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WASHINGTON.

SENATE'S DISCUSSION OF THE DISTRICT SUFFRAGE BILL—THE HOUSE PASSES THE BILL DEFINING THE DUTIES OF THE CLERK—THE SOUTH AND THE ELECTORAL VOTE—THE CASE OF THE REBEL GEN. PICKETT—ALMOST A DUEL.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1866.

Very little in the nature of business was done in the Senate to-day. Several resolutions of inquiry, among them one from Mr. Anthony in relation to the law of Presidential succession, were introduced. Mr. Wade reported his Colorado bill from the Committee on Territories. At 12½ o'clock the District Suffrage bill came up. The pending motion was that of Mr. Cowan to strike out the word "male," so as to make the bill universal as to sex as well as color. Mr. Anthony expressed himself warmly in favor of this amendment, and made an admirable speech on it. Mr. Cowan followed in an argument reminding the listener very strongly of Sergt. Bufizz. At times earnest and at times facetious, he amused the Senate, if he did not convince it. His sincerity in behalf of female suffrage was doubted by Morrill and other friends of the bill, but he repeatedly declared himself honest and earnest in his proposition. Mr. Wade made a short speech in favor of the amendment, taking the ground that women needed the ballot to enable them to make laws to protect themselves against the frequently arising contingency of brutal husbands. Mr. Frelinghuysen delivered his maiden speech, and acquitted himself to the admiration of all who heard him. He opposed the pending amendment as not german to the proposition before the Senate. Yesterday Mr. Morrill attacked the newspaper press of the country for what he termed the misrepresentation of the position of the Senate with regard to this bill. He charged that the mode in which the Senate had been spoken of in this connection was a disgrace to American journalism, and asserted that the Senate had fully kept pace with the House in the matter. To-day, in reply to a question, Mr. Wilson said the reason the Senate did not pass the bill last session was because they were afraid they had not strength enough to override the veto. The newspapers assailed by Mr. Morrill have never said more than this.

The President has not yet sent to the Senate any important appointments for confirmation. The secret communication transmitted to that body yesterday merely covered a few naval promotions.

To-day was committee-day in the House, and nearly half the session was consumed in hearing reports from the chairmen of the committees. The most important bills reported were two by Mr. Nelson, from the Judiciary Committee. The first was a bill defining the duties of the Clerk of the House, and is in accordance with the resolution agreed upon in the caucus last Wednesday evening, setting forth that the name of no person shall be placed on the roll of the XLth Congress, as a member of said body, unless the State he represents shall have been represented in the present Congress. The bill was pressed to a passage, and was adopted by a yea and nay vote of 133 to 31. The second was a bill to provide for the counting of the Electoral vote in 1868. This was also recommended in caucus, and provides that no votes shall be received in the Electoral College in 1868, from States not represented in Congress at that time. The Democratic members expressing a desire to debate the bill, it was made the special order for next Tuesday. The last half of the session was consumed in debating Mr. Williams's bill for the Regulation of the Appointments to and Removals from Office. The debate was participated in by Messrs. Stevens, Williams, Garfield, Hale and Schenck, and was rather dull and monotonous. Several amendments were offered and adopted. Mr. Stevens offered an amendment to the effect that a person appointed to any public office and rejected by the Senate shall be disqualified from holding office for the period of one year unless the disqualification should be removed by a vote of two-thirds of the Senate. It was voted down by 18 yeas to 132 nays. The amendment was the cause of a short spicy debate between Stevens and Hale, the latter getting the laugh on the old warhorse. Thad. took the matter in his usual good-humored manner, but was determined on having the yeas and nays called on his amendment. The bill will, in all probability, be passed to-morrow. During the session ex-Speaker Grow and ex-member and member elect from the Orange and Sullivan District, N. Y., Col. Van Wyck, were on the floor of the house. Several memorials were presented to the House to-day, one from the West asking for the repeal of the income tax, and one from New-York asking for the contraction of the National currency.

Mr. Stevens, from the Committee on Appropriations, was instructed this morning to report a bill to cover deficiencies amounting to about two million and a half of dollars. It contains the appropriation asked for by Secretary Seward of $250,000, to enable him to prosecute the cases now pending before the tribunals of England and France, growing out of the late rebellion. Mr. Stevens will probably put the bill on its passage as soon as it is printed.

The House Military Committee to-day authorized a bill to be reported conferring upon the President power to confer brevet rank on officers in the Regular Army who have distinguished themselves in the volunteer service. Under the present law no such authority exists. The Committee also had under consideration the bounty question. The bill passed at the last session is not regarded by the Committee as satisfactory to the soldiers or just in its provisions. It is proposed, therefore, to frame a new bill, with a view of remedying that crude and ill-considered measure, which was hurried through during the last hours of the session.

