Richmond Dispatch.

FRIDAY.....JANUARY 18, 1877.

Most Important News.

We do not overrate the importance of the news from Washington announced in this paper yesterday morning when we declare that it is more important than any other that has come from Washington city since the war. It is tantamount to the deliverance of the republic from usurpation and force, and the assertion that opinion and law must govern the land. In this period of riotous, vulgar, and impudent usurpation it comes like a manifestation whose beneficent nature may be attributed to that divine guardianship which cares for the nations.

What does it do?

First and best of all, it closes the door to that hectoring tyranny which seems to be the delight of the Federal Executive. Shall we not hope that it is thus ended? President GRANT is informed that his services are not wanted; and at the ceremony of counting the electoral vote and deciding who is President he is not invited to be present; and furthermore, that the question is to be settled without his aid, and to his utter exclusion.

Secondly, the adoption of the compromise of settling points in dispute between the two houses of Congress by a tribunal eminent for legal learning, experience, and public fame, assures the people that law and civil authority are yet supreme, and that the public liberties are not left to the discretion and the mercy of usurpation and military force. Such an assurance at such a time is a deliverance to the people that has the characteristics of benignity and goodness that look divine.

We feel far more satisfaction than we have felt since the hypocritical orders of the usurper concerning the "count" were issued to General AUGUR. At that instant we foretold what followed: The counting for HAYES of the three southern States by fraud, backed by the force placed for the purpose of such backing, by the Federal Executive. It seemed that this process was to be followed into the very halls of Congress, and until now there has been no apparent good reason to believe that the nation would escape so great an outrage upon republican freedom and the Constitution. The first impulse of the Radical party was to usurp the counting of the presidential vote through the president *pro tem.* of the Senate. It was found difficult to carry that form of conspiracy through. Then it was clearly determined that a disagreement between the Senate and House being inevitable, the right of the House to elect a President in view of the failure to elect because of this disagreement should be firmly denied. And should the House elect under that condition of things, undoubtedly President GRANT would by force have prevented the inauguration of the man so elected; and thereupon he would have put the president *pro tempore* into the presidential chair, there to remain until a new election could be had. This he has proclaimed himself; and this much we are bound to conclude he would have done, and how much more or worse we could not foretell, and whatever it might be may God forefend us from it.

Now, if the people of the United States, wearied with the abuses and tyrannies of sixteen years, had come to the determination that they would wrest their Government forcibly from the hands of usurpation and fraud, and all manner of corruption, it might be better to permit things to go on—to allow the representatives of the people to perform their entire duty, and to announce to the nation the Chief Magistrate-elect, and to bring proceedings to the exact point where the collision between the people and the usurper should take place. But are the people ready for this? We believe not. Yet we are not ourselves ready to talk about war, and about what leaders may take the field in the event of war and all that. It is not wise to enter upon speculation about so serious a matter. It is too solemn for idle conjecture—too terrible not to be avoided. Still there are worse things in the body politic than war. Happily, both usurpation and war may, and, God be thanked, there is every reason to believe, will be avoided.

The peril has been the gravest—far graver than people generally seemed to be aware of; and this it is which makes us hail the compromise with sincere joy. We do not doubt that it will be adopted by Congress. It cannot be rejected by either house. The party that defeats it will be placed to the greatest possible disadvantage before the world.

The exact provisions of the compromise will be known soon. We are content with it as it is understood upon very reliable authorities. The shades of difference appearing in different versions are not at all material. The compromise—based on Constitution and law and civil usage—leaves the *result as to who will be proclaimed President in doubt,* and for this chiefly it was adopted. No plan that would certainly elect TILDEN or HAYES could have been adopted. The compromise being entirely consistent with our republican institutions—maintaining the supremacy of opinion over force—must command the confidence and respect of the nation. Therefore, whether the judgments of the advisory body lead to the declared election of TILDEN or HAYES, the end will command the general acquiescence of the nation. Happy indeed should we all be in either event to have escaped altogether the intervention of force and violence. What a comparison does a peaceful solution after this manner bear to the ceremony of the inauguration of a President under the will of a military dictator, with accompaniment of military appearances and military directions, and even the little finger of the "corporal of the guard" becoming larger than the whole body of the presiding officer of the popular branch of the National Legislature. One scene tells us that public liberty survives the fearful trials through which it has passed. The other would show us that public liberty was dead, and that the national power had become centred in the hands of the commander of the army and navy of the United States.

We do not overstate the public blessing vouchsafed through this compromise. We are sure it will be adopted, and that we shall, to the joy of the land, be peacefully led out of the national trouble which so recently placed the country in such peril.

The Wolf in North Carolina.

