# WASHINGTON

## Confirmation of the New York Appointments.

## Speech of Mr. Sprague in the Senate.

## The House in Harmony with the Reconstruction Policy of the President.

## Passage of a Bill Providing for Elections in the Three Unreconstructed States.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 1869.

**The Reconstruction of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas—Butler Supporting the President's Message.**

General Butler called upon the President at an early hour this morning and had a somewhat protracted interview concerning the message sent to Congress yesterday relative to Virginia and Mississippi. Butler returned to the Capitol in time to preside at the meeting of the Reconstruction Committee. It is understood that the President assured Butler that if Congress should pass a bill embodying the recommendations contained in the message he would endeavor to use his influence in favor of the success of the republican party at the elections to be held in the unreconstructed States. This was apparently all that Butler wanted. When he met with the Reconstruction Committee and the message of the President was taken up for consideration he manifested no aversion to its recommendations and cordially co-operated with Mr. Farnsworth, who is the author of the original bills, relative to submitting the constitutions of Virginia and Mississippi in the manner suggested by the President. The committee had an easy task before it. The only member of it at all likely to raise opposition (Paine, of Wisconsin) was absent presiding at the meeting of the Committee on Elections. For the first time, probably, since its organization, the committee was a unit upon a bill relating to the vexed question of reconstruction. Farnsworth, in advance, had added three new sections to his old bill relative to Virginia, simply extending its provisions to Mississippi and Texas. They embraced all the recommendations of the message and met the approbation of the entire committee. The President's message, it will be recollected, made no direct allusion to Texas, being confined to Virginia and Mississippi. At the earnest solicitation of Governor Jack Hamilton and other loyal Texans, now here, the committee put Texas in the same box with the other wayward sisters. The unfinished business this morning was the motion of Mr. Brooks to refer the President's message to the Judiciary Committee, on which the previous question had been ordered. Mr. Brooks' democratic colleagues, who are members of the Reconstruction Committee, had informed him before the House met of what had occurred in committee. He therefore made haste, as soon as the journal was read, to withdraw his motion, the effect of which was to leave the message with the Reconstruction Committee. Butler obtained the floor at soon as he could and reported the bill, following it up with a brief explanation. Paine, of Wisconsin, endeavored to improve the opportunity he lost by his absence from the committee by offering a substitute for the committee's bill. The difference between them was the difference between tweedledee and tweedledum. Both gave the President entire control over the whole matter. Paine's substitute had a hair-splitting distinction about the manner of submitting what is known as the objectionable or disfranchising clauses of the respective constitutions. It was of no account, however, and possibly Mr. Paine only offered it with a view to keeping his record radical. Garfield, of Ohio, came to Paine's rescue with a compromise amendment about the question of submitting the objectionable clauses, which was so harmless that it met the approval alike of republicans and democrats. Then Butler moved the previous question, and in less than an hour after it was reported the bill passed by a vote of 124 yeas to 24 nays. The nays were all democrats, most of them of the more rabid stripe, like Eldridge, of Wisconsin, and Burr, of Illinois. The leading democrats, like Woodward, of Pennsylvania; Brooks, of New York, and Beck, of Kentucky, voted with the republicans. It was noticeable, however, that a large number of democrats sat in their seats and refused to vote either way, thus avoiding the trap set for them by Garfield, who called the yeas and nays purposely to get them on the record in favor of one radical bill for reconstruction. The bill was engrossed and carried over to the Senate before four o'clock. Instead of being referred to the Judiciary Committee it was laid on the table, so that it can be called up at any time.

**General Banks for the British Mission.**

The article in the HERALD yesterday advocating General Banks for Minister to the Court of St. James is received with general satisfaction here. Banks is a man of the people, and, it is felt, would represent the progressive spirit of the country, while Motley would only represent a very small clique of very fine gentlemen, and *per se* another instrument to do eloquent duty to the British aristocracy, after the fashion of Mr. Reverdy Johnson.

**Nominations by the President.**

The following nominations were sent in to-day:—

*Assessors of Internal Revenue*—Alvin B. Clarke, First district of Georgia; D. M. Nelson, Second district of Tennessee; Cyrus H. Baldwin, Third district of South Carolina; John Scott, Sixth district of Iowa; George H. Dabyne, Eighth district of Kentucky; Charles H. Pettingill, First district of South Carolina; Nelson B. Sherman, Eighteenth district of Ohio; Aaron Archer, Twenty-fourth district of New York.

*Collectors of Internal Revenue*—Francis M. Finch, Twenty-sixth district of New York; Benjamin M. Cortes, Third district of Wisconsin; Frederick J. Lee, Fifth district of Michigan.