An amendment was adopted at the last session to the Diplomatic Appropriation bill, striking out the appropriation for paying the Minister to Lisbon, which was intended as a rebuke to Mr. Harvey, who held that position. Mr. Harvey is still at his post, occupying the position, but draws no salary. The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate have under consideration the question of recommending the appropriation for keeping up said mission. Mr. Seward is very anxious that the salary should be restored, and Mr. Harvey allowed to remain. Mr. Sumner, who is Chairman of the Committee, is understood to be favorable to it.

It is ascertained that the members of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee of the House are so evenly balanced upon the important question of inflation and contraction that it is very doubtful as yet what will be proposed in either Committee, though there seems to be but little doubt but that Mr. McCulloch's recommendation will very nearly be concurred in. In its present form, Mr. Boutwell's bill for the sale of Government gold does not appear to meet the approval of the Committee of Ways and Means, and it will therefore be amended before being reported to the House if, indeed, it is reported at all.

The Committee on Investigation into the New-Orleans Riots has already summoned six prominent Louisianians now here to appear and give testimony. The Committee expects to start South by the last of the week. The clerical force has already started.

The President to-day sent a message to the House in reply to a resolution asking whether any application has been made to him for the pardon of G. E. Pickett, who acted as a Major-General of the Rebel forces in the late war for the suppression of the insurrection, and if so what has been the action thereon, &c. Among the documents inclosed is one from Judge-Advocate-General Holt, dated July last, who submits for the consideration of the Secretary of War the statement of a writer who was recently in the military service, and while on duty in North Carolina was officially connected with the investigation then made of the charge preferred against the Rebel Pickett and others of having murdered some 22 of our prisoners of war. Judge Holt says he is a thoroughly reliable man. It is recommended that Pickett be arrested and put on trial before the Military Commission engaged in trying the employés of the Freedmen's Bureau in North Carolina. The Secretary of War in a letter to the President, dated December 10, says, taking into consideration the action of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Milligan and others who had been tried and convicted by a Military Commission, and the doubts cast upon the jurisdiction of such tribunals, the Secretary has not felt authorized to pursue the course recommended by the Judge-Advocate-General until the opinion of the Supreme Court should be formally promulgated. The magnitude of the offense alleged against Pickett is such that there should be no reason to contest the jurisdiction of the tribunal to whom their trial may be committed. Attorney-Gen. Stanbery, Dec. 6, 1866, informs the President that no action has been had upon the question of pardon of Gen. Pickett, nor has his office any information of proceedings instituted against Pickett, for entirely to prisoners, or any offense against the laws of war. Among the papers is Pickett's application for pardon, dated June, 1865, addressed to the President, in which he says it was only through the conscientious duty to his mother State, Virginia, that he joined the Confederate army, and that, had she not seceded, he would not have been in that service, as no one was more attached to the old service, nor ever stood by and fought for it with more fidelity than he did. The documents show that in June, 1865, he took the amnesty oath. A letter from Gen. Pickett dated March 12, 1866, addressed to Gen. Grant, shows that the papers accompanying his application for clemency to the President was presented by ex-Senator O. H. Browning of Illinois. Pickett says to Gen. Grant:

> My object now, General, in presenting this paper is to ask your favorable consideration of my case, and that you will, if you believe in my sincerity, for which I have pledged you my honor as an officer and a gentleman, put such an indorsement upon it as will obtain from His Excellency, the President, a guarantee that I may be permitted to live unmolested in my native State, where I am now trying to make a subsistence for my family, much impoverished by the war, by tilling the land. I acted simply as the General commanding the Department. Certain men, deserters from a North Carolina regiment, were taken with arms in their hands fighting against the colors under which they had enlisted. Charges were preferred against them. A regularly organized court-martial was assembled, composed of officers from North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia, before whom the men were tried. The evidence in the case being perfectly unmistakable—the men being identified by numbers of their old regimental comrades—they were found guilty and condemned to be hung. The sentences were approved by me and they were duly executed according to the custom of war in like cases. My action was sanctioned by the then Confederate Government. If the time has not arrived for the Executive clemency to be extended to my case, and which point I am not now pressing, I merely wish some assurance that I will not be disturbed in my endeavor to keep my family from starvation, and that my parole, which was given in good faith, may protect me from the assaults of those persons desirous of still keeping up the war, which has ended, in my humble opinion, forever. Appealing to you as a soldier, and feeling confident you will appreciate my position, I sign myself, with much esteem, your obedient servant, GEORGE E. PICKETT.

