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## Nashville Patriot.

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## THE NORTHERN CONGRESS. EXPULSION OF SENATOR BRIGHT.

### INTERESTING DEBATE ON THE QUESTION.

Through our Northern papers we get news of the Washington Congress to the 6th instant. The Senate has finally disposed of the case of Senator Bright, of Indiana, charged with disloyalty, based on the fact of his having given to a gentleman, about the first of last March, a letter of introduction to "His Excellency, President Davis," recommending a certain improvement in fire arms. He was expelled from his seat in the Senate by a vote of thirty-two to fourteen. It required a two-thirds vote to effect the expulsion, and thirty-two is the exact number. The vacancy created by Mr. Bright's expulsion will be filled by the Gov. of Indiana, who is a strong Republican. We give the debate that preceded the final vote on the question:

The special order—the resolution for the expulsion of Mr. Bright from his seat in the Senate—was taken up.

Mr. Adams, of Rhode Island, said he should vote for the expulsion simply for the reason that a person who could write such a letter as that of Mr. Bright to Jefferson Davis, dated the 1st March, to such a person, under such circumstances, could not properly be entrusted to take part in their deliberations. All other matters that had been brought into the case, in debate, he did not consider.

Mr. Harris, of New York, said that in this case the question was settled, the vote having only to be recorded. Therefore, anything he should now say was of little regard except to himself. Some gentlemen, influenced by the spirit and passion of the hour, had gone aside from the true issue. Some had merged the character of judge into that of advocate, and even into that of the partisan. The Senator from Massachusetts, (Mr. Sumner) in stately terms, had

outside of the records, and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) had made a half dozen speeches of a character to entitle him from the designation of senior counsel. He arrived at one out of the clerks of the Finance

Committee on Finance (Mr. Fessenden) relative to Mr. Bright's attendance in that committee and support of the war measures. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Johnson] had made an eloquent and touching speech, portraying the wrongs and sufferings inflicted by this rebellion, in all which he (Mr. Harris) sympathized; but it was all irrelevant. He referred to the extreme and dangerous ground which had been taken there: without proving a specific charge against a Senator, he was to be expelled because he was "not fit to be a member." What was this to be determined, and who is to judge? Others, on this ground, would long ago have gone out from this chamber. The argument of Mr. Cowan, of Pennsylvania, in which he held that the Senator from Indiana was entitled to be dealt with as if before a jury, was just, and correct. Mr. Bright was not tried as a traitor; that was not the charge, and, therefore, he should not be dealt with as such.

The case of the Senators Jefferson Davis, Polk, and others was not parallel. They had severed themselves from this body and joined the enemies of the country. On the other hand, Mr. Bright was here in the discharge of his duties, representing a loyal State, as a loyal man, though he doubtless had inherited political ideas of which he could not divest himself. He referred to the effort to instruct him on this subject which was being made in the New York Legislature, and in one or more other States to instruct others, under the exploded doctrine of the right of instruction, which was but the offspring of the well nigh fatal doctrine of State rights. This movement had originated through the action of nineteen of his colleagues in the other House. He made no complaint of their course, as they said it was for the honor of his State. While, however, he was always ready to avail himself of the counsel of his friends in any matter of legislation, he could not do so in this, a judicial matter.

Dr. Davis, of Kentucky, said that if he had made a dozen speeches in this case, it was because of the misapprehension or misrepresentation of his arguments. If he was the senior counsel for the prosecution, the gentleman from New York was the senior for the defence. He went on to repudiate the doctrine of Mr. Harris in regard to trial before the Senate.

Mr. Foster, of Connecticut, said that as the Senator from Indiana had yesterday had read certain resolutions selected from several passed by a Democratic Convention in Indiana, as indicating his views on the prosecution of the war, he would desire the whole series passed by that body should be read. He read the resolutions to the Clerk.

Mr. Pearce, of Maryland, remarked that he did not see the propriety of reading other resolutions, whatever they might be, when Mr. Bright had selected two only as expressing his views. He objected to the reading.

The question was raised, under the rule, as to the right of a Senator to have a paper read after objection was made. Some contended that the rule only applied to papers in possession of the Senate, but Mr. Pearce said that it was for the purpose of keeping out stuff, and for such cases as this.