The telegraphic developments of the CHANDLER conspiracy show that the Radical wolf prowled awhile around the Conservative sheep-fold in North Carolina. VANCE was so well and solidly rounded out that the wolf conceived that there was good eating in the flock, and he looked with longing eyes upon it. The prowler held conferences with KEOGH, the leader of the prowlers in North Carolina, and it may be inferred that the raid at one time contemplated was not abandoned except for good and sufficient reasons. It was done with reluctance. We congratulate Governor VANCE upon his escape from the wolves. Had they broken into the North Carolina sheep-fold he would have been smartly worried, to say the least.

Chandler's Villainy and Disgrace.

Is there a man in the land who does not feel ashamed that there is in his country a Cabinet officer of the Government who could be guilty of such deeds as those perpetrated by CHANDLER? Opposed as we are, out and out, to the corrupt and vindictive policy of the GRANT administration, we are pained to see a member of even the GRANT Cabinet presented before the world in the disgraceful plight now worn by the Michigan partisan. How offensively rotten is the whole system of Republican management of the presidential election in the subjected southern States! Should elections and counts under such appliances be considered for a moment as valid?

In Extremis.

May we not consider CHANDLER's electric messages as desperate remedies for paralyzed Radicalism? Electricity is the last resort of hopeful friends who seek to prolong the life of the paralytic patient, and CHANDLER hurried the fluid from the centre to the extremities to recall to life the inert limbs of the rapidly-expiring Radical monster. CHANDLER fully appreciated the critical situation, and perhaps applied the most available palliative. But it was only a palliative. The monster must die, and everybody will damn the quack who sought by imposition to prolong his life.

Pennsylvania.

In the leading editorial of yesterday's *Dispatch* there were typographical errors as to the population voting on the presidential election and the Republican majority. It should have been stated that in the aggregate vote of about 700,000, with all the frauds of the Republican party, only about 17,000 majority was given to HAYES.

General EARLY has pulished in the Lynchburg *Virginian* an able article intended to show that under one of the amendments to the Constitution which were recently ratified all persons who have ever been convicted of petty larceny are disfranchised. He has almost convinced us. The only point in the case amounts to this: "Is the amendment an *ex-post facto* law?"

Thirteen of the ablest lawyers in Congress report an unconstitutional measure! Hardly. CONKLING, HOAR, PAYNE, HUNTON, SPRINGER, BAYARD, THURMAN, HEWITT, backed by Chief-Justice MARSHALL, ought to be accepted as pretty good authority on constitutional questions.

The speeches of Senators JOHNSON and WITHERS concerning the sending of troops to Virginia last fall to control elections were both able ones, and highly creditable to the speakers and to their State. They are reported in full in the *Congressional Record.*

We are indebted to Senator WITHERS for "Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of ANDREW JOHNSON, delivered on June 12, 1876." Handsomely printed and neatly bound.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

THURSDAY, January 18, 1877.

SENATE.

Senate met at 12 M.—Lieutenant-Governor THOMAS presiding. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Charles H. Read, of the Presbyterian Church.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

By Mr. HERNDON (from the Committee on Courts of Justice): House bill to amend section 17 of chapter 178 of the Code, in relation to limitation to appeals (with amendments).

By Mr. NEWBERRY (from the Committee on General Laws): House bill in relation to repairing, improving, and rebuilding the bridges in Fairfax county.

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE.

The Senate concurred in House resolution appointing a committee of conference to take into consideration the disagreement upon House bill in relation to curators of colleges.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. WARD: Bill to amend section 28 of chapter 181 of acts of 1874–'5, in relation to working and keeping in order the roads of the State.

By Mr. LEE: Bill to incorporate the town of McKenzie, in Fairfax county.

By Mr. CRITCHER: Bill to provide for the working of convicts upon the railroad of the Royal Land Company.

By Mr. JOHNSON: Bill to authorize the Sidney Methodist church to sell property and borrow money.

By same: Bill to authorize circuit courts to grant charters of corporation.

By the same: Bill to regulate uniformity of text-books.

By Mr. GRIMSLEY: Bill to amend section 1 of the Code in relation to the State's interest in the Thornton's-Gap Turnpike Company.

By Mr. SLEMP: Bill for the relief of J. D. Frazer, of Wise county.

By Mr. CLARKE: Bill for the relief of W. K. Alexander.

PENITENTIARY GUARDS.

On motion of Mr. MARSHALL, the Superintendent of the Penitentiary, or acting superintendent, was required to report to the Senate how many disabled soldiers are employed as guards at the penitentiary, and if one half of that duty cannot be performed by such persons without detriment to the public service.

MEETING OF SUPERVISORS.

On motion of Mr. WARD, House bill to amend sections 3, 6, and 7 of chapter 270 of the acts of 1874–'5, changing the time of meeting of the board of supervisors from December to November, was taken up.

