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Evening ©ellegraph

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mes.

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1867. The Thirty-ninth Congress.
TyIR Thity-ninth Congress has beoome a thing Tra Thirty-ninth Congress has beoome a thing
of history. Caled into being by the suffrages
of a loyal people during the last yeur of the late great war, it has been obliged to face the
most momentous and dificult quastions ever
committed to the setlement of a legislative committed to the settlement of a legislative
body. Elected upon the same tioket with our
ond Iate beloved President, Abraham Linooln, it
found, when it assembled in 1865, a strange
and unparalleled state of affairs. Mr. Wincoln and unparalleled state of affirs. Mr. Linnooln
had ben sent to his grave by the bullet of an
assassin nearly seven months before. In the
interim his suceessor, disoarding the prinolinterim this sacesser, leader, and without con-
ppes of the martred lite
sulting the Representatives of the people, had undertaken to reconstruct the Southera States
acoording to his own crude notions, and by his
own puny flat to settle the mighty questions own puny fiat to settle the mighty questions
growing out of the great struggle and revolu--
tion through which the nation had passed.
The Congress of the United States, for the The Congress of the United States, for the
first time in our history, found its constitu-
tional authority as the law-making branch of thonal authority as the
the Goverument demied, and the the bxecutive
claiming to settlo the most momentons national
istues by his onn mere will issues by his own mere will. And it found
this extraodinary claim made to support a
plan of reoonstruction which placed the Gor-
ernments of the Rebel States in the hands of
their attempts to overthrow the Governement,
and which deprived the notion of the
and which depived tho nation of tho e ust
fruits of tit dearly bought vitorores over the Which hinvolved the destruction of the Consti-
tution by virtually changing the form of our climim was made, was one that would have
made the nation's sast expenditures of life and Congress met the ungrpations of the Rexecu-
tive ins pirit worthy of the Reprexentatives
of a free people. Its first great work was to vindicate its own authority as the only consti-
tutional law-makin power in the Govir.
ment. At every step it met the determined hositity or the usurping Exxeotive. Ever
measur it derised for the protection of the
people and for the proper goverument of country was met by veto. Allt the appli-
anoes of poomer and phaco were livishly used
 men's Buranu bill, besides submitting to the tion covering a proper plations fumsishod an
The approching election
ocaution for once more appenling to the

 tional anendment be rejected. It also began
to prepare for those measures of protection
to the country which the threatening attitude of the Exeoutive had rendered neces-
sary. Moenwhile the Souther comunities terms of reconstruction otered by Congress,
a new and more completo measure was
mature, pastod bo both Honse and on
mated Saturday lasst triumphantly repased over the
President's eveto so that it it now the law of gress over this. great question were at last
fully vindicated. of the pasage of the Tenure ortalishing impartive surfrage in
the District of Columbia, both over the veto of he President, were additional poppuar tri

 tion of the community. This we must
asorite, however, to the trementoos stress
and
 lisuas of the hour, rather dunn to any want of
regard for the interetso of our national in
dusurtr. The oonstant neesesity of having a two-thirds majority upon all important ques tions necessarily delayed legislation and pro.
longed discoussion. A large majority of Con gress was in favor of increased to be consulte
the diversity of interest
finalily threw the bill into a position where minority could and did defeat it. We do n doubt, however, that out of this tempora
defeat will grow a wiser and juster tarifi. Taking an impartial and comprehensiv Thirty-ninth Congress had to deal with, th tremendous difflculties it had to encounter, and the grand viotory it finally achieved for the Constitution and for popuian sutipate the verdict of histry when wo assign it to a position second to that occopipied by no other legislative body since the found tion of the Government.

THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH--PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY,

MARCH 4, 1867

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