say that on the 23rd Jan. General Bartlett was informed by the Government that his status could not be definitely fixed until after the treaty with Germany, then in course of negotiation with the German Consul, had been concluded. Two German war vessels were in port and a third was expected. In case of the failure of the treaty it was expected that Captain Von Werner would proclaim war against Samoa. Meantime, it is alleged, American interests are in jeopardy, with no American man-of-war within a thousand miles.

A pedestrian match for Sir John Astley's belt,

of 450 miles in six days, began on Monday morning in Gilmore's Garden, New York. O'Leary, now the champion, has three competitors—Rowell, from England; Harriman, from Boston; and Ennis, from Chicago. A great crowd witnessed the start. Rowell was soon five miles ahead of O'Leary, who was in advance of the others. Rowell trots frequently; O'Leary walks steadily. The betting was 3 to 2 on O'Leary, but he was taken ill on Wednesday night, and had to leave the track after walking 215 miles, being 35 miles behind Rowell, who was then 8 miles ahead of Harriman. A gallery broke down that night which created a panic among the 10,000 spectators, but only 12 persons were injured.

The Festival in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Atlantic Cable, given by Mr. Cyrus Field, in Gramercy Park, was a success. One thousand guests assembled, embracing many who had aided in perfecting the cables, with others distinguished in professions, arts, and sciences. Many congratulatory messages were telegraphed from Europe and Canada, including those from Mr. John Welsh, the American Minister, Dean Stanley, and the Marquis of Lorne. Mr. Graves, the electrician at Valentia, telegraphed, "This anniversary witnesses duplex telegraphing across the Atlantic as an accomplished fact."

They continue to investigate ex-Secretary Robeson, the committees as usual presenting contradictory reports. The majority of the House Committee of the 44th Congress recommended the Judiciary Committee to draw up articles of impeachment if they found ground for so doing; but that Committee did not find fraud or wilful violation. The 45th Congress which has just closed its existence investigated through its Committee on Naval Affairs, and its majority report repeated the accusations, adding others. It is alleged there were appropriated during Robeson's time \$182,409,033 for the Navy, which had only 43 vessels fit for service, but the explanation is that so much of the money was devoted to other purposes that little was left for building ships. Precisely: says the accuser; that is what is alleged; and where did the money go; for when Robeson handed over the Department every penny was gone, and even the officers were minus pay for some time. It is curious that £36,000,000 sterling should have been expended by the country for its 43 vessels or nearly a million a vessel considering that at the end the Department was \$7,000,000 in debt. But these were the days of a period which Mr. Charles O'Connor termed "speculation triumphant." Although the time has been short the change is great since that period.

Mr. August Belmont, jun. is a leader in Polo matches, and with another kindred spirit of the Polo Club, Mr. Harry Oelrichs has started for Texas to buy a hundred ponies. Jas. Gordon Bennett will bring from England to New York six members of the Hurlingham Club of Polo players for Grand International matches. Mr. Bennett is very fond of the game, and helped by the *N. Y. Herald*, has made it the fashion on the other side.

One of the carpenters brought over some time ago to Manchester from the United States, wrote to us on the prospects of his trade in New York; he wanted to know whether certain statements of revival were to be relied on with a view of returning to his own country. All our information points to active employment for handicraft men in the building trade. The applications to the building department in New York city lead to the conclusion that the expenditure will be enormous, one estimate setting it as high as £5,000,000 sterling for the construction and repair of houses and stores. And that only represents the private enterprize, while the city is about to embark in

engineering work connected with gas, water, bridges, and streets. The Harlem is to be improved, some ten miles of elevated railway are to be constructed, new piers are to be built by the Dock Department. Both the N. Y. Central and the Erie have plans for warehouses and elevators. Though there is still plenty of unemployed labour, so confident are the trades of a busy time that they are organizing for an increase of wages. We doubt whether there is any better investment now open than in real estate in such cities as New York and Chicago—real estate being the last to fall and the last also to rise.

We have heard of "Ghost Trains" but never till the Unicorn fleet was suggested, of a "Phantom Steam Line." If not moonshine, they say it closely resembles that in substance. One of the steamships the *Zanzibar*, had been coming along till she was given up as something analogous to the *Flying Dutchman*. One writer from New York says—"there is no Unicorn Line now that any one knows anything about," the whole foundation for the story telegraphed to London being that the Seager firm, have some ships plying in the Mediterranean fruit trade which they hope to load with grain and provisions for Liverpool, as a back cargo, and out of this, the story was concocted. It is alleged that Vanderbilt did not offer these steamers any privilege, nor is the through freight from the west to be such a marvel of cheapness. By the way, the *City of Chester*, which arrived last Sunday in Liverpool, had been placed in dry dock in East River, in front of the island. The mechanics were kept at work at night as well as by day: electric lamps being used for the first time in hurrying on the repair.

A fresh Republican Club has been formed in New York under the Grant banner; in which are enrolled some wealthy Republicans. There is one indispensable condition of qualification, that "every person elected shall pledge himself to do all in his power to advance the interests and promote the harmony of the Republican party," which is understood to imply, the re-election of General Grant. General Grant is certainly the "Coming Man" and all appearances indicate that Tilden will be his opponent. The Republicans hug themselves on the idea of "poor old Sammy" running against such a champion as Grant. They think the Democrats might just as well resuscitate Horace Greeley as run the other mummy; but Sammy may prove a more formidable competitor than is at this moment thought possible; for he will carry with him much sympathy as the winner who is not only despoiled, but bespattered. There is a leaven of independence which may increase in power in the fermentation, and may all be directed against Grant. One of their organs says, the woods will be full of Reformers when the day arrives; but will these shoulder a candidate who admits to having been associated with wicked partners? The man who would bring over all the Independents to his side is Bayard, but his State is of little account, and it is essential for the Democracy to carry New York. When the day comes, the Democrats may have to nominate their candidate to secure the independent vote.

"Head-Centre" Stephens, was presented with an address of welcome at New York by the Irish revolutionary Brotherhood. The Fenian leader must have been much cheered by its terms. The Irish National cause in America it said, is in a chaotic state fluctuating between life and death from want of confidence in men who assume to control it; but—that has always been its condition. It considers the attempt treacherous to substitute for revolution the sham and fraud of Parliamentary agitation, which we presume is designed to illustrate its condition on this side. Mr. Stephens is implored in the name of Ireland