*Collectors of Customs*—Samuel J. Holley, Buffalo; John L. Thomas, Jr., Baltimore; J. C. Stoever, for the district of Minnesota.

*Surveyor of Customs at Baltimore.*—Edington Fulton.

*Naval Officer at Baltimore.*—John Lee Chapman.

*United States Marshals.*—Wm. E. Parker, for the Eastern district of Texas; John H. Lippard, for the Western district of Texas; Joseph R. Bennett, for the Eastern district of Michigan; George Smith, for the Western district of Missouri.

*United States District Attorneys.*—J. Wesley Purveance, for the Western district of Tennessee; George R. Scott, for the Western district of Texas.

*Pension Agents*—William T. Collins, at Washington, D. C.; Benjamin J. Sweet, at Chicago.

*Surveyors General*—Cyrus Reed, Idaho; M. L. Stearns, Florida.

*Register of Wills at Washington, D. C.*—Amos Webster.

*Postmasters*—Hezekiah L. Hosmer, Virginia City, Montana; Aaron V. Turner, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Samuel S. Turney, Greensburg, Pa.; John Fritz, Reading, Pa.; A. E. Blount, Cleveland, Tenn.; Thomas B. Jackson, Farmville, Va.; Asa Reynolds, Grand Haven, Mich.; James Rogers, Knoxville, Tenn.; John D. Lewis, Pulaski, Tenn.; Peter Casey, Vicksburg, Miss.

**Nominations Confirmed by the Senate.**

The Senate, in executive session this afternoon, confirmed the following nominations:—

*Consul General at Havana*—Edward L. Plumb.

*United States Attorneys*—Edward Pierrepont, Southern District of New York; William F. Sapp, District of Iowa; Gerry W. Hazleton, District of Wisconsin; Warren W. Bateman, Southern District of Ohio.

*Marshals*—Alexander Murdock, Western District of Pennsylvania; T. N. Quimby, Northern District of New York; James Wadsworth, Southern District of New York; Thomas E. Young, District of Oregon.

*Indian Agents*—William H. Brockway, for Michigan; Charles T. Brown, Agent for the Chippewas.

*Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.*—John W. Douglass, vice Harland, resigned.

*Collectors of Customs.*—Hiram Potter, for the District of Pensacola; Robert M. Smith, Fernandina, Fla.; C. Armstrong, Apalachicola, Fla.; Wm. G. Vance, Key West, Fla.; Frederick A. Dockery, St. Johns, Fla.; Albert M. Barney, Brazos de Santiago, Texas; Wm. D. Nolen, District of Delaware; Thomas Kearney, Corpus Christi, Texas.

*Surveyors of Customs.*—George Fisher, Cairo, Ill.; Reuben H. Stevenson, Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Justices*—B. F. Dennison, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Territory of Washington; Ellwood Evans, Assistant Justice for the same.

*Surveyor General of Montana*—Henry D. Washburn.

*Receivers of Public Moneys*—H. M. Stocking, Eau Claire, Wis.; Charles M. McLaughlin, Denver City, Col.; W. J. Bodenhamer, Springfield, Mo.

*Registers of Land Office*—E. M. Bartlett, Eau Claire, Wis.; William J. Barry, Prescott, Arizona; William J. Teed, Springfield, Mo.

*Collectors of Internal Revenue*—James B. Cahill, Fourth Illinois; Wm. R. Leeds, Second Pennsylvania; C. A. Luckenback, Eleventh Pennsylvania; Thomas A. Duke, First Kentucky.

*Assessors of Internal Revenue*—A. B. Anderson, Fifth Iowa; Amos C. Babcock, Ninth Illinois; B. B. Eggleston, Second Mississippi; Thomas Powers, Second North Carolina.

*Postmasters*—John A. Rathbone, Mystic, Conn.; Howell C. Flournoy, Athens, Ga.; J. H. Clements, Portsmouth, Va.; Isaac B. Gara, Erie, Pa.; John Leidet, Chambersburg, Pa.; Robert J. Cannon, Franklin, Pa.; J. B. Howe, Oil City, Pa.; J. A. Coggswell, Titusville, Pa.; James B. Burlew, Union Springs, N. Y.; W. H. Denny, Circleville, Ohio; Thos. Blossom, Buffalo, N. Y.; Benjamin F. Wynne, Platteville, Wis.; G. M. Tillson, Norwich, N. Y.; R. M. Stephens, Santa Fe, N. M.; G. W. S. Black, Frederick, Md.; F. A. Benson, Newton, Mass.; Barlett Spencer, Okalona, Miss.; Jefferson L. Wofford, Corinth, Miss.; John Tyer, Washash, Ind.; William N. Denny, Vincennes, Ind.; Thomas B. Macomb, Illinois; Oliver Edwards, Warsaw, Ill.; Henry C. Fell, Normal, Ill.