The following is Gen. Grant's indorsement on this letter:

> Respectfully forwarded to His Excellency, the President of the United States, with the recommendation that clemency may be extended in this case, or assurance given that no trial will take place for the offences charged against G. E. Pickett. During the Rebellion belligerent rights were acknowledged to the enemies of our country, and it is clear to me that the parole given by the armies laying down their arms protects them against punishment for acts lawful for any other belligerent. In this case I know that it is claimed that the men tried and convicted for the crime of desertion were Union men from North Carolina, who had found refuge within our lines and in our service. The punishment was a harsh one, but it was in time of war and when the enemy no doubt found it necessary to retain by some power the services of every man within their reach. Gen. Pickett I know personally to be an honorable man, but in this case his judgment prompted him to do what cannot well be sustained, though I do not see how any good, either to the friends of the deceased, or by fixing an example for the future, can be secured by his trial now. It would only open up the question whether or not the Government did not disregard its contract entered into to secure the surrender of an armed enemy.

March 16, 1866. U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen.

Yesterday a little affair occurred here which came very nearly resulting in a duel between two distinguished Southern gentlemen. It seems about noon, yesterday, Dr. Sidney of Mississippi, a member of the Southern Radical Republican Association here, while walking through the Capitol grounds, was met by one Judge Abel of the same State. Abel differs from Sidney in politics, and saluted him with, "Here you are, you d—n renegade Southerner." Sidney without replying, immediately knocked down Abel. Here the scene ended until evening, when Abel sent a challenge to Sidney to meet him and settle the matter by fighting a duel. The challenge was accepted, and Col. Fish of New-Orleans was selected as Sidney's second and the fight arranged to come off, without unnecessary delay, on the Virginia side of the Potomac. To-day, however, friends interfered, and the thing was settled without a resort to arms. It is stated that Judge Abel wrote a note of apology, stating that he only intended a little pleasantry in his remark to Dr. Sidney. The affair has created no little excitement among the friends of the parties here.

A committee from North Carolina, headed by Gov. Holden, has arrived here, and was received by the Southern Republican Association last night at their rooms on F-st. The mission of the committee here is to make suggestions to Congress touching the restoration of the Southern States on a loyal basis, and to represent the needs of the loyal people, their present condition, &c. Gov. Hamilton returned here to-day from New-York, after an absence of about two weeks.

It is much talked of here by high Government officials of the necessity of having a cable line from the United States to France direct. All our dispatches now to that Power have to go through the hands of another government. Our Government does an immense amount of correspondence by telegraph. It is stated that the four dispatches sent by Seward concerning Mexico and Surratt cost our Government $20,000.

United States Treasurer Spinner to-day received a letter from a rebel agent in Europe, inclosing a certificate of deposit of the Confederate Government of £400. He stated in his letter that inasmuch as no such Government was in existence, the money belonged to the United States. Gen. Spinner gave orders to-day to have it sold and the proceeds turned over to the Treasury.

Mr. Lindsey, member of Parliament in England and one of those who opposed our Government so fiercely in the late Rebellion, is a party in a suit now pending in the Supreme Court, and is represented by counsel. The suit involves about $100,000. It seems, in 1854, the Opelousas Railroad Company of Louisiana purchased some 20,000 tuns of railroad iron from Lindsey. He promised to deliver the iron at a certain date, but failed to do so. When it was delivered, the price of iron had fallen considerably, and the Company refused to take it. Lindsey then sued for the difference in the price, alleging that it was the fault of the Company's shippers in Liverpool. The case was decided in favor of Lindsey just about the time the Rebellion commenced. The war prevented their getting the amount of damages, and now the Company bring up the case on a writ of error.

The Chief, three members of the Council and an interpreter of the Shawnee Indians arrived here yesterday from Kansas, and had an extended conference with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to-day. The following are the names of all except the interpreter: Graham Rogers, Chief; Matthew King, Charles Tucker, and Charles Blue Jacket. Their object is to ascertain the intentions of the Government toward their people, having learned of the movement on foot to make treaties with all the Indians in order to effect their removal out of the State to the country west of the Chickasaws and south of the Cherokees. It was not until the Shawnee delegation arrived here that they became aware that a commission had been appointed to visit and confer with them on their lands. They will probably return to their homes, however, before the departure of the Commission. They all speak our language fluently and are remarkably intelligent. The following is the letter of instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs Bogy to the Commissioner above alluded to:

