THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,748. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1866. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Important Congressional Action Yesterday.

Adoption by the House of the Reconstruction Committee's Constitutional Amendment.

OVER A TWO-THIRDS VOTE IN ITS FAVOR.

Disfranchised Negroes Excluded from the Basis of Representation.

Exciting Scenes in the Representatives Hall.

Severe Attack of Thad. Stevens on President Johnson.

Introduction in the Senate of a Bill for Regulating Elections in the District.

Unanimous Vote of Thanks to Admiral Farragut and His Sailors.

Continued Debate on the Bill for Protecting All Citizens in the Enjoyment of Their Rights.

Interesting Interview Between President Johnson and Indian Delegations.

&c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1866.

THE DEBATE ON THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

An impressive scene occurred in the House to-day when Thad Stevens produced from his pocket our old friend the constitutional representation amendment, and demanded its passage. The amendment returns to the House consolidated of its provision for the apportionment of direct taxes; otherwise it is unchanged. Although there was no longer any excuse for delay, Mr. Stevens gave General Schenck five minutes to present his interrupted amendment to the amendment. Schenck has a hobby as well as Stevens, and they differ considerably in color. Mr. Schenck would apportion representatives according to number of male citizens of the United States over twenty-one years of age who are voters, in the proportion of one representative for each one hundred and twenty-five thousand voters, regardless of the effect upon New York, where half the foreign population have never been franchised; upon Missouri, where half the negroes have been disfranchised for participation with rebels against the government; upon Maryland, where the negroes have been never the population out never to be numbered as citizens of one. Schenck's amendment was voted down at the first opportunity, and Thad's proposition passed by the requisite two-thirds vote.

Finishing the question, Mr. Stevens made an impressive, remarkable and somewhat animonious speech of forty minutes' duration in defense of the practice of amending the constitution:—"True, we had been informed by the high authority of a pundit at the other end of the avenue that no amendments were needed, but we disagree with him." He found fault generally with the botched work turned out by the fathers who framed our constitution, and invoked God to forbid that he should ever adopt the sentiments of Raymond and "the man at the other end of the avenue" against repairing it. Referring to the Associated Press despatch purporting to give the President's views on topics now before the House, Stevens animadverted on the President's conduct with great severity, and said—"Such conduct on the part of a British king a few years ago would have cost that king his head." Mr. Ingersoll, of Illinois, a fat, round republican, wanted to know Thad's authority for crediting the authorship of the press despatch to the President, when the sarcastic old radical replied that he really could not divulge any of the secrets between the President and himself. (Nearly every desk in the hall, except those in Mr. Stevens' immediate vicinity, was vacated, and a black ring of members formed around the impassioned old man. His frequent allusions to "that man at the other end of the avenue" and his little friend from New York provoked laughter.) Thad hopes the amendment will be adopted by Sixteen States and become part of the organic law. He ignores the Southern States as eleven dried up, shrivelled nonentities. As to Andrew Johnson's endorsement, it will make no sort of difference whether he adopts it not. It was very kind of him, however, in view of the fact that Congress would not ask him for it, to send his views to them through the newspapers. The old man sat down, with his lips compressed, and awaited, bolt upright, the result of the vote. Raymond and Hale laid their heads together and labored with republicans to vote against it. Green Clay Smith implored McKee, while Judge Hale and Raymond supplicated Davis and Griswold, to stand by the President. Jenckes of Rhode Island, and Eliot and Baldwin of Massachusetts, voted against the amendment on Sumner's account. That distinguished gentleman is deeply disgusted at the passage of so consecutive an instrument. The war between Stevens and "the man" may be said to have commenced.

INTERVIEW OF INDIAN DELEGATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Commissioner Cooley, of the Indian Bureau, accompanied a delegation from the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, Seminole and Ottawa tribes of Indians to the President's mansion to-day, whither they went for the purpose of having an interview with him. The Choctaws and Chickasaws, through their representative, Mr. Jones, said to the President that they came with the hope of restoring the friendly relations which had existed under their treaty with the United States. They trusted the past might be blotted from memory. While execrating the crime which had deprived the nation of its head, they congratulated themselves that his successor was so just, philanthropic and wise. They looked to his Excellency for the treatment which had been accorded them by his predecessors.

The Cherokees appeared as two parties—one known as loyal and the other as disloyal—both desirous of having harmonious relations with the government. Captain Christie, of the loyal delegation, whose remarks were interpreted, said he approached the President as a friend and with no confessions of disloyalty. For the last two years they had fought to sustain the government, and their country was desolate. On that account they felt that they had his deep sympathy.