Messrs. PENN, MOFFATT, and GRIMSLEY opposed the change in the present law as useless and unwise. Messrs. WARD, SMITH, and GAYLE favored it.

The bill was laid on the table until to-day (Friday).

DETAINED BY ILLNESS.

Mr. SINCLAIR stated that Mr. FINNEY was detained from his seat by illness.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On motion of Mr. DANIEL, Senate bill in relation to the recordation of deeds was taken up, and the vote by which it passed reconsidered. Mr. DANIEL intimated his desire to amend the bill in relation to Lynchburg. The bill was recommitted to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

On motion of Mr. SPITLER, Senate bill amending the charter of the town of Edinburg, Shenandoah county, was reconsidered, further amended, and passed.

On motion of Mr. HERNDON, house bill prohibiting agents or officers of a corporation from becoming contractors of said corporations was taken up, tabled, and amendments added.

PASSED.

Senate bill to amend an act approved February 10, 1876, in relation to the relief of township creditors.

House bill to amend section 58 of chapter 78 of the Code of 1873, in regard to the admission of persons over twenty-one years of age to the public schools.

Senate bill to amend section 22 of chapter 36 of the Code of 1873, in relation to foreign insurance companies.

TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF PETERSBURG.

Mr. HINTON presented a bill to amend section 2 of chapter 4 of the Code, providing a charter for Petersburg.

Mr. HINTON explained that the amendment proposed was to prevent the Council from imposing a greater penalty of default in payment of city taxes than was imposed upon delinquent payers of State taxes. Mr. HINTON asked that the rules be suspended, and the bill be put upon its passage to-day.

The motion was adopted, and the bill passed, and ordered to be communicated to the House to-day.

The Senate adjourned at 2 P. M., on motion of Mr. MARSHALL.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Prayer by Rev. Thomas L. Preston, D. D., of the First Presbyterian church.

A number of Senate bills were read and referred to appropriate committees.

HOUSE BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

From the Committee for Courts of Justice: To amend and reënact the act approved December 10, 1874; to amend and reënact the 6th section of chapter 134, acts of 1874, in relation to the times of holding the circuit courts of the sixteenth judicial circuit; to amend and reënact sections 11 and 12 of the Code of Virginia, providing for recordation of fiduciary accounts; to amend and reënact section 9 of an act passed 24th of March, 1848, in reference to the Lynchburg and Tennessee Railroad Company; to amend and reënact section 1 of an act approved February 17, 1874, for the relief of sheriffs in the service of civil process of other counties than the one in which they reside, with the recommendation that it do not pass; to authorize and empower John W. Peyton, one of the trustees of the Front Royal school district, to execute a lease, &c., upon certain property; to amend sections 20, 21, and 22 of chapter 196 of the Code in regard to conservators of the peace at watering-places; to give a lien upon goods to merchants' or shippers' clerks and salesmen; giving the consent of this State to the purchase by the United States to certain lands now used, and to be used, as military cemeteries, exempting the same from taxation, and ceding certain jurisdiction over the same to the United States.

The Committee on Agriculture and Mining reported it inexpedient to legislate on the subject of processioners to re-mark the boundaries of lands in the Commonwealth.

The Committee on Retrenchment and Economy reported that it was inexpedient to abolish the office of Superintendent of Public Printing. Agreed to.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. COX (to the Committee on Finance): A bill for the relief of Richard Rouzie, late treasurer of Essex county.

By Mr. ARTHUR (to the Committee on Propositions, &c.): A bill to incorporate the Mutual Home Association, of Lynchburg.

By Mr. CRAIG (to the Committee on Agriculture, &c.): A bill for the protection of sheep in Augusta county.

By Mr. CLAY: A resolution for a committee of five to investigate the mode and manner of keeping accounts, books, &c., in the Treasurer's office and office of Auditor of Public Accounts, the amount of labor performed by the clerks, and the time employed by the clerks, &c. Agreed to.

By Mr. TALIAFERRO of Gloucester (to the Committee on Finance): Petition of James W. Roberts, of Gloucester county, praying that a fine imposed on him may be remitted.

By Mr. ALLEN (to the Committee for Courts, &c.): A bill to amend section 19 of chapter 128 of the Code, with reference to bonds of fiduciaries.

By Mr. McDANNALD (to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments): A bill proposing an amendment to the 1st section of article 7 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HUBARD (to the Committee for Courts, &c.): A bill to quiet titles of delinquent lands sold under act of 2d of April, 1873, and to repeal so much of the act of 28th April, 1874, as provides additional sections (38 and 39) for chapter 38 of the Code of 1873.

By Mr. HOENNIGER (to the Committee for Courts): A joint resolution declaring it unconstitutional for the General Assembly to grant charters named in sections 59 and 62 of chapter 57 of the Code of 1873.

