National Republican.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Forty-First Congress—Second Regular Session

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1869.

SENATE.

Mr. Morrill, of Maine, introduced a bill to provide reporters for the Circuit Courts of the United States. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Also, concurrent resolution to print 5,000 copies of eulogies on the late Senator Fessenden, 5,000 for the use of the House, and 1,000 for the use of the Senate. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. Chandler, from the Committee on Commerce, reported favorably a bill to authorize the erection of a bridge over the Delaware river, between Philadelphia and Camden.

Mr. Cragin introduced a joint resolution authorizing the settlement of the accounts of John W. Forney, late Secretary of the Senate, he having settled all balances against him.

Mr. Cameron said he was now satisfied that Mr. Forney had done nothing wrong, but had been wronged by the action of his confidential clerk. The Government would lose nothing, but Mr. Forney would lose largely. As he (Mr. C.) had, in some former remarks on this subject, rather reflected upon Mr. Forney, he conceived it to be his duty to say this much.

The joint resolution was then passed.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution requesting the Judiciary Committee to inquire whether any further legislation is necessary to protect public meetings in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wilson offered this resolution because he had heard of public meetings in this District being interrupted, and he believed it the right of all citizens to meet together without interruption. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Morton called up the bill to perfect the reconstruction of the State of Georgia.

Mr. Morton moved to amend by providing that the Legislature shall be provisional until it has ratified the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments.

Mr. Carpenter opposed the amendment as unnecessary and pernicious. Unnecessary because the people of Georgia would understand what they were expected to do before they got in, and pernicious because if, after further discussion upon these matters, it would be claimed that the Southern States had not ratified these amendments voluntarily.

Mr. Drake inquired who would raise these objections.

Mr. Carpenter. The enemies of the country.

Mr. Drake. Oh, I supposed it might be the Supreme Court. I want this thing to be laid down plainly, that neither the House nor Supreme Court can interfere with the sovereignty of Congress. I want the infamy of that Georgia Legislature wiped out. I want those rebels in the South—just as much rebels now as they were yesterday—to know the power of Congress and the loyal people.

Mr. Morton, of Indiana, said that the objection of Mr. Carpenter impeached all that had been done on the subject of reconstruction. All the Southern States had been required to ratify the seventeenth amendment, and why should not Georgia be required to ratify the fifteenth amendment. Colored suffrage in those States would never be secure until the ratification of the fifteenth amendment and it was wrong to run say risk about it.

The morning hour here expiring the bill went over, and the unfinished business being the bill in relation to the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, was taken up.

Mr. Trumbull said this bill had not been reported with any view to encroach upon the independence of the judiciary. Such would be the impression from remarks in the public press, and that the legislative power was seeking to encroach upon the judicial. No man more than he considered it essential that there should be a division of the powers of government, and no man would do more than he to preserve the independence of the judiciary in its proper sphere, and if he thought that this bill was going to strike down the judiciary it did not receive his support. He would not join in the hue and cry which had been raised against the Supreme Court in certain quarters. He had the highest respect for that tribunal; the ablest men in the country had sat there from time to time, and its decisions had generally been worthy of all respect.

The present bill was not designed to interfere with any case now before the Supreme Court. As he understood it, there was no case before the court involving the validity of the reconstruction acts. But efforts were constantly being made to get cases before the court, so as to get from it an opinion as to the reconstruction acts. The Supreme Court had nothing to do with that question when the bill was to prevent them being brought before it.

The first section of the bill declares that the judicial tribunals have no political power or authority to decide political questions. This is sound doctrine, and no lawyer here or elsewhere will deny it. The Supreme Court has declared it, over and over again.

Mr. T. alluded to the Dred Scott and Milligan decisions, where the court had travelled out of its proper sphere to deliver political essays and give its opinions as to the power of Congress, and this unauthorized departure from its legitimate sphere of duty had excited the disapproval of the country. He had heard the Supreme Court had no original authority to issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, and he intended to offer an amendment that justices of the Supreme Court and the district judges shall only have authority to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* in their own districts. He understood that now it was claimed that the district judge in Maine could issue a writ for a person confined in Oregon, and that a justice of the Supreme Court could issue a writ to be served in any part of the country. This was entirely too wide a discretion, and none such was intended under the judiciary act of 1789.