The Chair of the Union, the resolutions could not be read, though Mr. Foster

Mr. Foster said he did not wish to put upon Mr. Bright a single sentence, or opinion not his own. He then read the resolutions at length, as he said, to show the character of those who adopted those which Mr. Bright did endorse. [The resolutions attribute the origin of the crisis in the country to Northern agitation of slavery and denounce the purposes and principles of the Republicans; and also as regards the surrender of Mason and Slidell, declare that it should have been done at once, instead of waiting for the disgrace of doing it under a menace.]

Mr. Bright said that he had only accidentally introduced the two resolutions which he did yesterday, by way of satisfying the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Willey), as to a point on which he had said he would suspend judgment. But he would now say that he endorsed the whole series of these resolutions, adopted by the largest convention of his political friends which ever assembled in Indiana—he endorsed them in their full height, depth and breadth.

Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, took the floor and urged at length that a Senator might be tried upon the established principles of evidence—either of being guilty or not guilty. But, apart from these, there were no high principles to be regarded, if dignity and safety were to be preserved. He addressed himself then to the consideration of the extraneous matters which had been brought into the case, and, in reference

to Mr. Bright to Jeff. Davis, he said he did not indicate any unreasonable action by the government, and that the idea was actually entertained then of a probable disposition of the state of the Great States otherwise than by war. The government was not regarded as "broken up" because these States had gone off. There was a Union without them, just as there had been before several of them were admitted into the Union. He asked, was there not a Union before Florida was admitted, or Texas, and others? and would there not be a Union if these States were to go off? He said he would vote for the greatest good and the least evil, and would vote for the permitting of a separation without war, or the holding and subduing of the seceding portion with war.

It had been finally determined that the latter was the best by the Government, and he doubted not its power in the present; but the matter was under debate; those who advocated no war, and would still have looked to other measures, were simply in the same position of Mr. Fox and others, the British Parliament, at the time of the American struggle. No one then acted as Mr. Fox of treason or unfitness to be a member of the high legislative body of Great Britain. No one proposed to expel him because he took ground against the policy that Government was then pursuing in regard to the revolted colonies. It was Mr. Willey's matter of State policy, and the resolution proposed by Mr. Fox was a wise statement of the great majority, and the popular opinion, and clamor which then overruled him. He even supposed that it had turned out that Mr. Fox was wrong in his views, it would not have proved him a traitor, or even disloyal. Passing then to the pressure and business surrounding the case, Mr. Bright referred to reports that party caucuses had been held on the subject.

Mr. Browning, of Illinois, and other Senators, declared that they had no personal knowledge of such caucuses, and Mr. Browning called on Mr. Bayard for his authority.

Mr. Bright promptly interposed, saying that he had so informed the gentleman from Delaware, and his colleague (Mr. Lane) had, at the opening of the session, told him that, because of the determination in caucus, he could not bring in such a resolution for an investigation as Mr. Bright had asked him to do.

Mr. Lane explained substantially the general statement, but declaring that no conclusion had been come to in the caucus as to the result in Mr. Bright's case.

Mr. Bayard closed with some further reflections on the partisan aspect of the case. Mr. Bright, no one else taking the floor, said that he would address a few words to the Senate before the vote was taken. He returned his thanks to the members of the Judiciary Committee, who had almost unanimously reported in his favor, and especially those whose able judicial argument had been heard in his behalf.

The Vice President, who, at the last session, was a member of that committee, had, however, fallen away from that report, which, for the sake of that gentleman, and the principles of justice, he regretted. As he had said here formerly, had he supposed that he was to be arraigned on such a variety of charges, by such a variety of persons, instead of the one charge of disloyalty as evidenced by the letter to Jefferson Davis, he might have been better prepared to meet it, and employed counsel. But he was glad now he had not done so. And all he had now to say was with the view of putting himself right before the country.

Mr. Bright entered into a history of his acquaintance with Mr. T. B. Lincoln for the last twenty-five years, whom he pronounced a most respectable, enterprising business man, and against whom he had never heard anything discreditable until his arrest in Cincinnati, in July last, on the charge of treason, when two letters were found upon his person purporting to be written by him, (Mr. B.) one dated in June, 1860, introducing T. B. Lincoln to Captain Franklin, superintendent of the capital extension, calling his attention to some invention of the former, and the other to Jefferson Davis, dated March 1, 1861, introducing Lincoln

as a person who wished to present an improvement in breeches. He read them to show that their language was similar, and therefore did not justify the efforts that had been made to make the letter appear as peculiarly malicious and friendly to Jeff. Davis.