Representatives of the other delegations present announced, through their interpreters, two of whom were black men, their gratitude and happiness at being allowed to communicate with the President, who, at their condemnation, thanked the various tribes for the compliment in calling upon an old Chief Magistrate of the United States, and was gratified to find them indicating a spirit of peace, and in behalf of the people of the United States extended the right hand of fellowship to them and hoped they would act in good faith. The obligations and promises made to them would be redeemed. He said it was to their interest to cultivate peace and friendship with the United States. The government is strong and just, and its power would be exercised in extending justice to all with whom it may have relations.

When the President had concluded his remarks the different representatives were severally introduced to the President by Commissioner Cooley, and departed evidently with feelings of satisfaction and pleasure at the result of their interview.

DISCONTINUANCE OF DEPOSITS FOR TEMPORARY LOANS AT SIX PER CENT.

Notice has been given by the Secretary of the Treasury that the Treasurer of the United States, the Assistant Treasurers at New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and the designated depositaries at Baltimore and Cincinnati, have been instructed to discontinue, on and after the 1st of February next ensuing, receiving deposits for temporary loan at six per cent interest. They have been instructed to receive such deposits in lawful money, on and after that date, at five per cent interest, payable on ten days' notice after thirty days from the date of deposit.

HOW INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS SHOULD BE DEPOSITED.

It seems not to be generally understood that, under the present law, receipts for internal revenue should be deposited with Assistant United States treasurers and national banks designated to receive public moneys throughout the country, and certificates of deposit forwarded by the depositor to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Money is never paid into the head office excepting in cases where the law is not fully understood.

TAXING SHAREHOLDERS OF NATIONAL BANKS.

Several cases involving the right of States to tax the shareholders of national banks are on argument in the Supreme Court. They arise on writs of error to the Court of Appeals of New York, by the Second National Bank of Utica and two Albany banks. Mr. Evarts, of New York; Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Tremain, of Albany, and Mr. Sedgwick, of Syracuse, appear for the banks; and Mr. Parker, of Albany, and Mr. Kernan, of Utica, defend the right of the State to impose the tax. The argument against the tax was opened by Mr. Reynolds. The question involved is a very important one, and the case excites much interest among the persons interested in national banks. They are test cases, brought up under the direction of the Executive Committee of National Banks.

AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE ACT.

The bill introduced by Representative Morrill, amendatory of certain parts of the Internal Revenue act, declares that the words in section 120, "all dividends in scrip or money thereafter declared due, and wherever the same shall be payable to stockholders, policy holders or depositors," shall mean "all dividends in scrip or money wherever payable, and all stockholders, policy holders, depositors or parties whatsoever, including non-residents, whether citizens or aliens." In section 122 the word "stockholders" shall include non-residents, whether citizens or aliens. It is declared to be the duty of persons making returns of lists of income or property taxed to state whether the amounts given are stated according to their value in legal tender currency, and that the penalties imposed by law in every case of refusal so to state, shall be charged by the assessors. Section four provides that when the returns are stated in coined money the assessor shall reduce them to equivalent in currency. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prescribe rules by which this principle is applied to all returns, lists, assessments and collections.

THE COST OF OUR WAR VESSELS.

The Secretary of the Navy sent to the Senate to-day the records of the Naval Board convened at Brooklyn, in June last, to examine the claims for the cost of our war vessels above the contract price; from which it appears that awards were made for thirty-seven wooden double-enders, amounting to $614,974; for six iron double-enders, $358,688; for three gunboats, $109,888; for the Minnesota, $95,822; for the iron-clad propellers Milwaukee and Winnebago, $60,612; for the ironclad Cincinnati, $95,203; for six river and harbor Monitors, $656,651; for the light draft Monitor Neosho, $36,633; for the Monitor Chickasaw, $170,888, with $96,000 more for the flat nested vessel, claimed to cost by the contractors, which sums are all specific in addition to the contract price.

OBJECTIONS OF SECRETARY MCCULLOCH TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PORT OF ENTRY AT NEW ORLEANS.

The Secretary of the Treasury in a note to Representative Washburne (of Ill.), Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, expressed his dissent to the House bill establishing a port of entry at New Orleans. He thinks it would virtually abolish the districts of New Orleans and Natchez and establish St. Louis as the chief port of entry, instead of New Orleans. The bill embraces in the proposed district the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers. There seems no good reason in his opinion to set aside the rule to establish ports of entry within convenient reach of those points where foreign merchandise passes within the boundaries of our country. He says experience has shown the necessity of securing the duties on imports as soon as possible after the latter arrive within the country. To permit vessels with foreign cargoes to pass up our principal river for one thousand three hundred miles to St. Louis, without the duties being previously paid or secured, would open the door to smugglers which even the constant presence of an inspector on board would fail effectually to close. He sees no reason for making St. Louis a port of entry that would not equally apply to Cincinnati, or, as regards geographical position, to Cairo or Mound City, and cannot approve the objects of the bill even in a modified form. In accordance with his opinion the bill has been reported adversely by the committee.