He had said so much to show the falsity of the charge that the Senate Judiciary Committee had reported a bill to break down the Judiciary. The bill merely proposed to reaffirm what the Supreme Court had over and over again declared.

Mr. Thayer moved to postpone the pending bill and proceed again with the Georgia bill.

Mr. Trumbull thought it very important that this bill should be passed at once. He knew that other departments of the Government were anxious for the immediate passage of the bill, otherwise questions might arise which would complicate the matter.

Mr. Drake asked whether the Senator had any information that the Supreme Court intended to interfere with the case of Georgia.

Mr. Trumbull had no information as to what the Supreme Court intended to do, but understood that efforts were being made to bring matters connected with Georgia before it.

Mr. Drake. Here we have favored on this floor that a body of men, sitting in another part of this Capitol, are about to again set themselves up over Congress.

Mr. Sumner thought the Georgia bill was important to be proceeded with now. He thought the Supreme Court would pause in view of what had occurred in this chamber.

The motion of Mr. Thayer was agreed to, and the Georgia bill was again before the Senate, the question being upon the amendment of Mr. Morton, given above.

Mr. Carpenter fully agreed with Mr. Morton as to the doctrine, but he differed with him as to the expediency of his amendment. He could assure him that he should never vote to admit Georgia until she ratified the fifteenth amendment.

Mr. Thurman said this was not a question of forcing the fifteenth amendment upon the people of Georgia, but upon the people of the whole United States. By coercing the people of Georgia, you fasten this amendment upon the people of Ohio who have rejected it, and not only in the name of Georgia, but in the name of Ohio, and of the name of all the people he protested against it. Congress had no power to do this. It only had power to propose amendments to the Constitution. Where was the power to coerce States into adopting them? By fastening this upon the people of Georgia by military force and duress, you fasten it upon the people of Ohio, and although he knew that it was useless, yet it was his duty to raise his protest against it.

Mr. Sawyer advocated the amendment.

Mr. Bayard said the only law that controlled reconstruction had been the will of the dominant party in Congress. It was under the adoption of the fifteenth amendment by Georgia to-day, and next week or next month it might require something else. On the 25th of June, 1868, Congress had passed a bill declaring that Georgia was entitled to representation in Congress, and now, after so many months, Georgia is not yet in, and new conditions of admission are to be prescribed. It is absurd to suppose that other States, which are opposed to this fifteenth amendment which is now to be fastened upon them by the coercion of the Southern States, will not question it at some future day. If they do not, all love of freedom has died out in the hearts of the American people. What good can accrue from enlarging the mass of ignorant, corruptible voters in the United States, is more than I can see.

These measures are assuming to Congress the power to decide who shall be the electors of the Legislature in the different States. This act is unfair and unjust toward the people against which it is directed. It is undoing the work which they have done at your behest. It tells with equal injustice against the people of other States. He believed that all these acts would recoil on the inventors; that sooner or later it would be shown that they could not secure party supremacy. They may pass their amendments, but they can never reverse the laws of nature or make the negro the equal of the white man.

Mr. Williams had heard these arguments ever since the rebellion commenced, as to the unconstitutionality of everything that Congress did, and supposed they would have the same effect now as they had then. That Congress has power to impose conditions on these rebel States was considered settled beyond question. Not only have the people over and over again endorsed the action of Congress, but the Supreme Court has affirmed the political power of Congress, and has no power to review the action of Congress.

It is the right of Congress to determine when an amendment to the Constitution is ratified, and that determination is binding upon all the departments of the Government. It is too late to frighten us now with these menaces, that the people will rise up and repudiate us. We have heard that cry ever since the war, but the people never have repudiated us and never will.

Mr. Howard did not consider this a question of coercing Georgia. It simply left to the people of Georgia the alternative of remaining as they were or of adopting the fifteenth amendment and being restored to representation in Congress. But if any excuse was needed for this act it was to be found in the course of the dominant party in Georgia, who had broken faith with the reconstruction acts.