Teaching upon the state of the country at that time, Mr. Bright referred to the compromise efforts, and the cordun border slave States which engaged therein, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and others, at first pronounced against secession, but Northern Republicans refusing to meet them in like spirit, eventually changing their course. Then, from the time of the issue of the President's proclamation, we were no friends, but enemies, in a hellfire sense. Up to certain provisions, conditions, made, we were freely sent South; then they were suddenly stopped, and after that he would not have given countenance to such a thing, or written the letter in question.

No one who had heard this debate believed that that letter was the cause of his expulsion. With that letter before them, the committee had reported, six out of seven, in his favor. But when the matter came in here, party drill was applied and the question brought to its present state. He repeated the declaration that he had no recollection of writing either the letter to Captain Franklin or Jeff. Davis.

He referred to the fact that, in 1859, he was one of the committee of fifteen, with Mr. Clay at its head, and David Webster as one of its members, on the compromise measures—and to the fact that he had from the first opposed the national measure of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Willey), the provision which he wished to attach excluding the South from the territories. Though representing a free State, he had never given a conditional vote.

He singled out these two political acts of his life as signals, though they were but coincident with his general course, and that of his State which had three times elected him to this body, and which had never given any indication of dissatisfaction with his action. He could not appeal to any or all of their votes, as the decision here should be on higher than personal grounds; but he would give the pledge of an honest heart to those who would do him justice here, and would give only the name and name of those whose life and welfare he had placed with his, that they shall not regret in the acts of his future life. He had made no effort to gain influence in his behalf, and it is that the Senate had been polled, and he is to go out, he would hasten to another trial, on the great principles of the party he ever acted with, before the people of this State, and his confidence of the result. But he had always desired peace. Points in the path which leads to peace and the star of a restored Union, and we will follow any as long as there is the faintest glimmer to guide them—even with the gentleman from Massachusetts, from New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bright next made reference to the difference of bearing towards him by Mr. Johnson of Tenn., and Mr. Willey of Va., both of whom he sympathized with in their views influenced by the resolution. Mr. Willey having kindly asked him for explanation on the letter to Mr. Fish, written in September, declaring opposition to coercion, he said that he had no principle agreed with those who urged the policy of withdrawing the troops from Fort Sumter, a measure that was urged here and elsewhere, and which the administration itself at one time contemplated and authorized in its purpose. Then he said that his coercion was war, and as the late seceded Senator from Illinois (Mr. Douglas) had declared, "war is necessary." He had ever, however, been opposed to the doctrine of secession. He drew somewhat on this point. Finally he remarked that he had been said to be in a fall, but he should fall back into the ever-just hands of the people of Indiana.

He might, however, go home to a battle, but it was not his fight to bid. It would only be by the force of power, which he could not control, but which additional blow, if it should come, he would accept with the same firmness and ardor that he did the other one now about a fit season.

Mr. Ten Eyck then addressed a few remarks to the Senate in reference to the pressure which had been brought to bear to induce him to change his determination in regard to the case of the expulsion. He said he had been threatened with a vote, and he felt that his political life was done; but as, on the principle of justice and right, in this judicial question, he could not change, he must, it needs be, fall into that grave. If the storm now one day be succeeded by the calm of reason, but whether so or not, he must follow the dictates of conscience and the rights of law.

The question was then taken in the resolution of expulsion, (introduced by Mr. Wilkinson, of Massachusetts) by yeas and nays, and it was adopted—yeas 22, nays 14—just the requisite two-thirds vote—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Anthony, Browning, Chandler, Clark, Colburn, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Foxworth, Foster, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Henderson, Howard, Howe, Johnson, King, Lane of Indiana, McDougall, Merrill, Pomeroy, Sherman, Simmon, Sumner, Trumbull, Wade, Wilkinson, Wilcox, Wilson of Massachusetts, Wilson of Missouri—22.

Nays—Messrs. Bayard, Cadell, Cowan, Harris, Kennedy, Latham, Nesmith, Pearce, Powell, Rice, Sanbury, Ten Eyck, Thompson and Willey—14.

So Mr. Bright was expelled.

## Federal Account of the Fight and Fall of Fort Henry.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 7.—The Gazette and Cincinnati's Correspondents give the following account of the bombardment and capture of Fort Henry.