*Pension Agents*—William J. Stokes, Nashville, Tenn.; J. F. Rushling, Trenton, N. J.

**General Change of Officers in the Internal Revenue Department.**

It is believed that within a short time an almost general change in the more prominent and subordinate officers in the Bureau of Internal Revenue will be made, irrespective of whatever political opinions may be entertained by the present incumbents. The change will be effected mainly on the ground that the pressure for positions from outside parties renders new appointments imperative.

**Collector Bailey Acquitted of Charges Brought Against Him—Serious Charges Against Mr. Wadsworth.**

The sub-committee of the Senate Finance Committee charged with the investigation into the allegations against Collector Bailey, after hearing what was to be said against him, were unanimous in acquitting him of all blame. In executive session to-day Senator Fenton reported favorably upon all the internal revenue nominations for New York and Brooklyn, including Bailey. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported to-day against James Wadsworth, nominated for Marshal of the Southern district of New York, on account of very serious charges. These charges, it is said, were proved to the satisfaction of a majority of the committee. Mr. Wadsworth proposes to present to the Senate affidavits showing that these charges are not well founded. If he is not withdrawn, it is thought that he will be either rejected or laid over for the present.

**Sprague's Speech—His Ammunition Gives Out.**

This has been a regular field day in Congress. In the Senate the galleries were full half an hour before the opening of proceedings, and the spectators comprised what paragraphists are in the habit of terming the "elite of the community." The ladies' galleries were crowded and the diplomatic private box contained about a score of representatives of the foreign legations. The great attraction was the mysterious and inscrutable legislator from little Rhody, who had given facetious warning that he intended to make another raid on some of his opponents from his place in the Senate to-day. "Little Sprague" did not make his appearance until nearly half-past one o'clock, and obtained the floor, when Sherman's tax bill came up for discussion. A very dry subject it seemed for a Senatorial speech, and one very unlikely to afford scope for another of those extraordinary Cassandraish discourses to which the honorable Senator from Rhode Island has lately treated his associates and the country; but Sprague started out with a statement that he did not intend to stick closely to the text, which was whiskey and tobacco, but that he would branch off and talk about half a dozen words on the real subject and several thousand words on everything else. Sprague kept his promise so well that the audience, who listened very attentively for over an hour, vainly trying to connect his remarks with the tax bill or with any one thing in particular, had to give it up in utter bewilderment. When he got to his feet the ladies, who before had busied themselves fanning and chatting, became perfectly quiescent and listened with the utmost attention. Sprague, however, disappointed them to-day. He made no sensation. He was rambling, hesitating and uninteresting. His ammunition evidently was out of order or not on hand fully, and at times he was compelled to cease his firing altogether for two or three minutes at a stretch. The effect of this was to gradually thin the galleries until towards the peroration of his speech, when not more than a few hundred of all the gay and fashionable throng remained in their places to do him honor.

**Documents Pertaining to the Alabama Claims.**

The President to-day, in response to a Senate resolution adopted last May, calling for information in relation to the subject of claims against Great Britain, transmitted to that body a report from Secretary Fish, accompanied by several immense packages of documents, including copies of all negotiations and correspondence between the British government and the government of the United States, concerning what are commonly called the Alabama claims; the principal subjects discussed growing out of the civil war; the diplomatic correspondence, commencing as far back as 1861; the probable amount of the claims, so far as can be ascertained, amounting to $13,000,000, and copies of the British Blue Book for the past seven years. There is but little if any interest in these documents beyond what has already been published.

**The Dyer Court Martial.**

The Dyer court of inquiry adjourned to-day until Monday, on account of the severe illness of Mr. Arrick, counsel for the accused. If he should not sufficiently recover to proceed at that time Mr. Kernan, his associate, will present the remainder of the case of the prosecution.

**National Bank Statements.**

The Comptroller of the Currency has not intimated any time at which he will call for a statement from the national banks, but as the first Monday of the present month is the conclusion of the first quarter of the present year, and would have been the date of the report under the old law, it is probable that a call will be made before many days.

**United States Supreme Court.**

In the Supreme Court of the United States to-day, on motion of Hon. Thomas Ewing, Mr. A. G. W. Carter, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was admitted to practice as an attorney and counsellor of this court.

No. 151. The United States, plaintiff in error, vs. Addison R. Gilmore et al.—This cause was submitted to the court on printed arguments, on motion of Attorney General Hoar, of counsel for the plaintiff in error, no counsel appearing for the defendant in error.