Mr. Edmunds thought it much more desirable that the ratification of this fifteenth amendment should be secured by the free will of the people of Georgia rather than by requiring it of her. This would obviate all controversy about it hereafter, and this certainly seemed to be much wiser and better.

In answer to a question of Mr. Morton, he stated that he did not think he should vote for the admission of Georgia until she did ratify the amendment. He had from the first thought that the condition of Georgia demanded the interposition of the paramount authority of Congress, and a year ago had endeavored to induce this body to take action. The military authority had been withdrawn, and there was no further security for life and property, and his desire had been to restore military authority. In this bill we are taking nothing from the people of this State; we are merely exacting of them what we exacted in the first instance.

Mr. E. then reviewed the action of the Georgia Legislature in expelling the colored members and seating their minority opponents, stating that it was not only in violation of the laws of Congress, but in violation of their own laws and their own constitution. Georgia was now a perfect hell; it was in the hands of brigands. Murderers were not punished, and if the sheriff attempted to arrest any of the law-breakers, he was soundly whipped and told to go about his business, and not interfere with the constitutions of the Democratic State of Georgia. Was Congress to stand idly by and allow these desperadoes to run riot over the peaceful and loyal people?

The Senate then, at 4:10 p. m., without further action, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, introduced a bill to establish a bureau of customs revenue in the Treasury Department. Referred to Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Keith, of Ky., introduced a bill to amend the laws of the United States relating to collectors and assessors of internal revenue. Referred to Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Cole, of Md., introduced a bill to repeal the tax of ten per cent. on notes of State banks. Referred to Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., introduced a resolution that the Committee on Judiciary be instructed to inquire if any further legislation is necessary to provide for the determination of any election contest that may arise in the Maryland College. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Whittemore, of S. C., introduced a joint resolution for contract with Fisk Mills for a group of statuary for the adornment of the south wing of the Capitol. Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Mr. McCrew, of W. Va., offered a resolution that the Committee on Foreign Affairs examine the accounts of Andrew Vanderwell, deceased, late United States Consul at Honolulu; and if he is entitled to relief, to make report accordingly. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Paine, of Wis., introduced a bill for the improvement of the harbor of Kewaunee, Wis. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The regular order of business was then demanded, and the House proceeded to the consideration of the amendments made in Committee of the Whole to the census bill.

The amendments were agreed to without division until Mr. Farnsworth's amendment to the franking privilege section was reached, when a tellers vote was demanded. The amendment provided that accurate accounts should be kept of money expended for postage, and that the money should be refunded, and this to be in lieu of the exercise of the franking privilege. The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Bailey, of N. Y., moved to reconsider the vote whereby the eighth section of the bill was adopted yesterday. The amendment provides for the appointment of almost as many superintendents as superintendents and district superintendents may see proper to appoint.

Mr. Jenckes, of R. I., moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table. The motion was rejected—yeas 66, nays 111.

The House then reconsidered the vote by which the section was adopted; and the question recurring upon its adoption, it was rejected.

The bill was then passed, and the title was amended so as to make it read, "An act to provide for taking the ninth census of the United States."

Mr. Loughridge offered in the House this morning the following resolution; which was adopted:

Whereas it is alleged that the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company, a corporation chartered by Congress and given valuable privileges and franchises in the District of Columbia, has returned in dividends to the stockholders of said company their original investment and over fifty per cent. in addition thereto, besides acquiring several acres of valuable property in the District of Columbia, and has in many respects violated its charter, and failed for the last few years to keep its cars in cleanly condition; therefore,

Be it resolved, That the Committee on the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, directed to inquire into the expediency of the passage of a bill prohibiting the said Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company from collecting more than five per passenger; that it was originally provided in the act of incorporation, by which it acquired the right to occupy Pennsylvania avenue and other streets and avenues of Washington and Georgetown, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, asked leave to introduce an act to repeal the pension act of 1860 and to provide for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress.

Mr. Dickey, of Pa., objected.

