

WASHINGTON.

Death of Rear-Admiral Stewart—Spain and the South American Republics—The European Loan Story Denied—Reciprocity with Canada—A Russo-Bohemian Speech.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—The Secretary of the Navy has received intelligence of the death of the venerable Rear-Admiral CHARLES STEWART, of the "Ironsides" *Constitution* frigate fame, which occurred at Bordentown, N. J., yesterday at 3 o'clock. Admiral STEWART was 92 years of age, and had served 71 years, having entered the navy as a Lieutenant on the 9th of March, 1798. Secretary ROBESON will to-morrow issue an order announcing his death, and directing that the flags at all the navy yards and stations and on all vessels in American waters be placed at half-mast on the day of the funeral, which will take place on Wednesday, the 10th inst., at Philadelphia. Vessels on duty in foreign waters will observe the order on the day of its receipt.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS AND SPAIN.

The state of "dormant war," as it was termed by Mr. SEWARD, which has existed between Spain and the South American Pacific Republics, will be ended probably within a few months. New steps have lately been taken to this end. It is understood that in July last the Spanish Minister called the attention of the Secretary of State to the existing unsettled state of things, and he asked that the old proposition of American mediation be revived, to which Mr. Fish consented—the design being to bring together the representatives of Spain and the Pacific Republics in this city. Since that date this matter has been the subject of a diplomatic correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Spanish Minister. It has been finally agreed that the United States shall invite the four South American Republics, Chili, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, through its own accredited Ministers, to send representatives to the conference, which is to meet in Washington on the 15th of January next. It is understood that our Ministers have already been instructed to take the necessary steps to carry out this proposition.

THE FOUR PER CENT. LOAN STORY.

Secretary BOUTWELL authorizes a contradiction of the report that he has dispatched an agent to Europe to negotiate a four per cent. loan. Neither is he maturing any special scheme for the return of specie payments by New-Year's Day, or any other day. That, he hopes, will come in due time by such attention to the finances as he has been giving, and hopes to be able to give in the future. It is his earnest desire to fund the debt at a lower rate of interest during his term of office, and he confidently believes he will not be obliged to go abroad to do it.

CANADIAN RECIPROCITY.

In addition to the denial elsewhere given of the reports about the proposed submission to Congress of a new reciprocity treaty, it may be stated that Secretary FISH informed Mr. ROSE, when last here, that he did not regard the resolution of the House as at all mandatory, and that he preferred not to reopen negotiations until the Ways and Means Committee were here, that he might consult with them on the various points involved. Since that time the subject has not been mentioned in official quarters. It is perfectly apparent, therefore, that no treaty will be ready for the Senate next month, and Mr. Congressman KELSEY has taken fright at nothing.

ANOTHER CORRECTION.

The statement going the rounds that Ex-Governor CURTIN, now Minister to St. Petersburg, recently astonished the guests at a dinner by making a speech partly in Russian and partly in Bohemian, is incorrect. The person alluded to is JEREMIAH CURTIN, Esq., late Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, and no relation to the Governor, and the incident occurred at Prague. CURTIN has completely mastered these difficult languages, and is a very accomplished linguist. He ought to be kept in the diplomatic service, and would be far more useful there than anywhere else.

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

The fractional currency received at the Treasury Department for the week ending Nov. 6 amounted to \$1,239,370. The amount shipped for the same period was \$879,614.

THE WEATHER.

To-day was as disagreeably dusty and unpleasant here as can possibly be imagined. The beautiful Indian Summer weather of the last week gave place to cold winds, with, in the morning and afternoon, threatenings of snow. The streets were deserted and people altogether confined themselves to home pleasures and comforts.

THE GEORGIA FAIR.

None of the Cabinet will attend the Georgia State Fair, which opens at Macon next week. Colonel CARRON, Commissioner of Agriculture, will be present.

Dispatch to the Associated Press.

ADDING WATER TO SPIRITS.

Commissioner DELANO has written the following circular letter to Collectors of Internal Revenue:

"The rulings of this office in regard to the addition of water to spirits has, in some cases, been misunderstood. It has been ruled that addition of pure water to spirits does not constitute rectification under the law. Some dealers have construed this rule as giving them the right to withdraw part of the spirits from a stamped package and fill the same with water, without changing the stamps and marks of the package. Such drawing of part of the spirits, and filling with water, it will be observed, destroys the identity between the package and its contents, as shown by the stamps and marks or brands, and is, in effect, a change of package. While it is the conceded right of a dealer to reduce the proof of his spirits by adding water, he can only do so by adding the requirements in regard to change of package.