No. 152. The tug James E. Eagle, appellant, vs. W. T. Frazier.—This cause was submitted to the court on printed arguments by J. S. Newberry, of counsel for the appellant, with leave to A. N. Moore, of counsel for the appellee, to file printed argument.

No. 155. The Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Memphis, appellants, vs. Thompson Dean.—This cause was argued by F. P. Stanton, of counsel for the appellants, and submitted to the court in printed points by D. K. McRae, of counsel for the appellee.

No. 161—Ellen Kelley, appellant, vs. Ellen Owen, *et al.*—This cause was submitted on printed arguments by Brent & Phillips, of counsel for the appellant, and W. J. Miller, of counsel for the appellee.

**The Case of Father McMahan.**

Vice President Colfax has, at the request of friends of Father McMahan, formerly of Indiana, asked the friendly interposition of the government in his favor, with a view of obtaining his release, if possible, from imprisonment at Toronto. He was convicted of participation in the Fenian invasion of Canada, but it is insisted that he was present only in his ministerial capacity to administer the rite of the Catholic Church if needed. Mr. Colfax's request was transmitted by the Secretary of State to the British Minister, who has forwarded it to his government.

## THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

### First Session.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 1869.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition of the colored citizens of the District of Columbia for an impartial system of public schools.

Also a petition of Michael Ruder, of North Carolina, setting forth that he has been thirty-six years in this country, twenty of which he has spent in the naval service, in which he served all through the rebellion, and asking that the naturalization laws may be so amended as to permit him to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, presented a petition of the citizens of Cincinnati for interference by the government in behalf of Colonel Halpine, who, they say, is illegally imprisoned in Great Britain.

RATIFICATION OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT BY THE UNRECONSTRUCTED STATES.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., attempted to offer a joint resolution, which was objected to, but was read for information, as follows:—

Be it resolved, &c., That before the States of Virginia, Mississippi, Texas and Georgia shall be admitted to representation in Congress, their several Legislatures which may be hereafter lawfully organized shall ratify the fifteenth article, which has been proposed to the several States as an amendment to the constitution of the United States.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., objected to the introduction of the resolution.

REPORT CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., from the Committee on the Judiciary, to which the President's message of yesterday had been referred, made a report recommending that its consideration should be postponed until the first Monday in December. He made this report, he said, by the direction of the committee.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., from the Committee on Commerce, reported the bill for the encouragement of yachting, &c., with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which extends to yachts sailing by sea to foreign ports the privileges now accorded to yachts sailing between domestic ports, and provides that yachts belonging to a regularly organized yacht club of any foreign nation which shall extend like privileges to American yachts shall be permitted to enter or leave any port of the United States without taking out papers at the Custom House or paying tonnage duty.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., from the Committee on Post Roads, reported with amendments the bill in relation to bridges across the Ohio river. An amendment provides that if the Board of Engineers shall report that any of the bridges now constructed are material obstacles to navigation said bridges shall be reconstructed in conformity to their report.

Also, with amendments, the House bill to establish certain post roads.

Mr. RAMSEY, from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, reported without amendment the House joint resolution granting the right of way for the construction of a railroad from Portland, Oregon, to a point west of the Cascade Mountains.

Mr. CHANDLER (rep.) of Mich., from the Committee on Commerce, reported, without amendment, the House River and Harbor Appropriation bill.

THE DARIEN SHIP CANAL.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint a commission to make a survey across the Isthmus of Darien for a ship railway or ship canal. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

THE ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., offered a concurrent resolution to rescind the resolution to adjourn on Saturday next. He thought it better to leave the States of Virginia and Mississippi under military government, under the vigorous, prompt and kindly administration of President Grant, until the next session, when Congress could properly consider the question of their readmission. Besides, the President had full power under existing laws to submit the constitution of Virginia to the people, and there was no need for further legislation upon the subject. The same was true of Mississippi.

Mr. HOWARD, (rep.) of Mich., took the same view.

Mr. SUMNER said that in the work of reconstruction nothing was done, while everything was left undone, and there was certainly much to be done before the country could confidently expect the reconciliation and peace which were to be the crown of the work of reconstruction. There were also other important matters demanding the immediate attention of Congress, chief among which were the Pacific Railroad and the revision of the naturalization laws. To show the necessity of action on the latter subject he read a letter from "one of our friends in New York," expressing fear that Congress would adjourn without doing anything to punish the enormous election frauds perpetrated in New York by the democratic party or to prevent the other greater frauds which that party has in contemplation, stating that there was a combination between Tammany Hall and the Erie Railroad Company for fraudulent purposes, and expressing the writer's belief that unless such frauds were punished by Congress and prevented in the future the republican party could never win an election in that State.