Mr. Cook, of Ill., from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back the bill to promote an International Exhibition in Washington in 1871. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

On motion of Mr. Dawes, of Mass., it was

Resolved, That when the House adjourn to-day it be until Monday next.

The Speaker announced the following gentlemen as additional members of committees, and to fill existing vacancies, viz:

On Elections—Messrs. Brooks of Mass., and Dox of Ala.

On Banking and Currency—Mr. Burchard, of Illinois.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Starkweather, of Connecticut, and Hayes, of Alabama.

On Claims—Mr. Strong, of Connecticut.

On Pacific Railroad—Messrs. Barnum, of Connecticut, and Buck, of Alabama.

On Judiciary—Mr. Kellogg, of Connecticut.

On Rules—Mr. Cox, of New York.

On Revision of Laws—Mr. Jenckes, of Rhode Island.

On Railways and Canals—Mr. Sherrod, of Alabama.

On Military Affairs—Mr. Hoge, of South Carolina.

On Foreign Affairs—Mr. Myers, of Pennsylvania.

On Invalid Pensions—Mr. Heflin, of Alabama.

On Territories—Mr. Buckley, of Alabama.

On Patents—Mr. Myers, of Pennsylvania.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of State stating, in answer to a resolution of the House, that it was not compatible with the public interest to make public at this time the correspondence in relation to Cuba. Referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Whittemore offered a joint resolution appropriating $150,000 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to contract with Fisk Mills for a group of statuary in marble for the south wing of the Capitol, so that the building may be completed by 1872.

The group proposed is a match piece to the "Progress of Civilization," now upon the pediment of the north wing, to "embody the great feature of emancipation, and fix in imperishable form the act whereby four million bondmen were made free." Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

Mr. Scofield presented a letter from the Secretary of the Navy asking to enlist 1,500 men in addition to the 8,500 men now allowed by law.

Accompanying the communication was a letter from Commodore Smith, chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, setting forth that there were now employed in the naval service 7,500 men, leaving only 500 to bring the force up to the maximum number allowed by law. These 500 men are immediately required to fill the accrued deficiencies in the navy. Atlantic squadron, leaving the bureau without men for the vessels ordered to relieve those whose cruises on foreign stations are about to terminate. Referred to Committee on Naval Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Dawes, of Mass., the Postmaster General was requested to inform the House whether by appointment of the President and confirmation by the Senate any one holding a place of trust or profit under him has been appointed to treat with any foreign nation in relation to an international postal law, and if so, under what law the appointment was made.

Mr. Allison, of Iowa, introduced a bill to provide for the apportionment of members of Congress. Referred to Committee on Census.

Mr. Shanks, of Ind., from Committee on Military Affairs, reported back a bill to provide for the purchase of artificial limbs and other supports for Union soldiers who were wounded and maimed in the late war. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

Mr. Tauney, of New York, introduced a bill to amend the act authorizing the construction of a jail in the District of Columbia, approved July 23, 1866. Referred to Committee District of Columbia.

Mr. Kerr, of Indiana, introduced a bill to amend the sixth section of the pension act. Referred to Committee on Pensions.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting the record and proceedings in the naval court-martial case of Surgeon Greene, United States navy. Referred to Committee on Naval Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the President's message, Mr. Allison, of Iowa, in the chair.

Mr. Mungen, of Ohio, obtained the floor and made a speech upon the finances, in which he was understood to advocate repudiation of the national debt. He distinctly announced, however, that he spoke only for himself, and did not profess to speak for any party or set of men.

Mr. Mungen was interrupted frequently, but declined to yield, and at the close of his remarks—

Mr. Brooks, of N. Y., said that in view of what had been uttered he felt it to be his duty to say something, and not pass in quiet the remarks of Mr. Mungen, lest he should be considered as acquiescing therein. He had no sympathy with repudiation or repudiators, nor did he believe that the great party he represented had. He never had been, never could be, and never will be a repudiator. He expected to pay every cent of the debt and interest, and had a firm belief in the possibility and capability of the country to pay it. He believed that in saying this he was speaking for the mass of the Democratic party.