> This will be the last letter I will write to you before your departure for the Indians to whom you are sent as Commissioners. By request of the two Senators from Kansas, yesterday, Mr. H. W. Farnsworth of Council Grove, Kansas, was appointed to be one of the three Commissioners. I wrote to him last night to meet you at Kansas City. In the event he should not be there when you arrive at that place, you will leave word where he will meet you. I will likely have occasion to write to you, and until otherwise directed by you I will send my letters to Kansas City. You will therefore, every few days, send a messenger to this point to get letters, and you will keep an account of this expense, which will be allowed you. I inclose you a list of the different tribes of Indians now in Eastern Kansas, with the population of each and the extent of the reservation of each tribe. My object is now to make a treaty with all these tribes, and get them out of the State—where they are in constant conflict with the whites—to a new home better adapted to their condition, and where I believe they would be much happier. The country designed for them is west of the Chickasaws and south of the Cherokees. It was formerly called the Leased Lands, but by recent treaty the absolute title was acquired by the United States. To each tribe a reservation of sufficient extent will be granted. You are therefore directed to visit all the different tribes and consult them on this subject, and ascertain their disposition and determination. I am anxious that the whole subject should be finally settled this session of Congress; and so that this may be done within this short time, you will direct the different tribes to send delegates to this city, to be here by the 1st of February, if possible, at all events not later than the 10th of the same month, so as to give time to make the treaties with them and have them laid before the Senate by the 20th of February, to be ratified before the adjournment on the 3d of March.

> You will inform these tribes that they are authorized each one to send two delegates to be accompanied by the agent, all expenses to be paid by the Government, for which you will provide by drawing on Bogy & Fry at St. Louis. If possible, it would be well for you to come along with them; and it would also be well if they could all come together. To accomplish this you will appoint a day to meet in the City of Kansas. Tell them to be careful and select the most intelligent and influential of the tribe. I have doubted if you will have the time to visit the Pottowottomies and Osages. If you should not have, you will visit as many of the others as you can, and advise them to send the two delegates. If you should need any money for your own expenses, you will call on Bogy & Fry for it. I wish you would pay some attention to the quality and character of the land in each reservation, so as to enable us to place a value on it when the treaty is made. The Shawnees being divided into two parties, they are authorized to send a double delegation, that is two from every party. In every case you will tell the agent that one is authorized to come on with the tribe of which he is the agent. You will call on Superintendent Thomas Murphy in Atchison, and tell him the object for which you are sent. He will present you a letter of introduction to him, and you will consult and confer with him freely and fully. And if he thinks it desirable you be authorized to visit these different tribes, you will do so in preference to first going to Kansas City. He will be authorized to come to the city with the delegations, if he thinks it best. I shall write him this expression. You will show him this letter to read. I shall be pleased to hear from you as you progress in this business.

> I am, with respect, your obedient servant,
> LEWIS V. BOGY, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Persons making use of the mails cannot be too particular in giving their attention to the prepayment of postage. Although the newspapers and the Departments have repeatedly called the attention of the public to this matter, the evil is apparently unabated. It is rather on the increase. Persons should understand that the law especially directs that all mail matter not prepaid is sent directly to the Dead Letter Office, and thus many important and frequently valuable letters are lost. The Department is now in receipt of hundreds of such unstamped letters, and for the convenience of the Department, as well as for the interest of the writers, it is hoped the public will bear these facts in mind. They should also be particular to see that the stamps adhere to the envelopes.

The Post-Office Department has received information that the through mails via Memphis and Charleston Railroad, due at Memphis, Tenn., on the 28th of November, were burned in the car near Corinth, Miss. The accident was caused by a fearful collision, involving the total destruction of the baggage car containing the mails, and the horrible death, by burning, of the baggage master having charge of same, and also the conductor, brakeman and others. The mails supposed to be lost which were destined for Memphis, were from New-York, 25th; Washington, 25th, or 26th; Richmond, 26th, and Chattanooga, 27th November.

Dispatches have been received at the Navy Department from Admiral Goldsborough, dated United States steamer Shenandoah, Point De Galle, Island of Ceylon, Nov. 1, 1866, stating that the officers and crew were all well. The Admiral was pleased at the courtesies extended to him by the military and civil authorities at Bombay, which place he left Oct. 10. The Shenandoah was to leave for Calcutta, Nov. 25. Information has also been received at the Navy Department of the arrival of the United States store ship Relief at the Cape of Good Hope on the 27th of September last, after a passage from Batavia of 38 days.

Representatives from about fifteen base-ball clubs of the District left to-day for New-York to attend the Convention of the base-ball fraternity to be held there to-morrow.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.... WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1866.

PETITIONS.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) presented petitions for increased pay to Army Officers. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. MORGAN (Rep., N. Y.) presented a petition from the Board of Underwriters of New-York, for an appropriation to remove the wreck of the steamship Scotland. Referred to the Finance Committee.

THE COLORADO BILL.

Mr. WADE (Rep., Ohio) from the Committee on Territories reported a bill for the admission of Colorado, with a favorable recommendation.

THE LAND REPORT.