Mr. STEWART, (rep.) of Nev., saw no necessity for prolonging the session beyond next Saturday. The reasons urged now by some of the Senators against adjournment were not new, but were just as well known at the time of the passage of the resolution to adjourn on Saturday as now.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., took the same view. He thought the force of the argument against adjourning of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sumner) was somewhat lessened by the fact that the Senator always opposed such resolutions. During the administration of President Johnson he (Mr. Sumner) had had a plausible and good reason for such opposition, and it might safely be said that while these two eminent persons (Johnson and Sumner) were not confederates in anything else, they had been, during the whole term of the administration of the former, co-conspirators to keep Congress in continuous session. (Laughter.)

TAXES ON DISTILLED SPIRITS AND TOBACCO.

At the expiration of the morning hour the unfinished business, being the bill to amend the act imposing taxes on distilled spirits and tobacco, was taken up.

Mr. SUMNER moved to postpone it for the purpose of disposing of his pending resolution. Lost by a vote of 20 to 30.

Mr. TRUMBULL thought it better not to pass upon that resolution until the time fixed for adjournment should be near. He was opposed to rescinding the resolution to adjourn on Saturday, but was in favor of providing for the submission of the constitutions of Virginia and Mississippi to the people of these States, which he thought could be done between now and Saturday by the passage of a joint resolution.

The motion to postpone the unfinished business was lost by a vote of 20 to 30.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the bill.

Several amendments reported from the Committee on Finance were agreed to, among them were:—A provision extending the time for the withdrawal of distilled spirits from bonded warehouses until the 30th of June, 1869, but subjecting it to an additional tax of one per cent per gallon per month after the 20th of April until withdrawn, and forfeiting all distilled spirits remaining in bond after June 30, 1869; a provision amending section fifty-nine of the original act, that retail dealers shall pay a license of twenty-five dollars; that wholsale dealers, selling not less than five gallons at a time, shall pay a tax of $100; dealers whose sales, including sales of all other merchandise, exceed $25,000, an additional tax of one dollar for every $100 of sales of liquors in excess of such $25,000, and on every $1,000 of sales of other merchandise, shall pay at the same rate as a wholesale dealer; but that no distiller or brewer who has paid a special tax as such and who sells only distilled spirits or malt liquors at the place of manufacture in the original casks or packages to which stamps are affixed, shall be required to pay a special tax of the wholesale dealer.