When part of the spirits are withdrawn from a package and the package filled with water it is held to be a constructive withdrawal of the spirits, and calls for an obliteration of the stamps and brands the same as in case of actual withdrawal. This done, the package so filled with water must be gauged, stamped and marked or branded the same as if the spirits had been changed to an entirely different package. Whenever spirits are found to vary in kind and proof from that shown in the stamp and brands on the packages they should be seized. If the misapprehension alluded to exists in your district you will please take the necessary steps to correct it."

The Spanish Gunboats—The Result of the New-York Election—Preparations for the Coming Session.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Nov. 6, 1869.

The Spanish question, or rather the question of Cuban recognition, is now apparently so far out of sight that it presents no features worth serious discussion. That it will revive on the assembling of Congress is very probable, as it will afford a good escape valve for much of the oratorical buncombe with which many members are charged after a Summer's hibernation, or a season's reflection out of the atmosphere of Washington. Aside from the case of the *Hornet*, which presents no features likely to attract permanent attention, there is nothing worth watching, except the case of the Spanish gunboats. The status of these vessels now is just this: They are in the custody of the Navy Department under an Executive order, it being more convenient and cheaper to hold them that way than to devolve that duty upon the State Department, where it naturally belongs. The ground upon which they are held is the complaint of the Peruvian Minister that they are destined to be used against Peru—not directly, for they could not be sent to the Pacific coast—but that they will release vessels now employed against the Cubans, which can be sent against Peru. This makes out a case under the Neutrality laws; and so long as it stands, the gunboats will remain where they are. Should the complaint be withdrawn, however, the gunboats would have to be released, unless Cuba should be accorded sufficient status by recognition. The Spaniards may consider it fortunate that Peru furnished the provocation in this instance. I am not sure but this Government would have found a cause for the detention of the gunboats in any event, and that cause might have been—may yet be—recognition, pure and simple. Let Spain content itself with refusing to accept our "good offices," and with buying and shipping unmolested all the arms and munitions she can pay for. That doesn't involve the

enforcement of the Neutrality act, but a gun-boat expedition does.

THE NEW-YORK ELECTION.

The result of the New-York election is variously received here by the Republicans. Some regard it as very unfortunate that we should have lost the Legislature entirely; others look upon it as the shortest way to the end, and are glad that the iniquities which are always perpetrated at Albany can no longer be charged to our account, but must be shouldered, in all their broad responsibility, by the party which always perpetrates them, even when the Republicans are in a majority. The consequences may be serious, but they can only be temporary. Every one expects to see Democratic license run riot at the coming session of the Legislature. The fair promises of Governor HOFFMAN will be of no avail. He will be controlled by those whose tool he is. Life and property will be rendered unsafe in New-York; the Police and the Croton will be at the mercy of the rabble who vote the Democratic ticket; the Catholic schools of New-York will be supported with the people's money, and there will be such a carnival as thieves never had before. But it will goad the decent people of the City and State into the most resolute attempt yet made to retrieve the disaster. The tax payers of New-York will resist when the robbers take them by the throat, but not much sooner. There were many good signs for the future of the Republican Party in the City of New-York at the late election, and the disposition here is to give the party all the protection possible. To this end the purpose to amend the Naturalization laws will be more earnestly pressed at the ensuing session of Congress than ever before. No man's rights will be interfered with—and no obstacles placed in the way of any man achieving all the privileges of citizenship. But the endeavor will be made to confine the power of naturalization to the United States Courts, where it properly belongs, and where it can be exercised without fear of abuse; and, further, it will be sought to permit the final papers of citizenship to be perfected at the end of four years, but the right of franchise not to be exercised until one year after the taking out of papers. In this way the term of probation will not be prolonged, and yet all inducement for fraud will be removed. This action will largely aid the Republicans of New-York City. The unity of the party manifested at the election will aid it in meeting and suppressing fraudulent voting. Thus while the recent defeat may be temporarily unfortunate, there is no reason why it should be anything more than temporary.

PREPARATIONS FOR CONGRESS.

Members of Congress are coming along singly, in complets and in squads. They only stay long enough now to fix their quarters for the Winter. Quite a goodly number are already fixed at the beautiful new Arlington House, which is going to add immensely to the hotel attractions of Washington, and will serve to increase the number of visitors to this city by precisely the number it can accommodate. The legislative season promises to be interesting without being exciting, and the social season promises to be gay without being sensational or extravagant. There will be the usual entertainments and receptions, but no more than usual.

CYMON.