ADJUSTMENT OF SPOLIATION CLAIMS AGAINST THE FRENCH.

The bill reported yesterday by Senator Sumner from the Committee on Foreign Relations for the adjustment and satisfaction of claims of American citizens for spoliation committed by the French prior to the 31st of July, 1801, provides that satisfaction shall be made to an extent not exceeding five millions of dollars. Three commissioners are to be appointed to examine and determine the validity and amount of the claims. The claims are to be paid whenever Congress shall make an appropriation for that purpose. All claims not presented to the Commissioners within the period of three years from the passage of this act shall be forever barred.

SECRETARY HARLAN'S SERENADE SPEECH.

Secretary Harlan, in a card to the *Daily Chronicle*, says that part of the report of his remarks last Friday evening which referred to the President is so imperfect as to change the sense, and he adds:—"After referring to the dim, or apprehended by some in conferring the elective franchise on a vast multitude of persons, so recently released from slavery, and the danger, on the other hand, of excluding so large a portion of the thoroughly loyal part of the population from a voice in the reorganization, I expressed my greater confidence in ignorant loyalty than in intelligent treason;" and he added that he had never disguised the preference, and would not do so in the future, concluding with an expression of confidence in the wisdom and virtue of the President, for whom he was not authorized to speak, and who had been able in the past, and would be able in the future, to disclose his own views.

POST OFFICES REOPENED IN THE SOUTH.

Postmaster General Denison yesterday directed upwards of a hundred post offices to be reopened in the Southern states.

REGISTRATION OF VESSELS.

Mr. Eliot, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to the House to-day regulating the registration of vessels. It is intended to punish those ship owners who put their vessels under foreign flags during the rebellion, and who now wish to resume their American registers. The bill does not affect bona *fide* sales. Secretary McCulloch reports that eight hundred thousand tons will be affected by it should it pass. The amount of benefit Maine and Massachusetts ship-builders will reap in that case does not transpire. In the course of the debate Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, revealed a confidential caucus which had come into his possession legitimately. It appears that a contribution of ten cents per ton has been levied on the craft affected, to lobby against the passage of the bill. It will come up again to-morrow and will probably pass, since Massachusetts and Maine want it.

COLONEL MERRYE'S TOUR THROUGH THE SOUTH.

Colonel W. R. Hityer, of New York, late of General Grant's staff, is here, having just returned from a tour through the South. He had a protracted interview with the President to-day, and it is understood he will be examined before the Reconstruction Committee. He was with Colonel Shaffer, late of General Butler's staff, whose report was published some days since, during part of his Southern tour. It is said that Colonel Hityer's report will contradict Colonel Shaffer's in many particulars. The two colonels are special friends, but did not see things in the same light.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1866.

PETITION IN FAVOR OF FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Lane, (rep.) of Kansas, said:—I present with great pleasure the petition of one hundred and twenty-four beautiful, intelligent and accomplished ladies of the city of Lawrence, Kansas, praying for an amendment to the constitution that shall prohibit the several States from disfranchising any of their citizens on the ground of sex. As the petition is very brief I ask that the gallant Senate will hear it read.

The petition was read; after which Mr. Lane said:—The committee that is considering the subject of extending the right of suffrage to the male blacks of the United States, it seems to me, is the proper one to refer the petition of the white women of the United States, on that subject, and I therefore move that it be referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. It was so referred.

EQUALITY OF THE NEGROES.

Mr. Sumner, (rep.) of Mass., presented a memorial, in which the petitioner states that he was opposed to the freedom of the blacks, but that now they have been freed they ought to be placed upon an equality with the whites as to civil rights; which was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

EXTENSION OF THE BENEFITS OF THE PENSION LAWS.

Mr. Lane, (rep.) of Ind., reported from the Pension Committee a bill to extend the benefits of the Pension laws to artificers of the army.

REGULATION OF SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. Anthony, (rep.) of R. I., introduced a bill to regulate suffrage and elections in the District of Columbia, which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia:—

The first section provides that only such persons shall exercise the right of suffrage who were entitled to vote at the election held in 1865 under the statutes then in force.