Mr. Fitch, of Nevada, now obtained the floor, but agreed to yield further, in order, as he said, that the Democratic members might make a confession.

Mr. Potter, of N. Y., followed in denunciation of Mr. Mungen's ideas and of repudiation, and pledged himself and his district at all times to the honest fulfilment of every financial obligation of the country.

Mr. Randall, of Pa., said that there was no doubt but that the resources of the country were ample to pay the debt, and he believed it should and would be paid, and so did the people he represented. He had no doubt that the debt was contracted at ruinous rates and that there were other evils and irregularities, but no matter what the evils the debt must be paid, and that was the sentiment of the Democratic party. But he warned the House against pursuing that system of taxation which was calculated to make the poor poorer and the rich richer. The great party of which he claimed to be a member had not the least idea of repudiating the debt, for it held no political faith except that which would be for the honor and glory of the whole country. He again, however, warned the Republican party that they were the real repudiators by the laws they were passing in relation to taxation.

Mr. Slocum, of N. Y., said he represented a district which paid as much to the Government in taxes as almost any three districts in the West, and yet he was sure his people had never so much as entertained the idea of repudiation. No political party had ever given him its support to say aught or do any measure that tended to the repudiation of our national obligations. He repudiated all such doctrine and all repudiators, the war cry of the disorganizers of his people in 1860 to 1865.

Mr. Kerr, of Ind., said the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Mungen) had distinctly announced that he spoke only for himself, and he felt it his (Kerr's) duty in any case where he not merely to speak for any party, but he felt it his (Kerr's) duty in any case where his sentiment, and he believed it was the sentiment of the whole Democratic party that repudiation was not to be tolerated. He did not believe the Democratic party endorsed any such theory, and in spite of Mr. Mungen's disclaimer that he spoke only for himself, he (Kerr) felt it his duty to say this much.

Mr. Cox, of N. Y., said no one desires to degrade the country or the nation, or to bring it to dishonor before the world and the country. He should be ashamed to say that he belonged to a party, any man of which advocated a policy of repudiation. All of our contracts pay in gold, and all he go to sustain the public credit of the United States. But there are questions which ought to be considered before it is too late, and that is whether the Republican majority of this House has not, at times, set examples of repudiation. He alluded to the fact that the claims of loyal citizens of the country had been, time and again, repudiated, or laws had been made throwing such obstacles in the way that the claims could not be realized on. He also referred to the fact that the legal-tender act had been perverted from its original purpose. All this was a sort of a system of repudiation. He denied that there was any party or set of men who favored repudiation, but all wanted to maintain the honor of the country by the prompt payment of the taxes.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., asked Mr. Cox how far and in what respect he differed from his late colleague, Mr. Pendleton, on the greenback question.

Mr. Cox said he did not approve it now, and never did; but he did not see what Mr. Pendleton's views had to do with the pending issue.

Mr. Dawes said he knew the gentleman did not approve of the Pendleton theory, and for that reason he had asked him the question. He wanted to know how far the gentleman repudiated Mr. Pendleton.

Mr. Cox regretted to see a disposition manifest on the part of Mr. Dawes to make a partisan issue of this matter. He did not know what was meant by calling the Pendleton theory a peculiar to Mr. Pendleton, for if he recollected aright the gentleman's own colleague (Mr. Butler) agreed with Mr. Pendleton, yet upon the strength of him as a repudiator, the Representative from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) was not for removal from a perfect agreement with Mr. Pendleton, and yet none ever accused him of being a repudiator. The views of the honorable Senator, from Indiana (Mr. Morton) and those of Mr. Pendleton very nearly agree; yet no one could say that Mr. Morton favored repudiation.

He was not now arguing for or against the financial theories of Mr. Pendleton or Mr. Butler or Mr. Morton, but was arguing against repudiation in every form, and against the man or set of men who would favor or advocate it.

Mr. Fitch, of Nevada, here interposed, and said he must resume the floor if gentlemen were going to carry on a discussion between each other. He was very willing to yield to the gentleman on the Democratic side of the House to explain their positions on the financial questions and on questions of repudiation. If any Democrat wanted to speak he was willing to yield further.