Mr. SPRAGUE, (rep.) of R. I., addressed the Senate as follows:—

It is from a deep sense of duty that I have heretofore communicated to the Senate and the country, and am now about to further communicate the results of my reflections upon the deplorable condition of our country, which I am satisfied has been, in great part, brought about by laws enacted here without knowledge of or due regard to the business interests and requirements of the people. The whole course of your legislation is designed to protect and sustain monopolies—not at all to protect the masses of the people. It was observed the other day by the Senator from Nevada (Nye) that I had myself taken part in much of the legislation of Congress, and the inference was, therefore, that I ought not to criticise it. But, sir, I believe it is not only the right, but the duty of every man, whether he occupies a private or a public station, when new light breaks upon the mind, to follow that light even though it lead him to conclusions very different from those he has hitherto held, and there is no reason why Senators should not change their views upon sufficient evidence and occasion, except either a weak desire to be apparently consistent or a wicked desire to preserve the fancies they have and to arrogate to themselves greater powers without regard to the altered conditions and circumstances that surround them. I have heretofore called attention to the fact that the Congress of the United States, and especially this branch of it, now manages and controls not only the political affairs of the country, but also each and all of its business interests. I have not exaggerated the dangers of our condition. The words that I have spoken here have been spoken at other times, but they failed then to touch the popular mind and heart, because the minds and hearts of the people were not then in the condition that they are in now. The future never before looked so dark to the people of the United States as it does today. They do not know exactly what the difficulty is now, or what the remedy is, but they do know that there is a pressure upon them that they have not yet been able to throw off, and which they must throw off if the country is to live. They naturally look to this Congress for relief, and when they hear words spoken here which indicate a knowledge of their condition on the part of the speaker they pay attention, and that is why the public mind has been affected by the words that I have spoken. The people know from those utterances that I am conversant with their condition and with the causes which have produced that condition. The attendance here to-day is significant. Whether the people in these galleries are here from curiosity or from a higher motive each can best judge in his own case; but if they are representatives of the people with whom I am in communication in regard to our affairs they are here not from curiosity, but from a deep interest and concern for the condition of our country. The condition of the masses of our people is far worse than it was a year ago. I have good means of knowing that condition. I am reported to be engaged in enterprises at the South, and from all parts of the country come to me letters asking for employment. I am supposed to be rich and perhaps more than any of the friends around me, I am made the objective point of appeals for assistance in what I have said on this bill. Heretofore the Senate of the United States and some of the people may have misunderstood me. I have not come before the Senate or the people to warn them of the impending danger for any purpose of sensation, I certainly do not desire to be the object of the gaze of the people of the United States. It has always been my motive to seclude myself from public gaze, and if I consulted my own inclination I should certainly prefer to do so still, to leave this country and hide myself from the sight and hearing of those who are carrying out a policy which, if it be not speedily abandoned, must result in the ruin of the country. If I had chosen to consult my own peace and pleasure I should have continued in seclusion, and not come forward to express views so contrary to the general sentiment of this body and of the party now controlling the affairs of the country; but, sir, I could not do it; I could not resist the pressure that compelled me to come before the people to warn them against that policy which, if permitted to continue, must reduce them to servitude and ruin. I have here some proposed points which it is my desire to elucidate. They have been been put in shape by one more familiar than I am with the use of words and the construction of sentences, but the points themselves and the ideas are mine, and I believe worthy of the attentive consideration of the Senate and the people. I shall show, before I take my seat, that this preponderance of monopolies of all kinds and the condition of things resulting from that preponderance grow out of the very construction of our government. But before I proceed to that I have a word to say to the press. It is represented here by its reporters and correspondents, and I speak directly to both. You are a great power in the land—greater than all the powers in other lands combined. With this great power in your hands, considering the condition of the country, I have to notice and regret that you have not used it to promote the prosperity of the people. You pretend to give wholesome advice and right directions to the thoughts of the people. I believe you assume to be the champions of liberty, and the freedom of the press is said to be the synonym of freedom for the people. Of course you are always engaged in promoting the cause of freedom and justice. No influence adverse to that course affects you. You cannot be bribed into the special interests of anybody. The young men acting here as your correspondents (looking at the reporters in the gallery), who find it difficult to live on the pittance doled to them, are, of course, never tempted by the great corruptive influences about them into words or deeds contrary to justice and the good of the people. (Great laughter in the reporters' gallery.) If, however, the people should ever come to believe the contrary of this—if they should believe you to be the tools of their oppressors and your fine watchwords to be a delusion and a snare—your influence will then be much less than it is. But let that go. If you are truthful and do stand truly by the liberties of the people and ward off servitude why slur my utterances? why try to underrate the person who utters them, his arguments, his facts or his position? If you are the true champions of the people let us understand it; but if you are the tools of the rings of jobbers and monopolists let us understand that also.

That the people who have not yet become incapable of striking a blow in defence of their liberties, may know exactly where to point their guns, before I enter upon my main remarks to-day I desire to say one thing more. Let it be understood that I do not intend to run a newspaper (referring to the report that he had bought the *National Intelligencer*) or to organize a new political party. I am going to advocate a true system of finance, based upon the great principle which I have already presented here—the power of the people, exercised directly in their own interest. For myself I enjoy all I can aspire to, and I will not be drawn from the advocacy of this great idea, which, practically embodied in legislation, will, in my confident belief, give my countrymen a higher and nobler position than has ever been enjoyed or even aspired to by any other people since the world began. If, however, I was President of the United States (the only officer in our government who is directly representative of all the people), I should endeavor to base my administration of the office upon the general interests and average opinion of the people. To accomplish this I should give the people, from time to time, semi-official glimpses of measures that were to be proposed, as Lincoln did, in order to get the views of all classes and conditions of the people in regard to them. That is the only true and safe course for the President to take, and it is also the best security for the people. Sir, it is in this as in regulating the money matters of the country; the general policy of the government can no more be carried on wisely and safely upon the views and plans of narrow civilized ideas and opinions than the finances of the nation can be safely administered upon the views and plans of a centralized capital.

Mr. Sprague here read an argument in advocacy of his bill to provide for loaning the public money. Toward the conclusion of it he summed up his views of the dangers of concentrated capital in a single proposition, namely:—Nothing is more vicious and cowardly than five hundred thousand dollars, unless it is a million. (Laughter.) This proposition he illustrated by the history of a great moneyed family in Rhode Island, which controlled the politics and much of the business of the State, so that when they took snuff there was a great sneezing all over the State, and which, he said, had attempted to injure his character and standing as a manufacturer by inspiring the paragraph in his colleague's paper to which he (Mr. Sprague) had replied the other day, and by saying to persons who controlled some of the capital heretofore employed by him:—"Sprague is very much extended;" "Sprague is investing in the South;" "Sprague is doing a very great business;" "all this with a shake of the head, which shook the heads of all around," and which was as much as to say that they really did not know how it would all come out. (Laughter.)