Section two provides that all male citizens, except criminals, idiots and paupers, resident in the ward or district in which they shall offer to vote one year preceding said election, and who shall have paid all taxes assessed against them and whose qualifications shall have been ascertained in the manner hereinafter prescribed, shall also be entitled to a vote. It is made the duty of the clerks of the cities of Washington and Georgetown and of the Levy Court, to provide books for registration of all persons entitled to vote, and no one shall vote who has not been registered for two months preceding the election. Books containing the names shall be printed at the expense of said cities and the county of Washington, and shall be posted up in three public places in each ward and in such other places as the Board of Aldermen and Levy Court may direct.

Section three makes it the duty of the clerks to deliver copies of the list to all assessors of taxes, who shall assess thereon a special poll tax of one dollar, which shall be collected annually by the collectors of taxes of said cities and county respectively. Persons unable, by age, infirmity or poverty, to pay the tax may be exempted at the discretion of the assessors; and no process for collection shall issue, except against those who are assessed for real or personal estate. Any person omitted, with the exceptions named in the first section, can have his name placed upon the voting list by tendering the tax of one dollar.

Section four makes the Boards of Aldermen of Washington and Georgetown and the Levy Court Boards of Canvassers, and their clerks, to act as clerks.

Section five provides for the examination of the lists in open meeting by the Boards of Canvassers, to commence one month prior to and be completed ten days from the day of election, for the purpose of correcting said lists, and shall give public notice of the meeting by advertisements in all the daily papers.

Section six provides that on the third day preceding any election all such as have not paid the tax shall be struck from the rolls.

Section eight provides for the punishment, by fine of one hundred dollars, of any member of the Board of Canvassers who fraudulently withholds from the list the name of any qualified voter, to be recovered in the usual manner.

Section nine authorizes the boards to examine under oath persons applying for registration, and take evidence.

Section eleven provides that the poll tax shall be applied to purposes of free education in said cities and county for the benefit of all children.

Section twelve repeals all acts inconsistent with this.

THANKS TO ADMIRAL FARRAGUT, HIS OFFICERS AND MEN.

Mr. Grimes, (rep.) of Iowa, from the Naval Committee, reported the joint resolution of thanks to Admiral Farragut and his officers and men, which was adopted unanimously.

THE REPORT OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE.

The resolution for the printing of five thousand copies of the report of the Revenue Commission was reported by Mr. Anthony, from the Printing Committee, and adopted.

LANDS FOR A UNION CHURCH IN BERMUDA.

Mr. Sumner, (rep.) of Bermuda, presented a petition for a grant of land for a church for the freedmen of Bermuda, and for a grant of land for a school for the education of the freedmen; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

WITHDRAWAL OF GOODS FROM PUBLIC WAREHOUSES.

Mr. Sprague, (rep.) of R. I., moved to reconsider the vote on the passage of the bill to extend the time for the withdrawal of goods from public warehouses. Mr. Sprague explained that the effect of the bill would be to reduce the duty on imported goods fifteen per cent. The old law on this subject provides that goods might be withdrawn within three months; or if after that time and within three years, on payment of twenty-five per cent. The present measure provided for the withdrawal within three years on payment of ten per cent. He held that this alteration in the law would redound to the advantage of foreign manufacturers. He hoped the vote would be reconsidered and that the bill would be sent to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Morgan, (rep.) of N. Y., did not believe the bill inimical to the American manufacturer, otherwise he should not have favored it. It had the approval of the Treasury Department. It was no more favorable to importers than the present laws were to manufacturers.

Mr. Fessenden, (rep.) of Me., suggested that it would be well to reconsider the bill, and let it go to the Committee on Finance to be examined.

Mr. Morgan objected to this.

PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS IN THE ENJOYMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

Mr. Trumbull, (rep.) of Ill., called for the regular order, which was the bill for the protection of all persons in their civil rights. The pending question was upon the amendment of Mr. Lane, of Kansas, to the amendment of Mr. Trumbull, so as to make the first section read "That all persons born in the United States, not subject to any foreign Power, tribunal or authority, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States."

Mr. Davis, (dem.) of Ky., was discussing the proposition to declare persons of African descent citizens of the United States. He said they were not citizens under the constitution.

Mr. Trumbull interrupted Mr. Davis to inquire if he held that before the adoption of the constitution negroes were not citizens of any of the States?

Mr. Davis said he would come to that presently.

Mr. Trumbull said he had before him the decision of the Supreme Court of North Carolina that negroes were citizens.

Mr. Davis, replying to Mr. Trumbull, said he would get along very well without his interruptions. He had seen a great deal less conceit and a great deal more brains than were combined in the Senator from Illinois. Mr. Davis resumed the discussion of the proposition before the Senate, denying the right to naturalize persons of African descent, and affirming that foreigners only could be naturalized.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, asked to withdraw his amendment and in lieu of it to offer an amendment so as to make the first section read, "That all persons born in the United States, not subject to any foreign Power, and Indians holding land by allotments, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States."