By Mr. WITCHER (to the Committee on Finance): A resolution for printing a statement of the entire debt of the State, &c.

CRIMINAL EXPENSES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Auditor of Public Accounts giving a statement of the expenses incurred in the transportation of convicts from the jails of the several counties, &c.; which was ordered to be printed.

STATE BONDS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Auditor of Public Accounts in response to a resolution for the amount of bonds of every description whatever listed in the various counties, cities, and towns of the State in 1876, whether due or not from debtors residing in or out of the State. The total amount of bonds is $25,078,948.15.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

THE REAPPORTIONMENT QUESTION.

At the hour of 1 o'clock the SPEAKER announced that the special order—viz., the report of the Committee for Courts of Justice in relation to reäpportionment of the State for senators and representatives—would be taken up.

Mr. TALIAFERRO, of Gloucester, presented a substitute; which, on his motion, was ordered to be printed, and the bill and substitute postponed until to-morrow.

WORK ASSIGNED TO CLERKS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House communications from the Auditor of Public Accounts and Treasurer transmitting statements of the work assigned to and performed by each clerk in his respective department, and the salary which each receives, &c.; which, on motion, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

THE ANTI-DUELLING LAW.

House bill for the relief of persons disqualified by reason of sending or accepting a challenge, &c., was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. POPHAM, dismissed.

Mr. GORDON now introduced a bill for the relief of the political disabilities of James Barbour, of Culpeper county, and moved to suspend the rules and put the bill on the calendar. Agreed to.

The rules were suspended, and the bill ordered to be read a second time by a vote of yeas 100, noes 13.

Motions were made to amend the bill by adding the names of Alexander D. Payne, of Loudoun; John S. Mosby, of Fauquier; William R. Trigg, of Richmond; and William L. Royall, of Richmond.

The names of Messrs. Trigg and Royall were withdrawn, after a protracted discussion.

Mr. LAMKIN moved to commit the bill to the Committee for Courts of Justice. Rejected.

On the question of agreeing to the addition of Mr. Mosby's name the ayes and noes were taken, and the motion agreed to—ayes, 98; noes, 18.

Mr. NEELY moved to add the name of John J. Wise. Agreed to.

Mr. FOWLER moved to add the name of W. R. Trigg, of Richmond. Agreed to.

The names of W. L. Royal, John S. Meredith, E. C. Venable, F. C. A. Kellam, J. H. St. Andrew, E. M. Lowe, and Dr. J. S. D. Cullen were added to the bill.

On motion of Mr. LACY, the name of W. Page McCarty was added to the bill, and on the question of ordering it to its engrossment the ayes and noes were taken, and the bill ordered to be engrossed by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Arthur, Aylor, Ball, Barham, Barnes, Betts, Bogart, Bohannon, Bristow, Burks, Carpenter, P. J. Carter, Cecil, A. T. Clarke, G. T. Clarke, Clay, Coale, Coghill, Comadore, R. H. Cox, Crank, Critz, Curlett, Dalton, Davidson, Davis, Dooley, Dunn, Edmunds, Fiske, Flood, Fowler, Gaines, Gilman, Gordon, Gray, Hamilton, Hubard, James, Johnston, Jones, Kellam, Kerrick, Lacy, Lovenstein, Mathew, McCaull, W. S. Morris, Nale, Neely, Parsons, Paul, Popham, E. C. Powell, W. Powell, Price, Purcell, Rains, Robinett, Ronald, H. E. Smith, S. Smith, Strother, Swann, W. B. Taliaferro, W. T. Taliaferro, Talley, Terrell, Wall, Wallace, Walker, Watts, White, C. U. Williams, P. H. Williams, Witcher, Withers, Wooldridge, and Mr. Speaker—80.

NAYS.—Messrs. Armstrong, Branch, J. A. Carter, Coleman, Connor, H. Cox, Craig, Dabbs, Dyer, Giddings, Greer, Hale, Hoenniger, Howard, Jordan, Kindrick, Lamkin, Lemmon, Letcher, Lewis, Lipscomb, Lovell, Massey, McDannald, McMullan, Moncure, J. C. Morris, Pierson, Poindexter, Scott, Scruggs, Shannon, Sibert, J. W. Smith, R. M. Smith, W. Smith, Stryker, Stuart, Whitaker, and Young—20.

PASSED.

Senate bill to amend the charter of the city of Petersburg was passed under a suspension of the rules. Adjourned.

THE PLAN OF SETTLEMENT.

TILDEN FOR PRESIDENT—WHEELER FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

AN IMPORTANT MEASURE.

A Commission of Fifteen to Deal with the Disputed Points.

Below will be found in full the bill reported by the joint committee for the arrangement of the troublesome question of the electoral count.