Yesterday, at 12:30 p. m., the gunboats Cincinnati, St. Louis, Carondelet and Essex, the Tyler, Conestoga and Lexington brought the rear, advanced boldly against the rebel works, going to the right of Panther Creek Island, immediately above which, on the west shore of the river, stand the fortifications, and, keeping out of range until at the head of the island, and within a mile of the enemy, then passing the island in full view of the rebel guns, we steadily advanced, with every man at quarters, and every ear strained to catch the flag officer's signal for the commencement of the action.

Our line of battle was on the left, the St. Louis next, the Carondelet next, the Cincinnati for the time being the flag ship, having on board flag officer Foot, and next the Essex. We advanced in line, the Cincinnati a boat's length ahead, when at 12:30 the Cincinnati opened the bell, and immediately the accompanying boats followed suit. The enemy not being backward, gave an admirable response, and the fight raged furiously. For half an hour we steadily advanced, receiving and returning storms of shot and shell. When getting within a hundred yards of the enemy's works, we came to a stand, and passed into their right and left.

As to the remains the Essex had been disabled, and drifted away from the scene of action, leaving the Cincinnati, Carondelet and St. Louis alone engaged.

At precisely forty minutes past one, the enemy struck the Essex, and such cheering and wild excitement as when the threats, arms and caps of the four or five hundred soldiers of the gunboats can be imagined.

After the surrender, which was made to flag officer Foot, by Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, who defended his fort in the most determined manner, we found that the rebel infantry, which were engaged outside the fort, numbering about five thousand, had cut and run, leaving the rebel artillery company in command to their fate.

The fort mounted seventeen guns, mostly 32 and 24 pounders—one being a magnificent 10 inch columbiad. Our shots dismounted two of their guns, driving the enemy from their embrasures. One, their 22 pounder, burst during the engagement, scattering the heads of their gunners. The rebels claim to have had but eleven effective guns, worked by fifty-one men, the number all told of our prisoners. They lost five killed and ten badly wounded.

The infantry left everything behind them in their flight, and a vast deal of plunder fell into our hands, including a large and valuable quantity of army stores. General Tilghman's disheartened, and thinks it one of the most damaging blows of the war. In surrendering to flag officer Foot, the rebel general remarked, "I am glad to surrender to so gallant an officer." Flag officer Foot replied, "You are perfectly right, sir, in surrendering, but you should have blown my head off with your water before I would have surrendered to you."

In the engagement the Cincinnati was in the lead, and flying the flag officer's pennant she was the chief mark. Flag officer Foot and Captain Mitchell crowded her defiantly into the teeth of the enemy's guns, and she received thirty-one shots, some of them going completely through her. The Essex was badly crippled when about half through the fight, and, crowding steadily against the enemy, a ball went into her port side, forward part, through one of her boilers, the escaping steam scalding and killing several of her crew.

Captain Porter, his aid, S. P. Britton, and Paymaster Lewis, were standing in a direct line of the hull passing—Britton being in the center. A shot struck Britton on the top of his head, scattering his brains in every direction. The escaping steam went into the pilot house, instantly killing Ford and McElde, the pilots. Many of the soldiers, as the rush of steam, jumped overboard and were drowned.

The Cincinnati had one killed and six wounded. The Essex six seamen killed, two officers and seventeen men wounded, and five missing. There were no casualties on board the St. Louis, though shot and shell fell upon her like rain. The St. Louis was commanded by Captain Leonard Paulding, who stood upon the gun-deck and fought with the guns to the last. Not a man attached, and with cheer upon cheer sent shot and shell among the enemy.

IN PRESENCE OF THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.  
Paducah, Ky., Feb. 7.—Gen. Smith on the west, and Gen. Grant on the east side of the river, are pursuing the retreating rebels.  
Springfield, Ill., Feb. 7.—Official dispatches from Tennessee river state Fort Henry was captured yesterday by the gunboats alone. The land forces did not reach the point to which they were ordered in time to participate in the engagement. The rebels stampeded, and nearly all made their escape. The rebel commander, Tilghman, and his staff, with about one hundred other, mostly officers, were taken prisoners.  
It was reported and credited by some of our officers that the rebel troops at Fort Henry were not true to the rebel cause, and took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the attack to run away from a fight that was disastrous to them.  
A dispatch just received from Gen. Payne says the gunboats attacked the Fort yesterday at 1:30 p. m., and Gen. Tilghman commanding surrendered in one hour and twenty minutes. We have taken a large amount of cannon, camp equipment, and stores. Our infantry took no part in the fight. The cannonading was terrific.