Mr. RAMSEY (Rep., Minn.) moved that 10,000 extra copies of the report of the Commissioner of Public Lands be printed. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

THE TARIFF BILL.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.) said that the Tariff bill had been referred to the Finance Committee last session with instructions to report on the second Tuesday in December. The Finance Committee had not yet had time to consider the bill, but would do it at as early a day as practicable. He moved that 500 copies of the bill be printed for the use of the Senate. The motion was carried.

THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF CONGRESS.

The House bill to fix the time for the meeting of Congress was taken up, read twice, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

BREVETS FOR VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs and Militia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending to officers in the late volunteer service who are appointed to positions in the Regular Army the same benefits of brevet conferred for length of service, and in all other respects, which are allowed officers in the Regular Army who accepted positions in the volunteer service in consequence of their services in such volunteer positions.

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE.

Mr. ANTHONY (Rep., R. I.) offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire what additional legislation is necessary to provide for the succession of the President's office in case of the death or disability of all those upon whom it may now devolve by the Constitution or the laws, and to report by bill or otherwise.

COMPENSATION FOR SLAVE-OWNERS.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.), from the Finance Committee, reported without amendment, a bill suspending the payment of moneys from the Treasury as compensation to persons claiming the service or labor of colored volunteers, or drafted men, and for other purposes, which provides that the final report of the Commissioners, provided for in the second section of the act entitled "An act making appropriation for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the year ending June 31, 1867, and for other purposes," shall be made through the Secretary of War to Congress, and no money shall be paid from the Treasury on the same to any claimant under the provisions of Section 24 of the act approved Feb. 4, 1864, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled an act for enrolling and calling out the National forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, until such report shall be approved and confirmed by Congress.

THE DISTRICT SUFFRAGE BILL.

At 12:30, the unfinished business of yesterday, which was the District Suffrage bill, was taken up. The pending question was upon Mr. Cowan's amendment to strike out the word "male" before persons.

Mr. ANTHONY (Rep., R. I.) said he supposed Mr. Cowan had offered this amendment by way of satire, but he should vote for it, not because of any inherent right that women had to exercise the franchise, but he considered it a right that could only be granted by society. If it was claimed that intelligence ought to be the basis of suffrage, women could not be excluded; still less, if virtue or morality was to be the standard. It might be said that men represented women; but this was not so. There could be no representation without the consent of the person represented, and women had not given this consent. Nations had been well governed by women, women not paid. Elizabeth raised England to the hight of greatness. A woman furnished Columbus with the means to discover America. A woman now sat upon the throne of Spain; and a woman was the ruler of the proudest monarchy of the earth. It was not logical to say that a woman could reign as a Queen or command an army, and yet that a woman was not fit to vote for Common Councilmen of Washington. The time had not yet come for female suffrage, but it was coming.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Rep., Oregon) said, women did not need the protection of the ballot, but negroes did, and for this reason he should vote against the Amendment, and for the Bill. Negroes had been enslaved and degraded, intelligence had been denied them; women had not been enslaved or degraded on account of their sex, but on the contrary, had been loved and honored. Husbands and brothers protect wives and sisters; and it was the pride and glory of American to love and honor the female sex. It would be time enough to consider the question of female suffrage when it was demanded by American women. No such demand had yet been made, except by a few who sought notoriety and did not represent the sex to which they belong, if indeed they can be said to belong to any sex, which he considered questionable. It had been said that the hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world. This was true and beautiful, but in a different sense from that of exercising the right of suffrage. Those women who now clamor for the turmoil of politics and wished to enter into the contest with men at the ballot-box, would, if they had the power, overthrow the framework of society, and make every house a Hell upon Earth. When women were willing to be sailors and soldiers, to fight battles and navigate the seas, it would be time enough for them to ask the right to vote. Mr. Williams then moved the consideration of the subject of suffrage to the negro, contending that the ballot was necessary to them, to enable them to protect themselves. He thought the arguments against it were mere jurjudice. Why was it that so long as a negro was a slave no objection was made to his getting in a railroad car, coach, or steamboat, but when he became free he was not to be allowed any such privilege? He would base his argument solely on the right of protection, which every man, white or black, should have. It had been said here that the inhabitants of this District were the descendants of proud and haughty families. For that reason he wanted this bill passed, so that all the descendants of these haughty families may have the right to vote. If it was said that the negroes were not intelligent, he would reply that they were intelligent enough to distinguish right from wrong in the late Rebellion, and to know the friends from the enemies of the Government.