Mr. Shanks, of Ind., suggested that this was a Democratic class-meeting and love feast.

Mr. Scofield, of Penn., invited all gentlemen forward to hear the Democratic confession of faith.

Mr. Woodward, of Pa., having obtained the floor, referred to the fact that many years ago the Republican county of Allegheny, Pa., and the Republican city of Pittsburg, Pa., had repudiated a certain subscription to a railroad, as a judge then upon the bench, had occasion to meet the repudiators at that time. It was a fierce struggle between the judicial authority of the State and the Republican party of Allegheny county and the city of Pittsburg; but the judicial authority finally triumphed. The Republican party in 1862, having then possession of the Congress of the United States, passed an act which he (Mr. Woodward) thought looked like an act of repudiation, for it declared that certain notes should be a legal tender for all debts, dollar for dollar. He (Mr. Woodward) was opposed to rebel against the act, and when he became a member of Congress he offered a bill to repeal the said law. That bill was introduced in a Republican Congress, and it has slumbered ever since in a Republican Committee on the Judiciary.

He wanted the country to understand that a Republican Congress first taught the repudiation of a part of the debt. When our soldiers went out to war for the cause of the Union they contracted for payment in specie bonds, and a Republican Congress repudiated that contract, and paid them in a depreciated currency. These several acts of repudiation by a Republican Government have had the effect of veiling his (Woodward's) voice in the bill against any act of repudiation of any portion of the debt and against all repudiators, and he looked forward to the time when he would again have to stand up against the repudiating policy of a Republican Congress, and had stood up as a judge against the repudiation theories of a Republican county in his own State.

Mr. Scofield, of Pa., asked Mr. Woodward if he would not do the Republican people of Allegheny county the justice to say that both parties were engaged in the movement he had referred to.

Mr. Woodward replied that he believed the people very generally were in the movement. He believed the present member of Congress from Allegheny had never been able to succeed in getting elected until he turned repudiator and embraced repudiation doctrines. [Laughter.]

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, said in view of the discussion that had taken place, he believed the House was in a humor to act at once and forever against all schemes of repudiation, and he would therefore ask unanimous consent to offer the following resolution, in order that the chairman of the Committee of the Whole might report it to the House when the Committee rose:

Resolved, That the proposition, direct or indirect, to repudiate any portion of the debt of the United States, is unworthy of the honor and good name of the nation, and that this House, without distinction of party, sets the seal of its condemnation upon any and all such propositions.

Several members doubted whether the Committee of the Whole could at this time report such a resolution to the House.

Mr. Garfield then proposed to offer the resolution as a matter of right, but objection was made, when—

Mr. Fitch insisted upon resuming the floor, and proceeded to make a speech in favor of the recognition of the Cuban belligerents. He contended at length that the Spanish Government had no claim whatever upon this country, and that we would be doing but simple justice to the cause of liberty to recognize the belligerents. He contended that it would not be the most interfere with the Alabama claims, and that we had a right to interfere in contests of this sort upon the American continent.

Mr. Fitch was loudly applauded at the conclusion of his remarks, and the Chair made very little effort to stop the demonstration.

Mr. Willard, of Vermont, combated the views advanced by Mr. Fitch. He argued that to recognize the belligerents, or to interfere in the matters between Spain and Cuba, would be to pervert the ground that America had always taken upon the subject of interference with such questions. He did not understand that any recognition would interfere with the Alabama claims, but he wanted to adhere to the American policy.

At the conclusion of Mr. Willard's remarks, Mr. Garfield again offered the resolution referred to above, and no objection being made, it was adopted.

The committee then rose, and the resolution was reported to the House.

Mr. Jones, of Ky., asked if it was now too late to object to the resolution being entertained.

The Speaker replied that it was.

Mr. Jones then moved to lay the resolution on the table. The motion was rejected, Mr. Jones alone voting in the affirmative.

The resolution was then adopted by a vote of 133 yeas to 1 nay (Mr. Jones, of Kentucky.)

Mr. Jones stated that he obtained leave to explain his vote, and said he was not now and probably never would be a repudiator, but he might be in certain contingencies.