In view of the great national interests at stake, and the intense excitement throughout the country, this measure, which affords promise of effecting a fair and satisfactory settlement of the threatening difficulty, may be looked upon as perhaps the most important paper ever presented in the American Congress.

A BILL to provide for and regulate the counting of votes for President and Vice-President, and the decision of questions arising thereon, for the term commencing March 4, A. D. 1877.

Be it enacted, &c., That the Senate and House of Representatives shall meet in the hall of the House of Representatives at the hour of 1 o'clock post meridian on the first Thursday in February, A. D. 1877; and the president of the Senate shall be their presiding officer. Two tellers shall be previously appointed on the part of the Senate, and two on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed as they are opened by the president of the Senate all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter A; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted as in this act provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the president of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote and the names of the persons, if any, elected, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice-President of the United States, and together with a list of the votes be entered on the journals of the two houses.

Upon such reading of any such certificate or paper, when there shall be only one return from a State, the president of the Senate shall call for objections, if any. Every objection shall be made in writing, and shall state clearly and concisely and without argument the ground thereof, and shall be signed by at least one senator and one member of the House of Representatives before the same shall be received.

When all objections so made to any vote or paper from a State shall have been received and read the Senate shall thereupon withdraw, and such objections shall be submitted to the Senate for its decision; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall in like manner submit such objections to the House of Representatives for its decision; and no electoral vote or votes from any State from which but one return has been received shall be rejected except by the affirmative vote of the two houses. When the two houses have voted they shall immediately again meet, and the presiding officer shall then announce the decision of the question submitted.

Section 2. That if more than one return or paper purporting to be a return from a State shall have been received by the president of the Senate, purporting to be the certificates of the electoral votes given at the last preceding election for President and Vice-President in such State (unless they be duplicates of the same return), all such returns and papers shall be opened by him in the presence of the two houses when met as aforesaid, and read by the tellers; and all such returns and papers shall thereupon be submitted to the judgment and decision as to which is the true and lawful electoral vote of such State of a commission constituted as follows—namely:

During the session of each house on the Tuesday next preceding the first Thursday in February, 1877, each house shall by *viva voce* vote appoint five of its members, who, with the five associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States to be ascertained as hereinafter provided, shall constitute a commission for the decision of all questions upon or in respect of such double returns named in this section. On the Tuesday next preceding the first Thursday in February, Anno Domini 1877, or as soon thereafter as may be, the associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, now assigned to the First, Third, Eighth, and Ninth circuits, shall select in such manner as a majority of them shall deem fit another of the associate justices of said court, which five persons shall be members of said commission; and the person longest in commission of said five justices shall be the president of said commission. The members of said commission shall, respectively, take and subscribe the following oath:

"I, ——, ——, do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will impartially examine and consider all questions submitted to the commission of which I am a member, and a true judgment give thereon, agreeably to the Constitution and the laws: so help me God"; which oath shall be filed with the secretary of the Senate.

When the commission shall have been thus organized, it shall not be in the power of either house to dissolve the same or to withdraw any of its members; but if any such senator or member shall die or become physically unable to perform the duties required by this act the fact of such death or physical inability shall be by said commission, before it shall proceed further, communicated to the Senate or House of Representatives, as the case may be, which body shall immediately, and without debate, proceed by *viva voce* vote to fill the place so vacated, and the person so appointed shall take and subscribe the oath hereinbefore prescribed, and become a member of said commission; and in like manner if any of said justices of the Supreme Court shall die, or become physically incapable of performing the duties required by this act, the other of said justices, members of the said commission, shall immediately appoint another justice of said court a member of said commission and in such appointments regard shall be had to the impartiality and freedom from bias sought by the original appointments to said commission, who shall thereupon immediately take and subscribe the oath hereinbefore prescribed, and become a member of said commission to fill the vacancy so occasioned.

All the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes of each State shall be opened in the alphabetical order of the States, as provided in section one of this act; and when there shall be more than one such certificate or paper as the certificates and papers from such State shall so be opened (excepting duplicates of the same return) they shall be read by the tellers, and thereupon the president of the Senate shall call for objections, if any. Every objection shall be made in writing, and shall state clearly and concisely and without argument the ground thereof, and shall be signed by at least one senator and one member of the House of Representatives before the same shall be received. When all such objections so made to any certificate, vote, or paper from a State shall have been received and read, all such certificates, votes, and papers so objected to, and all papers accompanying the same together with such objections, shall be forthwith submitted to said commission, which shall proceed to consider the same with the same powers, if any, now possessed for that purpose by the two houses, acting separately or together, and by a majority of votes decide whether any and what votes from such State are the votes provided for by the Constitution of the United States, and how many and what persons were duly appointed electors in such State, and may thereon take into view such petitions, depositions, and other papers, if any, as shall by the Constitution and now existing law be competent and pertinent in such consideration; which decision shall be made in writing, stating briefly the ground thereof, and signed by the members of said commission agreeing therein; whereupon the two houses shall again meet, and such decision shall be read and entered in the journal of each house, and the counting of the votes shall proceed in conformity therewith, unless upon objection made thereto in writing by at least five senators and five members of the House of Representatives the two houses shall separately concur in ordering otherwise, in which case such concurrent order shall govern. No votes or papers from any other State shall be acted upon until the objections previously made to the votes or papers from any State shall have been finally disposed of.