Mr. Lane's amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Pomeroy, (rep.) of Kansas, then moved to amend the section, as proposed yesterday, by inserting the words "or tribal authority" after the words "foreign powers." This was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Trumbull then moved to amend his amendment so as to make it read "that all persons born in the United States not subject to any foreign Power, excepting Indians not taxed, are hereby declared citizens of the United States."

Mr. Henderson, (dem.) of Ind., objected to making the payment of taxes a qualification for citizenship.

Mr. Trumbull was of the opinion that the amendment under consideration was really unnecessary. He believed that every man born in the United States was a citizen; but it had been held differently by high authorities.

Mr. Clark, (rep.) of N. H., held that a black man was a citizen of the United States under the constitution. He was a citizen before the adoption of the constitution. Black men helped to elect delegates to the Constitutional Convention from New Hampshire.

Mr. Brown, (rep.) of Mo., said he believed that the Supreme Court would have recognized persons of African descent as citizens in the Dred Scott decision if negroes had come as emigrants instead of as property. It was true that negroes could not be naturalized because they were not foreigners; but it did not, therefore, follow that Congress had no power to make citizens of four millions of people born upon the soil.

Pending the discussion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1866.

USE OF THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Washburne, (rep.) of Ill., from the Committee on Rules, reported an amendment thereto, namely:—

That the Hall shall not be used for any other purpose than the legislative business of the House, and shall the Speaker entertain any proposition for any such purpose or for a suspension of the rules; provided that this rule shall not interfere with the performance of divine service therein, and no admission fee shall be charged, or for the use of members in order, or for concerts where the profits shall be devoted to some charitable object in the solemnities to be observed therein.

Mr. Washburne explained that the rule did not exclude the previous for the services commemorative of the late President Lincoln, and then proposed touching a late member of this House, Mr. Davis, of Maryland. He thought that occasion had not been called to this subject the door. He had made some inquiry of the Doorkeeper, and had learned that the absolute expenses for gas alone in lighting up this hall were one hundred and fifty dollars a night, or twenty-five dollars an hour. The additional expenses of heating the hall are twenty-five dollars a night; and the Doorkeeper further said that the Hall, when given for holding public meetings, receives more injury than when used for legislative purposes for a week. There had not been a single public meeting but the desk of some member had been broken open and rifled, in spite of the watchfulness of the officers.

The new rule was then adopted.

BOUNTIES AND PAY OF MINNESOTA SOLDIERS.

Mr. Windom, (rep.) of Minn., introduced a joint resolution of the Legislature of Minnesota relative to the bounties and pay of Minnesota soldiers and officers in the late war.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI—RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Mr. Donnelly, (rep.) of Minn., presented the memorial of the Board of Trade of St. Paul for the improvement of the Upper Mississippi, and for a new Reciprocity treaty.

COMMUTATION RATIONS TO PRISONERS OF WAR.

On motion of Mr. Kritchen, (rep.) of N. Y., it was resolved that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the payment of commutation of rations to all prisoners of war for the period of their confinement, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

THE REVENUE LAWS.

Mr. Morrill, (rep.) of Vt., from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill declaring the meaning of certain parts of the Internal Revenue act of June 30, 1864, and other purposes, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

SECURING PRIVILEGES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.

Mr. Washburne reported a bill, which was passed, further to secure to American citizens privileges under the treaty of Washington.

The bill provides that the products of the forests of the State of Maine, on the St. John river and its tributaries, owned by Americans and sawed or hewed in New Brunswick by American citizens, the same being manufactured in whole or in part, which are now admitted into ports of the United States free of duty, shall continue to be so admitted, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may from time to time prescribe.

THE FISHING BOUNTIES.

Mr. Washburne reported a bill to repeal all fishing bounties, saying that the long looked-for time had come at last. The bill provides that all laws or parts of laws allowing fishing bounties are repealed from and after February 15, 1866; vessels engaged in the fisheries may take on board imported salt in bond to be used in curing fish under such rules as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, and on proof that such has been used in curing fish such duties shall be remitted.

Mr. Morrill said that this bill should go to the Committee of Ways and Means. He did not want action upon it at the present time.

Mr. Washburne was understood to withdraw the bill.

THE SALE OF MARINE HOSPITALS AND REVENUE CUTTERS.