Voices on the Republican side: "What are those contingencies?"

Mr. Jones replied that a contingency might arise in which he would be a repudiator; as for instance, if a proposition was submitted, for instance, to pay in gold the bonded debt which was not intended to be paid in gold, he might in that event be a repudiator rather than pay that debt in gold. He only opposed the pending resolution because he feared it might be misunderstood and misinterpreted.

Mr. Eldridge, who had voted in the affirmative when the roll was called, asked leave to withdraw his vote, and stated his reason for doing so that it implied a censure upon the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. Mungen.] He was not a repudiator, and never would be under any contingency, but he believed Mr. Mungen had a right to make his speech if he chose to do so. He was in favor of the largest latitude in parliamentary debate.

The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President, announcing that Alabama had ratified the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution. Referred to Committee on Reconstruction.

The Speaker also laid before the House a communication from Mr. N. G. Ordway, Sergeant-at-Arms, making some inquiries relative to the withholding of pay from members who are absent from the session of Congress without leave. Mr. Ordway is in doubt whether he shall also deduct from members who may not have been sworn in until after the session has commenced. The communication was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The House then adjourned.

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FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1869.—Jay Cooke & Co. furnish the following quotations of Government securities:

	Buying.	Selling.
U. S. 6's, 1881	114¾	115¼
Five-Twenties, 1862	114¾	115
Five-Twenties, 1864	114¾	115
Five-Twenties, 1865	114¾	115
Five-Twenties, Jan. & July, '65	115	115¼
Five-Twenties, Jan. & July, '67	115	115¼
Five-Twenties, Jan. & July, '68	115	115¼
Ten-Forties	106¼	106¾

NEW YORK CITY BANKS.

U. S. 6's, 1881	115	5-20's, Jan. & July, '67	114¾
5-20's, 1862	114¾	5-20's, Jan. & July, '68	114¾
5-20's, 1864	114¾	Ten-Forties	106¼
5-20's, 1865	114¾	Gold	131¼
5-20's, July, '65	114¾		

NEW YORK MARKET.

NEW YORK, December 16—3 p. m.—Cotton—Holders asking an advance; buyers cautious; asking. Ordinary 26 cents; good do. 30¼ cents; low middling 32 cents; middling 32½ cents; good do. 33 cents; middling 32½ cents; receipts 2,000 bales; sales 1,000 bales; futures 3 points higher. Sugar quiet but steady; refined 14½@15 cents; Cuba 11½@12½ cents; Porto Rico 12@14½ cents. Flour dull and nominal; Southern $6.30@10. Wheat dull and unchanged; spring $1.30@1.35; winter $1.35. Corn quiet but firm; nominally $1.16@1.18. Oats firm; demand fair; nominally 60@65 cents. Rye dull and nominal; $1@1.10. Pork quiet and steady; $32.10@32. Gold 131¼.

BALTIMORE MARKET.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—*Breadstuffs.*—The flour market is dull. There is no demand at present for export, and business is confined to supplying local wants, which have only to report sales of some 400 barrels, viz: 100 barrels Western Super at $5.75, 300 barrels do. Extra at $6.25@$6.62½, and 100 barrels Howard Street Extra at $8.50 per barrel. Prices are without change.

Wheat—Was in light supply this morning, the receipts being only about 2,000 bushels, but the market was steady and firm. Sales were as follows: 1,000 bushels choice Maryland sold at $1.40, 2,500 do. prime do. at $1.38@1.39, 1,000 do. fair do. at $1.32@1.35, 700 do. Prime Pennsylvania do. at $1.37, and 700 do. white at from $1.25@1.55, the latter for choice.

Corn—Continues to settle downward and firm, especially for dry late. The receipts to-day were nearly 40,000 bushels, and it was mostly sold, chiefly for consumptive shipment, at 70@72 cents for white, more or less damp, 68@69 cents for white dry late and 70 cents for damp yellow, and 67@68 cents for dry late do.

Rye—Sales to-day 200 bushels at $1@1.02.

Oats—Are steady and in fair demand. Sales to-day 2,500 bushels at 52@56 cents.