Section 3. That while the two houses shall be in meeting, as provided in this act, no debate shall be allowed, and no question shall be put by the presiding officer except to either house on motion to withdraw; and he shall have power to preserve order.

Section 4. That when the two houses separate to decide upon an objection that may have been made to the counting of any electoral vote or votes from any State, or upon objection to a report of said commission, or other questions arising under this act, each senator and representative may speak to such objection or question ten minutes and not oftener than once; but after such debate shall have lasted two hours it shall be the duty of each house to put the main question without further debate.

Section 5. That at such joint meeting of the two houses seats shall be provided as follows: For the president of the Senate, the Speaker's chair; for the Speaker, immediately upon his left; the senators, in the body of the hall upon the right of the presiding officer; for the representatives, in the body of the hall not provided for the senators; for the tellers, secretary of the Senate, and clerk of the House of Representatives, at the clerk's desk; for the other officers of the two houses, in front of the clerk's desk and upon each side of the Speaker's platform. Such joint meeting shall not be dissolved until the count of electoral votes shall be completed and the result declared; and no recess shall be taken unless a question shall have arisen in regard to counting any such votes, or otherwise under this act, in which case it shall be competent for either house, acting separately in the manner hereinbefore provided, to direct a recess of such house not beyond the next day, Sunday excepted, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon. And while any question is being considered by said commission either house may proceed with its legislative or other business.

Section 6. That nothing in this act shall be held to impair or affect any right now existing under the Constitution and laws to question, by proceeding in the judicial courts of the United States, the right or title of the person who shall be declared elected, or who shall claim to be President or Vice-President of the United States, if any such right exists.

Section 7. That said commission shall make its own rules, keep a record of its proceedings, and shall have power to employ such persons as may be necesary for the transaction of its business and the execution of its powers.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

In their report submitted with the bill the committee say they have applied the utmost practicable study and deliberation to the subject, and believe that the bill reported is the best attainable disposition of the difficult problems and disputed theories arising out of the late election. They speak of the difficulty of reaching a conclusion, and they dealt with abstract questions save so far as they are necessarily involved in the legislation proposed. The report implies that legislation may be had on the subject in accordance with the Constitution; but the committee think that the law proposed is inconsistent with few principal theories upon the subject. The bill is only directed to ascertaining, for the purpose and in aid of the counting, what are the constitutional votes of the respective States; and whatever jurisdiction exists for such purposes, the bill only regulates the method of exercising it. For this the Constitution gives warrant, and therefore the law proposed is not inconsistent with that instrument.

The committee regard it as of far greater moment that the will of the people should be legally carried out than the question of who shall be President for a prescribed term. They therefore endeavored to frame a fair and impartial measure.

The legislature and judiciary are represented in the tribunal in equal proportions. The composition of the judicial part of the commission looks to a selection from different parts of the republic, while it is thought to be free from any preponderance or supposable bias; and the addition of the necessary constituent part of the whole in order to obtain an uneven number of the commission is left to an agency the furthest removed from prejudice of any existing attainable one. It would be difficult, if not impossible, the committee think, to establish a tribunal that could be less the subject of party criticism than such a one. The committee felt bound by the highest duty to let no bias of party feelings stand in the way of a just, equal, and peaceful measure for extricating the question from the embarrassments that at present surround it.

The committee conclude as follows: In conclusion, we respectfully beg leave to impress upon Congress the necessity of a speedy determination upon this subject. It is impossible to estimate the material loss the country daily sustains from the existing state of uncertainty. It directly and powerfully tends to unsettle and paralyze business, to weaken public and private credit, and to create apprehension in the minds of the people that disturb the peaceful tenor of their ways and mar their happiness. It does far more: It tends to bring republican institutions into discredit and to create doubts of the success of our form of government and of the perpetuity of the republic. All considerations of interest, of patriotism, and of justice, unite in demanding of the law-making power in making a measure to bring peace and prosperity to the country, and show that our republican institutions are equal to any emergency; and in this connection we cannot refrain from the expression of our satisfaction that your committee, composed of equal members of both parties, have fortunately been able to do what has been attempted in vain heretofore—almost unanimously agree upon a plan considered by them all to be just, wise, and efficient. We accordingly recommend the proposed act to the patriotic and just judgment of Congress.