Mr. COWAN (Dem., Pa.) had not intended again to take the floor on the subject, but it had been said he was not in earnest in offering this amendment. This was not correct. He had been opposed to any change in the suffrage, but if it was to be changed, if negroes were to be enfranchised, he was in favor of still further changes, so as to embrace women also. If white men could not be intrusted with political power for the negro, he could not be trusted with it for women. He who thought women were represented by their husbands might go to the proceedings of the Women's Rights Convention, recently held, to learn differently. It was time to look facts in the face. He was willing to stand upon old institutions, sanctified as they were by the past, but when the time came to make a step, it should be made in the right direction. He was surprised that his sincerity should be doubted. Radicals were not like poets. They were made, and not born, and when the time came he should be as radical as any of them. He did not intend to let the Juggernaut of progress run over him. He had as many reasons as Mr. Anthony, and one more, for being in favor of this bill, for he had a wife, whereas Mr. Anthony was a widower. He hoped, therefore, that Mr. Anthony would make an abject apology to him for having expressed a doubt of his sincerity. [Laughter.] This new personage who appears on the political stage to oppose the Jupiterian system of legislation, complains that you have been a tyrant to her. He (Mr. Cowan) proceeded to read from the proceedings of the nineteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania anti-Slavery Society the speech of Mrs. Frances D. Gage during the session of that body. He would appeal to his friend from Massachusetts (Mr. Wilson) to express his opinion on that subject, and he felt assured that he would be firm on the side of humanity on this question. He could almost see from where he stood the bosom of his friend from Massachusetts heave in sympathy with this new issue [laughter], and, now that they had two negroes in the Massachusetts Legislature, he could not doubt that Mr. Wilson would come to his (Mr. Cowan's) position. He hoped, also, that his other friend from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) would vote right on this proposition, now that a change had come over his domestic relations [laughter]. He would not have alluded to this delicate subject, but he found some remarks from Mrs. Gage in relation to Mr. Sumner's great speech of last Winter, to which he was compelled to assent. Mrs. Gage had discovered that Mr. Sumner protested against taxation, and male representation, and not a word was said by that gentleman against the tyranny of taxing women without giving them the right of representation. He would say to the gentleman that Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Frances D. Gage, and Mrs. Susan B. Anthony were at their beels with their banners flying; and they were after them persistently and sharply. Toward the close of his speech Mr. Sumner read a letter from Mr. Wade to Miss Susan B. Anthony, written last Summer in favor of female suffrage. If his amendment was adopted, he (Cowan) would vote for the bill. He would not be afraid of negro suffrage if female suffrage went with it. He would not be the first to propose any change on the matter of suffrage, but if any change was to be made it ought to be a radical and fundamental one of this kind. He was in good earnest in offering this amendment; he was not so blind as not to see the signs of the coming times.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Me.) said he could not believe that Mr. Cowan had been arguing to convince the Senate in favor of his proposition. While the majority in the Senate intended to be radical, they intended to be rational also, and all the efforts of their enemies to make them ridiculous would be unsuccessful. He would not consent to see Mr. Cowan pretend to indorse radicalism for the purpose of breaking it down. It was the old device, to make a measure odious in order to defeat it. Mr. Cowan did not believe in the principle he urged; he was simply trying to make mischief, but he would not succeed. Mr. Morrill, in conclusion, replied to the legal argument of Mr. Cowan that the proposition to disfranchise those who had participated in the Rebellion of the right of franchise was of the nature of an ex-post facto law, and therefore unconstitutional. He contended that no punishment was intended or inflicted. It was simply a provision looking to the future, and taking away a trust from those who had shown themselves unworthy of it.

Mr. COWAN resumed the floor in reply to Mr. Morrill, maintaining that to deprive a man of the right of suffrage, and as now proposed, was not of the nature of an ex-post facto law.

Mr. WADE (Rep., Ohio) said he had not intended to take part in the discussion, because on the first day of the last session of Congress he introduced the original bill, to which the committee had made several amendments, which he supposed sufficiently demonstrated to all what his views on this subject were. His views were not of any sudden growth. He had always been of opinion that the right to vote in a republican government ought to be limited only by years of discretion. He would always believe that it would be safe when the laws of the country had remitted over to the people their rights, whether they had fixed simply an age of majority and competency, to manage their own affairs as the qualification for suffrage. He did not believe any such rule was unsafe; he imagined the unsafety was entirely on the other side; for just in proportion as you limit this franchise you create in some way an aristocracy or irresponsible Government, and gentlemen must be a little tinctured with the fear of republican sentiment when they fear the extended rights of suffrage. If he believed, as some gentlemen did, that to participate in the Government required intellects of the highest character, the greatest perspicacity of mind, the greatest discipline from education and experience, if only such persons should be permitted to participate in the Government, he should know that a republican form of government could not live. It was because he believed that all that was essential to Government for the welfare of the community was plain to the simplest intellect that he believed this Government ought to stand and would stand forever. Who is it that ought to be protected by this republican government? Certainly it is the weak and the ignorant who have no other manner of defending their rights except through the ballot-box. The argument for aristocracies and monarchies had ever been that the people did not know enough to take care of any form of government. As to the pending amendment, he intended to vote for it. He might not have introduced it because this might not be the best time and place to agitate the subject, but as to the right of woman to vote, he had no doubt whatever; he was fully convinced on that subject. It would puzzle any one to draw the line of demarcation between the female and the male in this respect while both were alike subject to the same law. The time is approaching, said Mr. Wade, when every female in the country will be responsible for the just government of the country as much as the males; their right to participate in the government of the country will be just as much acknowledged as our own.