At this point in Mr. Sprague's speech Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., said he would like to ask him a question, but

Mr. SPRAGUE declined to yield and said:—I notice that my colleague desires to put a question to me. He understands to whom I refer and the people of Rhode Island understand. I will not be catechized by him, but I will answer whatever he sees fit to say.

Mr. ANTHONY then took the floor, but yielded to a motion to take a recess from five until half past seven o'clock this evening.

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF VIRGINIA AND MISSISSIPPI.

The House bill to authorize the submission of the constitutions to the people of Virginia and Mississippi was laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At forty minutes past four o'clock the Senate, on motion of Mr. FENTON, went into executive session.

**Evening Session.**

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the joint resolution for the protection of soldiers and their heirs, which was amended and passed.

It provides that bounties shall be paid or sent by the agents of the government direct to the soldiers or their wives who may be entitled to them, without the intervention of claim agents.

Mr. WILSON called up the resolution to place General Heintzelman on the retired list, which was passed.

Mr. ANTHONY resumed the floor and replied at some length to Mr. Sprague, defending the family alluded to by Mr. Sprague from that gentleman's aspersions. In conclusion he ridiculed the style and manner of his colleague's recent speeches, and said that notwithstanding the dreadful condition of our national affairs, with Mr. Sprague as a leader in finance, Mr. Colorado Jewett in diplomacy and George F. Train in general statesmanship, there was still hope for the country. (Laughter.)

Several other amendments were made to the pending bill, which now goes to the House for concurrence in the amendments.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER the Senate took up and passed the House bill making an appropriation for the improvement of rivers and harbors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, the bill to punish the holding of office in violation of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution was taken up.

Mr. THURMAN, (dem.) of Ohio, moved to strike out the second section of the amendment reported from the Judiciary Committee, declaring a violation of this law a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, a fine not exceeding $1,000 and disqualification for holding any office of honor, trust or emolument under the United States or any State.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Committee on Conference, reported the Indian Appropriation bill as agreed upon by the committee.

The report was concurred in.

Messrs. HOWARD, THURMAN and MORTON further discussed the pending bill until a quarter-past ten o'clock, when, on motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, it was postponed, and the Senate concurred in the House amendments to the bill to amend the judicial system of the United States.

At twenty minutes after ten o'clock the Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 1869.

The question on the reference of the President's Message of yesterday came up.

Mr. BROOKS, (rep.) of N. Y., said that he understood the Reconstruction Committee had taken some action this morning in accordance with the President's suggestion, and he therefore withdrew the motion to refer to the Judiciary Committee.

The message was then referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

The House then proceeded to consider the report on the contested election cases from the Third and Fourth Congressional districts of South Carolina.

After the statement by Mr. Cessna and some filibustering by the democrats the resolution reported by the Election Committee declaring S. L. Hoge entitled *prima facie* to his seat as a representative from the Third Congressional district of South Carolina was adopted, and Mr. Hoge was sworn in.

ELECTIONS IN VIRGINIA, MISSISSIPPI AND TEXAS.

Mr. BUTLER, (rep.) of Mass., from the Reconstruction Committee, then reported a bill authorizing the submission of the constitution of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas to a vote of the people, and authorizing the election of State officers and members of Congress.

The bill authorizes the President, at such time as he may deem best, to submit the Virginia constitution to the registered voters of that State for ratification or rejection, and also to submit to a separate vote such provisions of that constitution as he may deem best; the elections to be held and the returns made in the manner provided by the election ordinance adopted by the Convention. It authorizes the President to submit in the same way to the voters of Texas the entire constitution framed for the State, or separate provisions of it; provided that no election shall be held in Texas for any purpose until the President so directs. The same for Mississippi. If either of the constitutions be ratified the Legislature elected shall assemble on the fourth Tuesday after the official promulgation of the ratification. The commanding general in each of such States may, with the approval of the President, suspend until action by the Legislature all laws that he may deem oppressive.

Mr. PAINE, (rep.) of Wis., offered a substitute for the bill. It authorizes the President to submit the constitutions of Virginia, Texas and Mississippi respectively to the registered voters of such States, and to submit at the same time such constitutions with such provisions stricken therefrom as he may direct. The voters shall at the same time vote for State officers and members of Congress. The district commanders may cause the lists of registered voters to be received and may appoint registers. No election is to be held in either of such States for any purpose until the President shall direct.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of N. Y., said he had never voted for any measure so reluctantly as he was about to vote for this; but he took this bill as the best he could get, fearing if he did not do so something infinitely worse. It was a duty, often a painful duty, for a public man to take the best he could get, and more especially when if he did not do so he would be compelled to take something worse. He would not, if he could help it, make the President the civil and the military monarch over three States; but when compelled to submit to tyranny he preferred the tyranny of the one to the oligarchy of the many which ruled despotically in the House. He appealed to General Grant to have mercy upon and to do justice and equity to the South.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, at the request of his colleague (Mr. Schenck), occupying the chair as Speaker *pro tempore*, offered an amendment which he thought would meet the views of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Paine). It was that the vote should be taken either on each of the designated provisions alone or in connection with other portions of the constitution, as the President might direct.