[Signed] GEORGE F. EDMUNDS,
FRED. T. FRELINGHUYSEN,
ROSCOE CONKLING,
A. G. THURMAN,
T. F. BAYARD,
M. W. RANSOM,
of Senate Committee;
H. B. PAYNE,
EPPA HUNTON,
WILLIAM M. SPRINGER,
GEORGE W. McCRARY,
GEORGE F. HOAR,
GEORGE WILLARD,
of the House Committee.

The report was signed, as will be seen, by all the members of the joint committee except Mr. Morton.

How the Plan is Regarded.

A DISPOSITION TO AGREE TO IT WITH A FEW MODIFICATIONS—FEW MEMBERS PREPARED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION UPON THE BILL—VIEWS OF MESSRS. HUNTON, CABELL, TERRY, GOODE, TUCKER, WALKER, DOUGLASS OF VIRGINIA, BELL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, CAULFIELD OF ILLINOIS, HARDENBURG OF NEW JERSEY, CATE, HURD OF OHIO, LORD OF NEW YORK, COX OF NEW YORK, AND OTHERS—THE SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, &C., &C.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, January 18.—The report of the joint committee on the electoral count was reported to-day in the Senate through Mr. Edmunds, and in the House through Mr. Payne. Intense excitement in the reading of the report was manifested on the floor as well as in the galleries, and in the House the conclusion was followed by the hum of voices of spectators exchanging opinions and of members conferring, so that for ten or fifteen minutes it was impossible for any business to be transacted. The measure does not seem to be entirely acceptable to either party, but there seems to be a general disposition to agree to it, with perhaps some modifications, for the sake of settling the dispute by a means that the whole country will regard sufficient to avoid any disruption of the peace. This last will probably control the action of Congress, as the party which takes the responsibility of any failure to solve the difficulty by what appears to be a fair and legal mode will run the risk of losing the sympathy of the business classes and more conservative element everywhere. Very few members are prepared to express definite opinions upon the bill reported by the joint committee, which has been read but once in their hearing, but the following are, in brief, the impressions of it as formed by some of the Democratic members of the House:

Mr. Hunton, being of the joint committee, will, of course, support the bill. Mr. Cabell says he does not like it, but may feel compelled to support it. Mr. Terry has "strong objections to it, but has not decided what to do." Mr. Goode says the bill must be adopted, and will vote for it. Mr. Tucker thinks favorably of it. It forms the basis of a settlement, and may be amended so as to be unobjectionable and present a solution of the difficulty.

Governor Walker says if Congress has the right to erect any tribunal outside of itself to perform the duties devolved by the Constitution upon Congress, this seems to be the fairest proposition that has been adopted in any case from 1800 to this time, and he thinks the force of public opinion will ensure its passage, but he is not prepared to say he will vote for it. Mr. Douglass does not like the bill and will not vote for it. Mr. Bell, of New Hampshire, thinks it unconstitutional. The States should settle through their own courts all disputes about who are duly-elected or appointed electors. Mr. Canfield, of Illinois, says it is a bill that will take with the masses of the people before it is explained. He is not favorably impressed with its details, but wants time to consider. Mr. Hardenburg, of New Jersey, will accept it. Mr. Cate says it is adroitly drawn, and he is afraid of it. Mr. Hurd, of Ohio, does not think favorably of it, but will not decide without careful study of its provisions. Mr. Lord, of New York, thinks that under all the circumstances it is about as fair a bill as could have been expected. Mr. Cox, of New York, says he'll let it soak until to-morrow. "Would like to consider whether we can give away our powers to any other fellows, and if so, who are the other fellows, and all that sort of thing, you know." All of the above are Democrats, and may be taken as a pretty fair sample of the position taken by the party at first view. If the measure is to be defeated it would be politic that opposition to it and its defeat should be primarily due to the Republicans.

Immediately after the adjournment to-day the Democrats held a caucus, at which the subject was discussed, but I have not yet ascertained reliable information of its action. There is a growing feeling (since it has been discovered that Mr. Hewitt, representing a large class of Democrats, is opposed to forcible resistance to the inauguration of any revolutionary mode of determining the electoral question) that every possible means should be tried to avoid any such contingency. And not a few Democrats admit that the chances of justice to their party lies in the adoption of some such plan of adjustment as that presented to-day. Whoever may be inaugurated as a result of it would then go into office under the forms of law, and the serious monetary and commercial disturbances that would probably follow the inauguration of either Hayes or Tilden under doubtful right would be avoided.

It is understood that the Chief Justice, who is said to have had disagreeable personal relations with Mr. Tilden, has positively decided not to have anything to do with the settlement. If this be true, the name of Judge Davis, who has no decided party connection, presents itself as the fairest that could be selected to complete the tribunal.