Coffee—Rio continues a good jobbing demand for Coffee, and we note sales yesterday from second hands of some 1,000 bags Rio, in lots, at from 15 to 15cents, gold, duty paid, and we quote Rio in bond as ranging from 9¾ to 11 cents gold, for fair to prime cargoes, and Rio, duty paid, at 14½@16 cents for fair to good, and 17@18 cents for prime choice, gold. Stock here in first hands about 15,000 bags.

Cotton.—Sales of cotton yesterday reached nearly 600 bales at from 24½ to 25 cents, the bulk at 24¾@25 cents, but so far to-day we have heard of no sales. There is, however, a demand for it, and the market may be quoted strong for good grades.

Molasses.—New Orleans is jobbing at 62@65 cents for good to prime new crop, but foreign is dull, as follows, viz: For Cuba clayed 30@43 cents; do. Muscovado 35@40 cents; Porto Rico 70@75 cents; English Island 55@60 cents per gallon.

Mill Feed—Brownstuff we quote at 18@19 cts. for City Mills, and 16@17 cts. per bushel for Western, but it is dull. Middlings we quote at 32@35 cents for light, 40@44 cents per bushel for heavy.

Provisions.—The market continues very strong indeed, but is not especially active here. Bulk meat is wanted, but there are no cured lots offering, and lots not fully cured, of which there is an abundant supply, are not in demand. Shoulders fully cured we quote at 16½ cents, and Sides at 16¾, for rib and 17 cents for clear rib. Bacon is scarce, and Shoulders are hardly to be had at all. The demand is good and the market firm as follows, viz: 15¾@16 cents for Shoulders; 18½@18¾ cents for rib Sides, and 19@19¼ cents for clear rib do. Lard is firm at 19@19¼ cents, and Pork is firm at $28@28.50 for Rump, and $32.50 per barrel for Mess.

Rice.—Carolina we quote steady at 7@7¼ cents for fair to prime.

Salt.—Liverpool Salt, which is now in light supply, is moving off very slowly at our previous quotations, viz: $1.75@$1.85 for Ground Alum, and $2.60@$2.80 per barrel. Fine Turks Island we quote at 50 cents per bushel.

Sugars.—The market is steady but dull. We hear of no sales to-day, but we quote as follows, viz: Cuba fair refining 10¼@11¼ cents; grocery Cuba 11¼@12¼ cts.; Cuba Centrifugals 12@12¼ cts.; do. Porto Rico 11¾@12 cents, and Demerara vacuum pan 12½@14½ cents.

Molasses.—Sugars—Prices are steady, and we quote as follows, viz: Hard Crushed 13 cents; soft do. 14¾@14¾ cents for A white; 14¼@14½ cents for B; 14@14¼ cents for Extra C, and 12¾@12¾ cents for D yellow.

Molasses.—We quote as follows, viz: Calvert at $1.06; Baltimore Golden at 60@62 cts.; Maryland do. 65@67 cts.; Monumental 60@62 cts.; Chesapeake 45@60 cts.; Canton Golden 60@65 cts., and Merchants' 61@62 cts. per gallon.

Seeds.—Clover is dull and weak, with a declining tendency. Sales to-day of a few hundred bushels in lots at from $7.87½ to $8.25 per bushel for fair to prime, and a parcel of full 7 cents per bushel. Timothy is nominal at $2.75@4, and Flax at $2.25 per bushel.

Whisky—Firm. Sales to-day 100 barrels City at $1.02. Western held at $1.05@1.03 per gallon.

MARRIED.

WHEELER—VANDERVERE—December 14, 1869, at Freehold, New Jersey, by the Rev. Mr. Van Aiken, THOMAS C. WHEELER, of Georgetown, D. C., to ANNIE T., daughter of Thos. M. Vanderver, of that place.

DIED.

CLARK—On Wednesday morning, December 15, at 4 o'clock, CORNELIA, wife of James T. Clark, aged 42 years and 1 day.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from 320 Maryland avenue, Capitol Hill, on Friday, December 17, at eleven o'clock, a. m.

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