Mr. PAINE accepted that amendment and withdrew his own substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GARFIELD, in order to show the unanimity of the House on the subject, called for the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by yeas and nays and the bill was passed—yeas 124, nays 24—as follows:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Allison, Ambler, Armstrong, Arnell, Axtell, Bailey, Banks, Beaman, Beatty, Beck, Bingham, Blair, Boles, Bowen, Brooks, Buflinton, Burdett, Butler of Mass., Butler of Tenn., Calkin, Cessna, Churchill, Clarke, Cobb of Wis., Cobb of N. C., Coburn, Cook, Conger, Crebs, Cullom, Davis, Dawes, Deweese, Dickey, Dickinson, Dixon, Dockery, Donley, Duval, Ela, Farnsworth, Ferris, Ferry, Finkelburg, Fisher, Fitch, Garfield, Gillilan, Hale, Hawley, Hay, Heaton, Hill, Hoar, Hoge of S. C., Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Jones of N. C., Judd, Julian, Kelley, Kelsey, Ketcham, Knapp, Laflin, Lash, Lawrence, Logan, Loughridge, Lynch, McCarthy, McCormick, McCreary, McGrew, Moore of N. J., Morgan, Morrell of Pa., Morrill of Me., Negley, O'Neill, Orth, Packard, Packer, Paine, Palmer, Phelps, Poland, Pomeroy, Prosser, Roots, Sanford, Sawyer, Schenck, Scofield, Shanks, Sheldon, Slocum, Smith of Ohio, Smith of Tenn., Smythe of Iowa, Stevens, Stevenson, Stokes, Stoughton, Strickland, Tanner, Tillman, Townsend, Tyner, Upson, Ward, Washburn of Wis., Washburn of Mass., Welker, Wheeler, Whittemore, Wilkinson, Willard, Williams, Wilson (Ohio), Winans, Witcher, Woodward—125.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Archer, Briggs, Bird, Burr, Cleveland, Eldridge, Getz, Golladay, Haldeman, Hamill, Holman, Jones of Ky., Kerr, Knott, McNealy, Moffatt, Potter, Randall, Reeves, Sweeny, Trimble, Wells, Winchester—24.

THE CURRENCY ACT.

Mr. LYNCH, (rep.) of Me., introduced a bill to amend the National Currency act. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

THE LOUISIANA CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

The House then, at a quarter before three o'clock, took up the contested election case from the Second district of Louisiana, the majority report being that L. A. Sheldon be admitted to the seat and the minority report being that C. S. Hunt was entitled to the seat.

After a discussion, lasting for over an hour and a half, the amendment was rejected and the original resolution adopted, and Mr. Sheldon was admitted to the seat.

The House then took a recess till half-past seven o'clock this evening, the session to be for general business.

**Evening Session.**

The House met again at half-past seven.

Mr. HOLMAN, (dem.) of Ind., from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill to pay to Susan A. Shelby, of Fort Gibson, Miss., $5,000 for cotton sold or captured by the United States. Passed.

Mr. DIXON, (rep.) of R. I., from the Committee on Commerce, reported a joint resolution for the sale or exchange of the site of the Custom House at Nashville, Tenn. Passed.

Also, a bill to discontinue Sault St. Marie as a port of entry in the Superior district, and to establish Marquette in lieu thereof, to take effect from the 12th of May next. Passed.

Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution to give to members of the Fortieth Congress whose successors are not yet elected the books and documents to which the members of the Forty-first Congress are entitled. Adopted.

Mr. WITCHER, (rep.) of W. Va., from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the Senate bill to remove the charge of desertion from certain soldiers of the Thirteenth Tennessee cavalry. Passed.

Mr. KERR, (dem.) of Ind., from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the Senate bill for holding the term of the United States District Court in Nevada. Passed.

Mr. HOPKINS, (rep.) of Wis., offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to ascertain the number of buildings now rented by the government in Washington for the use of the various departments, the rents paid, &c. Adopted.

Also a resolution placing the House restaurant under the charge of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. Adopted.

Mr. COOK, from the District Committee, reported back the Senate bill concerning divorces in the District of Columbia. Passed.

Mr. WELLS, (dem.) of Mo., from