

## FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 17.

*Senate.*—Mr. Crittenden spoke on the Kansas bill. He referred to the right of the people to govern themselves as a great principle applicable to the present circumstances. The President, he said, has recommended, with unusual earnestness, the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. It was a question in his mind only of facts, whether the Lecompton Constitution comes with such authority and sanction as to oblige us to recognize it as the Constitution of Kansas. He thought it did not. The evidence of Gov. Walker and Mr. Stanton show that it is against the will of an overwhelming majority of the people.

Mr. Crittenden recapitulated the statements of various frauds at the elections and then examined the legality of the Lecompton constitution, declaring that it was not the constitution of Kansas, but only the convention which framed it. The vote of ten thousand in the 4th of January shows that it is not the constitution of the people. They tell you that it is particularly dangerous to them; because tainted with fraud, it is one of a series of frauds instigated for the purpose of gaining and keeping possession of the government of Kansas from the first election carried by armed invaders from Missouri down to the present day. Hence he concluded that to impose on Kansas would be a plain and palpable violation of the right of the people to govern themselves; but, continued Mr. Crittenden, Lecompton carries on its face evidence of corruption. Those who framed it knew it contained provisions that the free State men could not assent to; therefore none were allowed to vote unless sworn to support its slavery provisions; and all the six thousand votes shown in its favor were put in with the view of exhibiting a sufficient majority and in order to make the frauds appear notorious.

They went just beyond the line the fraudulent intent was apparent throughout, how, he asked, can a nation ignore these frauds in the face of internal evidence and concurrent testimony? The people of Kansas say that it is not their constitution, and they ask us to send it back to be submitted to a vote of the people. Can we, he asked, refuse such request? Can the Senators turn from such evidence, to legal technicalities and presumptions of law? They ought to look to truth and principle without searching for presumptions and precedents. Holding these principles, he said, he had put his hand to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution. Mr. Crittenden then asked what was the South gain by the admission of Kansas under that constitution. No Senator believes that she can be a slave state. The laws of climate and geography forbid it. In support of this view he quoted the sentiments of several members of Congress, including Mr. Keitt.

Mr. Hammond.—Did Mr. Crittenden say so?

Mr. Crittenden.—It is so reported.

Mr. Hammond.—Mr. Keitt quoted a passage to that effect, but did not endorse it.

A majority of the people of Kansas should be allowed to make such a constitution as they please; that, he said, is the great American principle; that is the principle of the South itself. He then spoke generally on various topics. He was, he said, according to his usual way, a Southern Democrat; he had lived all his life in a Southern climate and was ready to defend his country in not going further. He then alluded to Mr. Crittenden's expression of regret at the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, saying that he, on the contrary, was rejoiced that it was torn from the statute book. He had weighed the value of the Union, and sometimes thought that the South could gain nothing by it, nothing. Now, but it was balanced as a bond of Union.

The recompensement of the Missouri Compromise was held as one of the greatest acts of that great leader Henry Clay; it brought peace to the country by localizing slavery and should not have been broken. It was growing older and less susceptible to new impressions and it would have been content to have rested upon that compromise. Has its repeal brought us peace?—the reverse of peace. It has brought us trouble. Turning to Kansas, he said, he would vote for her admission if he thought it would bring peace; but he did not believe it would bring peace.

It is said that her admission will localize the question of slavery in that territory. He did not believe it. If that question is to be debated, it will be debated here, but must be debated in the right way. There should be no excitement. Why should his friends north not give in, he must say of the most atrocious kind? Why should he not live in peace and harmony as our fathers did? We are united in purpose and in blood, and yet the great times of the future are forgotten, while the petty subjects of disagreement are urged into view.

Alluding to previous debates, he said he was much gratified in learning from them the comparative resources of the two sections of the country. The Senator from South Carolina had detailed the resources of the South; the gentleman from Maine had given those of the North, and while agreeing to them it seemed to him that this was the most natural Union in the world. If these sections were apart, each would make a nation of which any man may be proud to be a citizen. What a magnificent Union it makes when you put both together! Were this discord but lulled, what a sublime scene lies before us of boundless prosperity. In concluding, he said he should vote on the question as a Senator of the United States of America, and not as a sectional man. His own allegiance to no section. The course he would approve, would be to pass a law by which the Constitution should be submitted to a vote of the people, and if it be ratified, he would admit Kansas into the Union.

*House.*—The investigating select committee on printing, discloses the fact that the printing of the last two Congresses cost about four million seven hundred thousand dollars, while some members of the committee will report in favor of a government of fees for printing and binding, to be under the Secretary of the Interior; the others will propose amendments to the present law, recommending a reduction of thirty-five per cent from the present prices; no account being made of the hundred and fifty pages

to be printed, excepting by joint resolution of Congress; nor any work commenced unless the Executive officer from whom it emanates certifies the document to be complete; the bidding to be given to the lowest bidder, under such guards as to prevent abuse.