Mr. YATES (Rep., Ill.) said he did not share with other Senators in the embarrassment in which this amendment seemed to involve them. He could see no argument why a woman should not vote that would not equally apply to prevent a man from voting. But another objection had been made last Summer, another question had been decided by the people, and he was for adhering to that. He would join the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Cowan), in making female suffrage an issue in the next election, and if he (Mr. Cowan) desired it, he was for universal suffrage, and when the time came he would vote for it, but in voting against this amendment he only adhered to the voice of his State as expressed at the polls last Fall, confined as it was to another issue.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) said he should vote against this amendment. He was opposed to connecting the two questions together at all. These ladies in the Woman's Rights Convention seemed to have had a great effect upon Mr. Cowan. If Mr. Cowan had read the speeches of these women during the past few years he would have a better record when he leaves the Senate. Before he (Wilson) came to the Senate he entertained the conviction that it would be better for the legislation of the country if the women of the land had the right of suffrage. If Mr. Cowan would offer women's suffrage as an independent measure he would vote for it, but he was opposed to connecting the two together. He was in favor of negro suffrage because it was a necessity. We have won negro suffrage for the District of Columbia. I go further and say we have won it for all the States of the Union. Before the 4th of March, 1867, before this Administration shall come in, I expect the negroes in all the States will be clothed with the right of suffrage. I have not a doubt that they will be in the ten Rebel States.

Mr. HENDRICKS (Dem., Ind.) asked Mr. Wilson why, if this subject had been decided by the last elections, the consideration of this bill was discontinued during the last session, after a bill had passed the House?

Mr. WILSON said the reason was that it was found there was not strength enough in the Senate to pass it over the President's veto, and it was well known that the President would have vetoed it. Since then the voice of the people had been expressed, and was now unequivocal.

Mr. JOHNSON (Dem., Md.) said there were many reasons why the right of suffrage had never been generally extended to women. It had not only never been asked for by women, but he believed it would be rejected by them. There was another reason why they should not be allowed to vote. If they participated in elections they must be a part of the militia. Mr. Johnson read a portion of a letter from John Adams, in which the writer opposes female suffrage, and gives his reasons for his opposition. Those who favored the pending amendment contended that woman should have the right of suffrage for her own protection. He (Johnson) always supposed that the duty of protection to ladies belonged to their husbands and their brothers. Ladies had never complained that they had not sufficient protection. Some such complaints had been made by a few, but they were such as were very properly denominated, strong-minded women. Ladies were not anxious to participate in the election broils and political excitement.

Mr. COWAN asked if the presence of ladies at the polls would not tend to preserve order?

Mr. JOHNSON said it would not. The kind of men who created such disturbances were not to be deterred from it by the presence of ladies. Aside from all delicacy, what right had a woman to vote, when the right was denied to a boy until he was 21 years of age, although he was put into the militia at 18.

Mr. WADE resumed the floor in advocacy of the amendment. He spoke of the necessity of female suffrage to enable women to protect themselves by the enactment of just laws.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (Rep., N. J.), alluding to a remark from Mr. Johnson, that women voted in New-Jersey, said, that in certain local elections they did at one time, but not at present. He would say further, that the women of New-Jersey did not want to vote. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every 1,000 women in America wanted no vote, but what they now exercised through their influence upon men. Their mission was higher and holier. He could see no connection between the two cases of women and negroes.

ADJOURNMENT.

Pending the consideration of Mr. Cowan's amendment on motion of Mr. DOOLITTLE (Rep., Wis.), the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CREDENTIALS OF A NORTH CAROLINA MEMBER.

The SPEAKER presented the credentials of Alexander H. Jones, a Representative from the VIIth Congressional District of North Carolina. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

COMMITTEE VACANCY FILLED.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Mr. Taylor (Rep., Tenn.) on the Special Committee on the New-Orleans riots, in place of Mr. Campbell (Dem., Tenn.), excused.

COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS.

On motion of Mr. DELANO (Rep., Ohio), the Committee on Claims was empowered to send for persons and papers, whenever it was necessary to do so in its investigations.