From conversation with senators I judge the bill may pass the Senate, though it will meet with determined opposition from Morton, Sargent, Conover, Patterson, Eaton, and West—all of whom declare positively against it.

Senator Eaton, a radical Democrat, says Congress has no more right to refer the question to such a commission than it has to refer it to Sir Edward Thornton. Senator Ingalls, a radical Republican, says he likes the bill as he does any prize-package. He don't believe in searching the country for a tribunal to make Tilden President. Senator West (Republican) says it would have been more manly to have brought in at once a resolution declaring Tilden elected. Senator Patterson (Republican) thinks it is gratuitously throwing away the victory of Hayes. Senators Sherman, Boutwell, Ferry, Dawes, and Anthony (Republicans), and McCreery and Randolph (Democrats), are non-committed. Senators Alcorn (Republican), Bayard, Booth, Cameron of Wisconsin, Johnston, Kelly, Kernan, Price, Ransom, Wallace, Cooper (Republicans), and Whyte, favor the bill. Withers don't like it, but will vote for it. Christiancy says he will have to study the bill a good deal before he makes up his mind. Jere. Black says "it's a d—d bad bill; the House committee has been bulldozed. The American Democracy is pigeon-livered, any way."

The Republicans in the House are very much divided in opinions. So far as I have learned the majority oppose the bill.

The Democratic caucus will meet next Monday to consider the electoral bill. The Democratic Executive Committee has authorized a call of the national convention February 2d. By that time they will be able to decide upon the propriety of calling a national mass convention, as the fate of the electoral bill will probably be settled. It was almost the sole topic of conversation at Speaker Randall's reception to-night. Everybody is speculating as to whom Justices Clifford, Strong, Miller, and Field will select as the fifth justice.

[Associated Press report by telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, January 18.—The report of the joint committee is received with general satisfaction. It will be combatted by the more ultra of both parties. It is regarded as indicative of Tilden and Wheeler. Very sensible people see no room for Hayes in any of the features of the proposed bill.

The Democrats of the House held a caucus to-night. General Hunton discussed the proposed bill. Another caucus for consultation will be held on Monday.

PERSONAL.

ANY PERSON HAVING A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY lapsed by reason of the war may be benefited by sending his address to "H. E.," care *Dispatch* office. ja 19-1t*

AN AGED MOTHER in Glasgow is very anxious to hear of her son, THOMAS SUTHERLAND. He is about fifty years of age. Was in New York at one time, then in Richmond, and last heard of in Providence. An engineer or mechanic for power-looms. Please write to MRS. MITCHELL, 63 Main street (Thomson's Court), Anderston, Glasgow, Scotland. ja 19-2t

MARRIAGES.

Married, at the residence of the bride's aunt, at Taylorsville, Va., on Tuesday, January 16, 1877, by Rev. J. B. Hutson, Mr. W. B. PETTIS, of Cairo, Ill., and Miss LIZZIE E. COOKE, daughter of Dr. J. G. Cooke, of Fauquier county.

Cairo papers please copy.

Married, on the 21st of December, 1876, by the Rev. J. R. Garlick, D. D., J. ALBERT SPEIGHTS, of Baltimore, to Miss ROSA B. WILKINSON, of this city.

Baltimore papers please copy.

Married, on the 16th instant, at Leigh-Street Baptist church, by Rev. J. R. Garlick, B. I. HOMES, of Richmond, to MYRTHA A., daughter of G. H. Lucy, Esq., of Henrico county. No cards.

Religious Herald please copy.

DEATHS.

Died, in this city, Wednesday, January 17, 1877, at half-past 2 o'clock, of paralysis, Dr. WARICK MASSIE WOODWARD, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

His funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 1551 Main street, FRIDAY, January 19, 1877, at 3 o'clock P. M. His friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

Died, on the 17th of January, at half-past 11 o'clock P. M., MALVINA G., wife of E. M. D. Clarke, and daughter of Garland T. Waddy, of Oak Hill, Louisa county, Va.

Her funeral will take place from the Monumental church FRIDAY the 19th, at 1 o'clock P. M. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

Died, at his residence, in Manchester, Thursday, January 18, 1877, JOHN JONATHAN (colored), who was for more than thirty years employed in the warehouse of the Old Dominion Nail-Works. The deceased was well known to the merchants of this city, and by his integrity and politeness leaves a green memory after him.

MEETINGS.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.—The members of HINES LODGE, No. 17, K. of P., will attend a stated meeting at Pythian Hall THIS (Friday) EVENING at 7 o'clock. Members of sister lodges and visiting brethren are invited to be present. By order of the C. C.

WILLIAM J. RIDDICK, K. of R. and S.

ja 19-1t*