## Northern Dispatches to the Black Republican Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The last million of dollars in the Treasury was sent by Mr. Chase to Kentucky for the needy troops there.

WHAT IS THE CHANGE?  
The opinion is that Gen. McClellan will not resign in consequence of the change, but will strive, in the department of the Potomac, to rival Gen. Duell in Kentucky, and Gen. Halleck in Missouri, on a level with whom the new arrangement places him. It is understood he consulted with several of his generals respecting the course proper for him to pursue.

IT IS NOW CURRENTLY rumored here that either Gen. Heintzelman or McDowell will take command of the new expedition South, which is fitting out in New York, and which will comprise a division of the army here.

THE LANE DIFFICULTY.  
To-morrow a delegation of Congressmen favorable to the interests of Gen. Lane, will have an interview with the President for a definite settlement of the troubles existing between him and Gen. Hunter. The former telegraphs to-day that if it cannot be accomplished he shall immediately visit Washington.

SOLE EXPULSIONS ON HAND.  
The expulsion of Mr. Bright is likely to be the beginning of the war against Senators suspected of disloyalty. Attention is already being directed toward Mr. Powell, of Kentucky. It is said that shortly a resolution will be introduced into the Senate directing the superintendent of the document room to inform that body what documents Mr. Powell has ordered to be sent to members of the Southern Confederacy, since the formation of the Provisional Government.

Gen. Smith telegraphed to-day that a portion of his regiment engaged the enemy near Flint Hill, near Fairfax court house, and captured 18 rebel pickets. His scouts captured five prisoners belonging to the 1st Virginia Cavalry. A detachment also captured four rebels belonging to the 1st North Carolina Regiment.

The United States steamer Sewanee, of the Harriet Expedition, arrived here this morning. The gunboat Herbert was lost, in addition to those before mentioned. There was a rumor circulated that the rebels had offered, through a flag of truce, to give up Ronoke Island on condition that Elizabeth City should not be attacked. The Louisiana had been got off.

## Three Thousand Slaves Freed by Kansas Soldiers.

The Chicago Tribune makes the following statements, vouching for their accuracy: The number of slaves freed by the agency of the Kansas soldiers up to this date cannot be less than three thousand, while several hundred others have crossed the river and border from Missouri, of their own volition. Gen. Lane's brigade, since August, has brought out at least two thousand, Col. Jennison has relieved the rebels of not less than seven or eight hundred, while jawhacking parties and smaller detached commands have brought in as many more. A great many men are employed by officers, and as cooks in the messes of the soldiers. These all receive pay more or less liberal, varying from eight to twenty dollars per month, with clothes and rations. A number are also employed as teamsters. The wagon-master of the Kansas brigade is a black man, named Buck. He is a well known character on the border. The total thus employed must approximate to five hundred persons. It would be desirable if some kind of discipline and drill could be given them, both because they generally show themselves courageous, and because it would be beneficial in forming and fostering habits of self-respect.

The principal portion of the contraband population live in the border counties and towns. Leavenworth, Lawrence, Ossawatimie, Atchison and Mound City have the larger proportion of them. Leavenworth, probably, has a population of over a thousand in the city and immediate vicinity. There has been for a long time an active and well-organized underground railroad at that point, the superintendent of which is a colored man. The knowledge of this depot is wide spread among the slaves in the contiguous portions of Missouri, and they are constantly availing themselves thereof. Lawrence has a population, in and around the town, about the same as Leavenworth. Atchison has two or three hundred. Ossawatimie and neighboring township three or four hundred. Mound City, Linn and Bourbon County must have over a thousand, as this section is where they were brought by Lane. At Topeka and other points there are a number.

In the fall it was, indeed, a serious question what these people would do during the winter. But this, like the rest of questions, meets its solution in practical results. The best authorities say that among the contrabands now in and coming to Kansas, there will not be over five per cent. who will in any way become chargeable to the public purse. Nor will this five per cent. long remain in a condition of pauperism. At all their meetings for education and other self-improvement projects among them, they have unmistakably shown their desire to do without aid from white people.

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March-ly  
NOTICE.  
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R. T. STEWART