Mr. Washburne also reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to lease or sell to the highest and best bidder, after due notice, such marine hospitals and lands pertaining thereto as he may deem advisable, and appropriate the proceeds of the same to the Marine Hospital Establishment. The Secretary is also authorized to sell at auction to the highest and best bidder such of the revenue cutters as he shall find ill adapted to the purposes of the revenue service, and expend the proceeds for the purchase or construction of vessels better suited to the wants of the service. There is a proviso that no marine hospital shall be exposed to lease or sale wherein there are twenty cases of sickness per day or when any other suitable hospital accommodations cannot be procured.

The bill was passed.

REGISTERING VESSELS.

Mr. Eliot, (rep.) of Mass., from the same committee, reported a bill regulating further the registering of vessels.

It provides that no ship or vessel which has been registered or recorded as an American vessel, but which has sailed under a foreign flag and foreign protection during the rebellion, shall be admitted or considered as an American vessel, or have the rights and privileges of American vessels, except under the provisions of an act of Congress authorizing such register.

A debate took place on this bill, when the morning hour having expired the subject went over.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT.

Mr. Stevens, (rep.) of Pa., from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported back the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution with an amendment, so as to read as follows:—

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both houses concurring, That the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, shall be valid as part of said constitution, viz:—

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed; provided, however the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State on any ground other than rebellion or other crime, all persons of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation.

Mr. Eldridge, (dem.) of Wis., inquired wherein the resolution just reported differed from that heretofore emanating from the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. Stevens replied that the committee had merely inserted the words "direct taxes," leaving this for a future amendment. They did not wish to embarrass the subject.

Mr. Bingham, (rep.) of O., desired to know what the gentleman meant by the words "direct taxes," and asked that the question be taken for the present, so that gentlemen may consider what it is before they are called upon to vote.

Mr. Stevens said that gentlemen certainly knew what the report was, after a week's debate. The committee had merely omitted the words "direct taxes," and there was no propriety in longer detaining the House.

On Mr. Stevens' motion the demand for the previous question was seconded—73 against 40.

Mr. Stevens gave way to Mr. Fenenden, (rep.) of Ohio, who submitted the following as a substitute for the report of the committee:—

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to the number of male citizens of the United States over twenty-one years of age, having the qualifications requisite for voters of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature. The Congress, at their first session after the ratification of this amendment by the required number of States, shall provide by law for the actual enumeration of such votes, and such actual enumeration shall be separately made in a general census of the population of all the States, within every succeeding term of ten years, in such manner as Congress may by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every one hundred and twenty-five thousand of actual population, but each State shall have at least one representative.

Mr. Benjamin, (rep.) of Mo., said the State of Missouri would be more affected by the proposed amendment of the gentleman from Ohio than any other State. Her representatives had had no opportunity to express their views on this subject. As he understood the amendment, the representation was based on the number of votes to be determined by the laws of the respective States. It was known that Missouri had endeavored and had succeeded in placing that State in loyal hands; in other words, had disfranchised the rebels, and in doing so had disfranchised one-half of the voters of the State. By the adoption of this amendment, therefore, the representatives from that State would be reduced from nine to not exceeding four members in the House. It was virtually saying to that State unless you remove the restriction on the rebel element and admit a rebel delegation here you shall have only that small number of members, and the same thing was said to every State, and to Louisiana, unless you admit the rebels to vote you shall have but one member. He presented Missouri reconstruction as a model. Whenever any rebel State shall come here after doing as Missouri had done, placing the government in loyal hands, he was ready to vote her admission. He concluded by saying it would be impracticable to carry out that amendment in Missouri.

Mr. Stevens said they had been informed by high authority, through a pundit at the other end of the Capitol, that it was better not to amend the constitution, but to let it stand as it was. He held a very different view himself, and believed that the Congress had entrusted to it a high duty, no less important and no less efficient for the weal or woe of the country than the one entrusted to that august body who made the Declaration of Independence; and he believed that now, if they omitted to exercise that high duty, or abused it, they would be held to account by this and future generations and by all the world in favor of freedom, and that their names would go down to posterity with the same measure of applause or condemnation as they disposed of this subject, so necessary to be treated honestly and justly for the benefit of every human being. Our fathers made a declaration of independence that was—and what they intended it should be—the foundation of our government. If the government had been placed on the principles of that declaration the constitution never would have needed amendment at this time; for every human being would have been equal before the law and could not have been interfered with except through usurpation. But it so happened, when our fathers came to reduce the principles to order in the shape of organic law, the institution of slavery, hot from hell, appeared among them, increasing in volume since that time, and obstructing all their movements and acts, and preventing them from carrying out the principles of the Declaration of Independence in the organic law of the nation. But rather than have no harmony among themselves they compounded their principles for what they deemed a greater good, believing that in a short time the instrument would be purified, which they admitted to be clogged and dark with the institution of slavery. At that time only ninety bales of cotton left the country in a single year; but now three millions. Then but a few slaves, comparatively, existed, and there was a population of only three millions in the entire country of all classes. Now, the blacks have exceeded that entire number, and we have among us four millions of them, either to be treated as our fathers declared they should be treated, or oppressed by an infamous tyranny that would deserve the execration of the human race. The time had, however, come when they could make the constitution such as our fathers intended it. The time had come when through blood every stain had been washed out, unless they chose to re-establish slavery, which God forbid. The gentleman from New York (Mr. Raymond) and those above him had said the constitution needed no amendment. Mr. Stevens hoped never to live to see the day when he would be stagnated by such a sentiment. Now, the question was, when everything was in their power—when the reigns had lifted their parricidal heads against the country, had been vanquished, and had cut themselves off from every right by the law of nations, EIN republicans the constitution of the United States—should they so remold the sacred edifice as to place it on a broad foundation of human rights, or cut off a portion of those rights and crush beneath their feet four millions of immortal beings? That was the question presented to them, and yet they were told that no amendment was necessary.