The SPEAKER proceeded to call the Committees for reports.

DUTIES OF THE CLERK.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Iowa), from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to regulate the duties of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in preparing for the organization of the House. The first section provides that before the meeting of the next Congress, and of each subsequent Congress the Clerk of the next preceding House of Representatives shall make a roll of the Representatives elected, and place thereon the names of all persons claiming seats as Representatives elect from States that were represented in the next preceding Congress, and of such persons only, and whose credentials show that they were regularly elected in accordance with the law of their States respectively, or with the laws of the United States. The second section provides that in case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk, or of his absence, or inability to discharge his duties, they shall devolve on the Sergeant-at-Arms, and in like case of his inability, shall devolve on the Door-Keeper. The third section makes a violation of this law a felony, punishable by imprisonment not less than one year, nor more than five years.

Mr. WILSON explained and advocated the bill, and moved the previous question on its passage.

Mr. FINCK (Dem., Ohio) represented the importance of the bill, and suggested that it should be postponed and printed.

The House seconded the previous question, and passed the bill by 123 to 31.

THE SOUTHERN STATES AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Iowa), from the same Committee, reported a bill to prevent the reception and counting of illegal electoral votes in the election of President and Vice-President. The preamble and resolution recites that the Rebellion which was waged by a portion of the United States against the proper authorities of the Government thereof in the most virulent and revolting form, but whose organized and allied forces had now been overcome, did in its revolutionary progress deprive the people of the several portions of the United States heretofore represented in Congress as the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, of all civil government, and so disturbed their political relations with the Union as to deprive them of the right to appear in the Congress of the United States in the positions of Senators and Representatives; that they can be restored to their former political relations in the Union only by the consent of the law-making power of the United States; that it would be improper for communities thus deprived of civil government, and whose political relations to the Government of the United States are too disturbed for participation in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States. It therefore enacts that until the law making power of the United States shall have declared the several portions of the United States, heretofore represented in Congress as the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, restored to their political relations to the Union, they shall not be entitled to representation in the electoral college for the choice of President and Vice-President of the United States, and that no electoral vote shall be received or counted from them except as each may hereafter be so declared restored to its political relations in the Union and entitled to representation in Congress.

Mr. FINCK (Dem., Ohio) asked Mr. Wilson whether his bill was printed?

Mr. WILSON replied in the negative.

Mr. FINCK suggested that it was certainly a matter of great importance and one that should not be passed without discussion.

Mr. WILSON said he would proceed to explain the bill, and that if the House chose to postpone, he would have no objection. In the preparation of the bill and preamble, the Committee had been careful not to go beyond the precedent already established. In the preamble the Committee had adopted the declaration of the President of the United States, that the revolutionary progress made by the people of the South, in the course of the Rebellion, had deprived certain portions of the Union of all civil government. It had also followed the declarations made by Congress in the joint resolution providing for the admission of members from Tennessee—that the political relations of portions of the Union formerly represented as States could not be restored by the consent of the law-making power of the United States. On those two declarations in the preamble the Committee based its justification of the bill. In the preparation of the bill, the Committee had followed the precedent established by the XXXVIIIth Congress, in the joint resolution excluding from the Electoral College the States then in rebellion. The only difference was, that the joint resolution was confined in its operations to the Presidential Election of 1864, while this bill provided that it shall apply indifferentially.

Mr. FINCK suggested that there was another difference. That at that time the country was in the midst of war, and that now we are in the midst of peace. [Expressions of dissent on the Republican side.]

Mr. WILSON—We were at that time in the midst of war, and we think the effect of that war on these communities exists to-day. Holding, as we do, with the President, that that war against the Government of the United States deprived those people of all civil government, they should not be permitted to participate in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States until they shall have been with the civil government.

Mr. HALE (Rep., N. Y.) said that without expressing any opinion as to the merit of the bill, he thought the House should not force action upon it now without its being printed, and without opportunity for its examination by members and for discussion. It was certainly as grave a question as had ever engaged the attention of even this Congress, whose time has been occupied with grave questions from its commencement. The precedent put by the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee did not strike him as applicable. He was not satisfied with the argument as it now stood. It did not necessarily follow that what was within the sphere of Congress at the time the Rebellion was actually raging was necessarily a precedent for action to-day. Whatever might be the theory as to the position of the late Rebel States, it could not be denied that they were not now in a state of *bello fingiente*. He conceded to Congress the power to determine to a certain extent where, how and how far States should be restored to their representation here and to their representation in the electoral college. He also believed with equal sincerity that there was a limit to that power, and that it did not lie with Congress under the circumstances and in all cases in time of peace as well as of war to say that certain States as communities shall not be represented in Congress. He therefore urged on the gentleman who had reported the