

Chamber to amend the Constitution by adding an article to extend the Presidential term from four to six years, and forbid the re-election of any future President. This proposition was warmly supported by men of both parties, and, so far as a bare majority is concerned, prevailed by a vote of 134 to 104; but it lacked the two thirds required to carry a constitutional amendment. The Currency Bill has been dropped, and the Civil Rights Bill will share the same fate or be vetoed by the President. The elections of U. S. Senators have followed the verdict of the several States in November. In New York, Kernan has been elected; in Pennsylvania, after a sharp struggle, Wallace, also a Democrat. Our old enemy, Chandler, has been rejected in Michigan, and Grant's "momentary dreams of peace" have been dispelled by the election of ex-President Andrew Johnson, in Tennessee. The Democrats of Missouri let slip a golden opportunity of cementing their alliance with the anti-Grant Republicans. Instead of accepting Carl Schurz, they were foolish enough to take up and, of course, elect a nobody called Gen. Cockrell.

Baron Reuter and the Associated Press, when they manipulate the cable telegraph, are doubtless public benefactors; but they are sadly given to propounding enigmas for Cisatlantic solution. A week or so ago we were treated to a paragraph from the *Times*, which may be regarded as alarming or not, according to the peculiar temperament of the reader. Perhaps the Baron's agents have been giving us the luxury of a war panic, as they hoaxed the *Times* itself with an imaginary quotation from the President's Message, on a very slim basis of fact. It may be that the leading journal, while in a dyspeptic frame of mind, was trying to correct its digestion by getting rid of the atrabilious humour which temporarily weighed upon it. Be this as it may, the newspapers on this side of the Atlantic have coupled the *Times'* regret that "the momentary dreams

of peace have fled away" with Mr. Disraeli's declaration that Europe is "on the eve of a great crisis;" and have exercised their ingenuity upon the probable cause of these gloomy forebodings. The peace of the world may be interrupted at any moment in several ways. There is first, the obstinate and menacing fact that every nation in Continental Europe is armed to the teeth. These bloated armaments are not maintained in times of peace, still less materially strengthened, as they have been by the Landsturm Bill in Germany, without set purpose. They indicate clearly either that the first power on the Continent is apprehensive of attack, which was Von Moltke's absurd plea for an extension of its military establishments, or that Prince Bismarck, "the high-priest clad in chain-mail," has not yet had his fill of blood and iron. The Chancellor can hardly suppose that France is likely to renew the attack for some years to come; but he is vexed that she has so soon repaired her disasters, and thus stolen a march upon the road to her revenge. He has, therefore, declared that Germany must not wait till France is ready, but take her in a half-prepared state. This is danger number one. Closely connected with it is the Papal question, which has assumed international significance from the publication of Bismarck's despatch on the next Papal election. This remarkable document is a singular jumble of historical errors and inconsequent deductions, but it clearly shows that Germany contemplates interference in the choice of Pius the Ninth's successor, and, what is without precedent, the right to veto the choice of the Conclave after it has been made. In this despatch Bismarck made a bid for support from the other powers, it is said without success. Moreover, it would not be difficult to find a pretext in Spain, if the Chancellor were so disposed. At present the speck of war appears on the Eastern horizon. When the three Emperors met together last year most people were disposed to assign little