Mr. Raymond, (rep.) of N. Y., here requested that if the gentleman from Pennsylvania understood him as saying that he would not disturb the constitution, and that it was better without amendments than with them, he misunderstood him. He had explicitly conceded that on the very point of representation some amendment was necessary.

Mr. Brooks, resuming, said he had referred not only to the gentleman from New York, but to a gentleman to whom, perhaps, he had no right to refer, whose authorized utterances they all respected, but whose opinion he did not endorse. He believed he was right in saying that the proclamation, the command, of the President of the United States, made and put forth by his authority at the very time this House was legislating on the question, was in direct violation of the privileges of this body. Made in that way a few centuries ago to Parliament by a British king, it would have cost him his head; but we are tolerant of usurpation and abuse of power. He wanted Christian men to go among the freedmen and teach them their duty as citizens, which they know much better already than their late masters, and the latter would take notice of what the former understood. He was understood to say that he did not desire the freedmen to exercise suffrage until they became qualified, which he thought would be in four or five years, and until the constitution was amended so as to comport with the Declaration of Independence. The amendment of the gentleman from Ohio, he said, proposed to base representation on the basis of male citizens. By this they would make a crusade against women in the constitution of the country. Were those who favor his amendment as afraid of the women as gentlemen on the other side were afraid of the negro? He further opposed the amendment, and said he wanted a two-thirds affirmative vote on the joint resolution reported by the Committee on Reconstruction, and they would take great pleasure in sending it to the President, though they need not submit it to him for approval. It therefore was the more kind in the President to send advice to them without being asked for it.

Mr. Smith, (rep.) of Ky., wished to hear read the paper to which the gentleman alluded, and which he had charged was in the way of dictation.

The article was read. It is the same as published on Monday, giving the substance of a conversation between the President and a distinguished Senator on the subject of the constitutional amendment and the negro question. Special attention was paid to the reading of the article.

Mr. Ingersoll, (rep.) of Ill., inquired by what authority it was read as coming from the President, and how it was known to express the President's views.

Mr. Stevens replied by saying he could not reveal the secrets between himself and the President (laughter), and that it was well known that the President had nothing to do with this subject. Mr. Lincoln signed the resolution providing for the abolishment of slavery because he approved of the object, but at the same time he slightly rebuked Congress by saying that his signature was not required; and they should not trouble themselves to send this resolution to Andrew Johnson because it was not necessary. Mr. Stevens then replied to a portion of the remarks of Mr. Raymond delivered on Monday, saying that he admired his amiability of temper and tenderness of heart in speaking of those who were slain in the late conflict. The courage which sent so many men to death was to be the common boast of the nation and the pride of the country that so many rebels were their murderers. We were to consider the dead of both sides as the dead of the nation, the common dead over whom he (Mr. Stevens) supposed they were to raise monuments beside those of Reynolds and others on the battle field of Gettysburg; also to build high the monument of the rebel Barksdale, who, while a member of this body, had drawn a bowie knife to murder the representatives of the people. Instead of leaving them to rot in the ditch, unwept, unhonored and unsung, they were to be raised to the foremost rank of the nation's dead, and poems were to be sung to their memory, and we are to weep over them as the dead of America. Was there ever before such blasphemy as that? If the loyal dead were to be associated with the traitors who murdered them they would, if they could have heard the gentleman's remarks, have broken the ceraments of the grave and started forth in their winding sheets, and stared at him till they seared his eyeballs.

