# Eastern Star.

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Hope is entertained in Washington, from all quarters, for postponing the extra session of Congress to October; and for undertaking to support the army for four months without authority of law, in fact in direct violation of law.

PERSONAL.—The crowded State of our columns compels us to omit our usual quantity of editorial. Correspondents will oblige us by making their communications as brief as possible. We are compelled to withhold several communications for want of room for them. The writers will appreciate the situation and excuse us.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

The war news of the past week is not of sufficient importance for us to give general details. The Russians are progressing very slowly on the Danube. A Russian battery sunk a Turkish monitor on Friday. Roumania is about to declare her independence. The campaign in Asia Minor is more active. The Russians appear to be advancing on foot to Erzerum, beyond Kars. The advance is in three columns. Kars is besieged. The Russian Government has announced its purpose to protect Constantinople and Egypt.—There has been a very lively debate in the British Parliament on the Eastern question, Mr. Gladstone leading the Liberal assault on the Ministry. The campaign has not developed the point where the Russians intend to cross the Danube. It is reported that Turkey is about to withdraw from lower Bulgaria to her inner line of defense, which will leave the Russians at liberty to cross the lower Danube without obstructions. This is doubtful.

Ex-Gov. Joshua H. Brown, of Georgia, has written a long letter, declaring that Senator Gordon was mainly responsible for the seating of President Hayes, and condemns him severely for his course in regard to the electoral commission. The talk in the Washington papers is that Gov. Brown aspires to Gen. Gordon's seat in the United States Senate.—*Balto. Sun.*

The Atlanta Gov. Brown is the same "Joe Brown," who, as Gov. of Georgia, in 1861, withdrew the Georgia State troops from General Joseph E. Johnston's army, when it was about to be attacked by General Sherman, in order that they might go home and secure their sorghum crop, saying the sorghum crop was more important to Georgia than the city of Atlanta. He is exceedingly erratic and unreliable, and will sacrifice any body or any party to serve his own interests, or gratify his own ambition. As ultra states rights man during the war, he was one of the first Rebels to seek office under the Republicans after the war was over. General Gordon is worth a thousand such men as Joe Brown.

In an article discussing the Vault question, the St. Michaels *Comet* expresses its opinion as follows respecting the vault connected with the Clerk's office, which is by far the better one of the two:

"We doubt not that experience will show that papers cannot be preserved in this vault in its present condition. In our humid atmosphere sunlight is absolutely necessary to protect from destroying mildew and mould. Take a dark room in which the daylight comes, but into which the rays never directly enter, and almost sure daily evidences of damp decay will occur in the room while it looks the objects in the room will suffer. The writer of this article was in the vault a few days ago, and can testify that its present condition is not compatible either with the health of the persons compelled to stay in it, nor to the preservation of the records stowed away in it. Nowhere along the Atlantic coast can unventilated vaults or rooms be made to preserve papers."

THE DOWNFALL OF THE NEPHEW OF HIS UNCLE—*Why George H. Butler was Removed*—It has already been announced that Postmaster General Key has revoked the appointment of George H. Butler, nephew of Gen. B. F. Butler, as a special agent of the Post-office Department at the Black Hills. It has transpired that the appointment of Butler was urged among others by Congressmen Cox, of New York, and Sayler, of Ohio, and by Senators Spencer, of Alabama, Dorsey, of Arkansas, all of whom laid stress on the fact that Butler was a "nephew of his uncle" and in all respects worthy of the position. The reasons for Butler's removal is furnished as follows by the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune:

"The removal is based upon a letter written by one of the most prominent clergymen of the Methodist denomination in New York city to an officer in the Postmaster's Department. This clergyman says that while traveling to Chicago a few days ago he met a man who said his name was Butler, and who claimed to have received an appointment from the Postoffice Department at special agent to organize mail routes in the Black Hills. Mr. Butler exhibited his commission repeatedly, and boasted that he received a good salary and six dollars a day for his expenses. The clergyman says that he had a bottle of brandy from which he drank frequently and copiously, and that he pressed others in the car to drink even after they had informed him that they never indulged in spirituous liquors. Before retiring the first night Mr. Butler was thoroughly drunk, and his conversation was of such a profane and vulgar character that he made himself disagreeable to every one in the car. The clergyman remarked in his letter that he did not know whether this fellow was an imposter or not, but that if he actually did hold a commission from the Postoffice Department he certainly would not be in condition to transact any business for the government so long as his brandy held out or he could get any more. The letter closed with a suggestion that so long as there are enough good men with whom to fill government offices such fellows as this ought not to be employed.

"On the receipt of this letter the Postmaster General immediately directed the commission to be revoked, and in his letter to George H. Butler, informing him of this fact, he gives the reasons as stated above, and adds that no person who conducts himself in the manner described can hold a commission signed by the Postmaster General."

The Army.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The Secretary of War to-day issued an order directing that 2,500 enlisted men of the army be discharged between this date and the 1st of July, in order that the retained pay and other allowances due them may be paid out of the appropriation for the current fiscal year. This discharge is made on account of the postponement of the extra session of Congress. Had the session been called on the 4th of June, as at first contemplated, the discharge would not have been made for some months. Under the act of August 15, 1876, the President was empowered to increase the number of enlisted men to 100 for each company of such regiments of cavalry as may be employed in existing Indian hostilities, and as in his opinion may require the same, provided that not more than 2,500 enlisted men shall thus be added at any one time to the 25,000 authorized by the act of July 24, 1876, and it is the additional men enlisted in pursuance of this act who are now to be discharged. The discharge of the number above mentioned reduces the army to 25,000 enlisted men, as authorized by the act of July 24. The amount required to pay these men will be in the neighborhood of $600,000, the average amount to be paid to each being about $250 on account of retained pay, clothing not drawn and deposits made with paymasters, which draw low per cent. interest under special act of Congress. The discharge will be made from time to time between this date and the 1st of July.


(From the New York Ledger.)

SEWING MACHINE PATENTS.

Purchasers to Reap the Benefit of the Expired Patents.

What the Manufacturers Say—Not Much Fear of Monopolies Hereafter—Decisions to be Made at Once.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 7.—As many new the combination sewing machine patents expire, and in this city of factories there is great wonder and not a little apprehension as to what the effect will be; not the effect in the market or in the demand for machines but in the daily wages of hundreds who have been for years daily fed by their daily labor in the great establishments where the sewing machines are made.

At the office of Wheeler & Wilson I learned that no final determination is reached in respect of further reductions in prices. One of the principals said:

"There is a great deal of humbug about reductions. The Singer people do announce a reduction from $60 to $50, but they do not specify the particular machine. If people couple the cash we could afford to sell a machine that cost $15 for $50 cash, but we could not do it for less than that. The price on machines of all makers, for some years to come, will be what they pay at all. Then, again, we did not make little at the factories during the war, in paying our men in gold, in paying our men in gold, in paying our men in gold