Mr. Raymond replied that he took it for granted that the gentleman could distinguish between courage and the cause in which courage was shown. He was quite sure that there was no man on this floor who would not say that if the courage, persistence and determination of the rebels had been shown in a good cause they would have been worthy of admiration and respect. In the speech he had made he was speaking of courage as a quality of character, and in favor of the cause; and that courage and duty, shown in a common cause to sustain the republic, would do honor to the American name, and would be treasured as a priceless possession for all time to come. As for building monuments and singing poems to the rebel dead, that was simply a figment of the geolike brain of the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stevens made further remarks respecting the status of the Southern States, repeiterating some of his previous arguments on the subject.

The House, under the operation of the previous question, then voted on and rejected the amendment of Mr. Schenck by a vote of 39 yeas against 130 nays, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Brooks, Chanler, Clarke of Ohio, Clarke of Kansas, Darling, Davis, Deming, Farnsworth, Harding of Ill., Hayes, Hill, Holman, Hubbard of W. R., Hubbell, James Humphrey, Ingersoll, Kasson, Kelsey, Kerr, McCullough, Miller, Orth, Pike, Ross, Schenck, Shellabarger, Sloan, Thomas, Van Horn of N. Y., Wadsworth, Wagner, Ward, Wheeler, Williams of Ohio, Wilson of Iowa, Wright, Yeaman—39.

NAYS—Messrs. Abington, Allen, Ancona, Baker of Ohio, Baldwin, Baker, Banks, Barker, Baxter, Beaman, Bergen, Bidwell, Bingham, Blaine, Blair, Blow, Boutwell, Brandegee, Brooks, Broomall, Buckland, Cullom, Culver, Davis, Dawes, Delano, Dixon, Eckley, Eggleston, Eldridge, Eliot, Farquhar, Ferry, Fields, Garfield, Grider, Grinnell, Griswold, Hall, Harding of Ky., Harris, Hart, Hogan, Holmes, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of N. Y., Hubbard of Conn., Hubbell, Hulburd, James M. Humphrey, Jenckes, Johnson, Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Kelso, Kerr, Ketcham, Laflin, Lathum, Lawrence of Pa., Le Blond, Longyear, Loughridge, Marvin, McClurg, McIndoe, McKee, McKinney, Mercur, Moorhead, Morrill, Morris, Moulton, Myers, Niblack, Nicholson, Noell, O'Neill, Paine, Patterson, Perham, Phelps, Plants, Pomeroy, Rice, Randall of Pa., Randall of Ky., Rice of Mass., Rice of Me., Rogers, Rollins, Sawyer, Scofield, Shanklin, Smith, Spalding, Starr, Stevens, Strouse, Taber, Taylor, Tenney, V. Thomas, John Thomas, Jr., Trowbridge, Upson, Van Aernam, Van Horn of N. Y., Voorhees, Ward, Warner, Washburne of Ill., Washburn of Mass., Welker, Wentworth, Whaley, Williams, Wilson of Iowa, Wilson of Pa., Windom and Wright.

The House then passed the joint resolution—yeas 120, nays 46, as follows:—

YEAS.

Alley (rep.) of Mass.	Kasson (rep.) of Iowa.
Allison (rep.) of Iowa.	Kelley (rep.) of Pennsylvania.
Ames (rep.) of Mass.	Kelsey (rep.) of Missouri.
Anderson (rep.) of Missouri.	Ketcham (rep.) of New York.
Ashley Jas M (rep.) of Ohio.	Kuykendall (rep.) of Illinois.
Baker (rep.) of Illinois.	Laflin (rep.) of New York.
Banks (rep.) of Mass.	Lawrence G. V. (rep.) of Pa.
Barker A. A. (rep.) of Pa.	Lawrence (rep.) of Ohio.
Baxter (rep.) of Vermont.	Longyear (rep.) of Michigan.
Beaman (rep.) of Michigan.	Lynch (rep.) of Maine.
Benjamin (rep.) of Mo.	Marvin (rep.) of N. Y.
Bidwell (rep.) of California.	Marvin (rep.) of New York.
Bingham (rep.) of Ohio.	McClurg (rep.) of Missouri.
Blaine (rep.) of Maine.	McIndoe (rep.) of Wisconsin.
Blow (rep.) of Missouri.	McKee (rep.) of Kentucky.
Boutwell (rep.) of Mass.	Mercur (rep.) of Pa.
Brandegee (rep.) of Conn.	Miller (rep.) of Pennsylvania.
Broomall (rep.) of Illinois.	Moorhead (rep.) of Pa.
Broomall (rep.) of Pa.	Morrill (rep.) of Vermont.
Buckland (rep.)