In view of the fact that many thousands of dollars were paid annually by the three newspapers of Washington for publishing proposals for carrying the mails, the committee will recommend one paper only here, to be selected for that purpose, and greater publicity in the States and Territories where that service is to be performed; also that the Executive control of the Post Office, banks, and other printing and bidding for the department be removed, and the work let out to the lowest bidder.

The Republicans are in full caucus to night. They want a reasonable time—from one to two weeks—for discussion, after the Kansas bill comes from the Senate, when they will be willing that the question be settled.

*Washington City, March 18.—Senate.*—The chair presented a communication from the Secretary of War, stating that Fort Island was no longer required for military purposes, and urging the propriety of taking steps for the sale of the property belonging to the government.

Mr. Gwin, of California, presented a resolution of inquiry as to what steps had been taken to punish the perpetrators of the massacre of one hundred and eighteen emigrants in Utah.

Mr. Toombs arose and said, the anti-slavery Shubrick, that there shall be no more slave State, was the pressing question on the Senate and the defeat of the bill would be a triumph of those principles. It became the Senate, therefore, to look at the principles which underlay the question.

Mr. Montgomery moved its reference to the Select Kansas Committee. The Democrat does not want that Committee to meet again.

Mr. Stephens moved a resolution to the Committee on Territories. Lost by a vote of 94 to 103—another administration defeat. A reference to the Kansas Committee was then carried without count.

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Mr. Toombs then proceeded to argue the right of Kansas to be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution, contending that his claim was three-fold, and supporting his position by various illustrations. He also gave a record of his own life, explaining its principles, following various points of Mr. Crittenden's speech. He argued the legality of the Lecompton constitution and the duty of Congress to pass it. How well we acted, he said, when he asked stand on the extraordinary proposition that Lecompton is fraudulent simply because frauds occurred in the election, which framed it. Referring to Walker's and Stanton's statements that the constitution is not the will of the people he said that he knew nothing in the character of those men but elevated them beyond the credibility of ordinary witnesses, and he thought them inclined to do injury to the country in not going further. He then alluded to Mr. Crittenden's expression of regret at the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, saying that he, on the contrary, was rejoiced that it was torn from the statute book. He had weighed the value of the Union, and sometimes thought that the South could gain nothing by it, nothing. Now, but it was balanced as a bond of Union.

The recompensement of the Missouri Compromise was held as one of the greatest acts of that great leader Henry Clay; it brought peace to the country by localizing slavery and should not have been broken. It was growing older and less susceptible to new impressions and it would have been content to have rested upon that compromise. Has its repeal brought us peace?—the reverse of peace. It has brought us trouble. Turning to Kansas, he said, he would vote for her admission if he thought it would bring peace; but he did not believe it would bring peace.

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Mr. Crittenden explained his allusion to Mr. Clay and briefly referred to minor points touching the legality of the Lecompton constitution. He wished, he said, to see the South always right, and would have been gratified could she set the question as she sees it. The question of slavery, he repeated, was not the real issue. It was thrown in to excite contention. No one believed that Kansas can be a Slave State. That question has been determined partly by climate, but mainly by the will of the people. Why should the South be in haste to admit her? Whatever constitution is imposed on her would soon be changed. Why does the South want two more Senators, such as Kansas would immediately send her? As for himself, he had done his duty; he thought he was old enough not to take the part of a patrician, but of a patriarch, a true son of the South; he was also a true citizen of the United States. May peace and prosperity rest with our states.

They avowed to the Senate are so densely thronged by the multitudes anxious to hear Mr. Douglas, that the messenger find it impossible to effect an entrance and the reporters inside have been unable to send their despatches to the telegraph office.

*A Voice from New Hampshire.*—The moral of the late defeat of the Democracy of New Hampshire, is thus read to us by the Concord Patriot, (the leading Democratic paper of the State) of the 10th of March:

“Mr. Bell said the Senator from Georgia had pronounced doctrines which no one can possess without notice. He says he has weighed the value of the Union, and thinks that the South has loved it too well; that is the issue; the Senator openly states that it is the issue for victory. There time enough, said Mr. Bell, to estimate the value of the Union, when the powerful North takes a deliberate step, when, for instance, she refuses to admit a territory in which slavery already exists unless it should justly be made before he considered it, but he believed it would never come if the South were prudent. He, Mr. Bell, like the Senator from Kentucky, would not take a sectional view of the question. He then proceeded at some length with facts connected with the foundation of the territorial government of Kansas, to show misapprehension of statistics; thence turning to the Kansas-Nebraska bill, he said it was a struggle for victory carried on with a spirit unequalled in fervor, excepting the revolution in France.

*House.*—The Utah memorial was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Crittenden appealed to the House to take up the army bill and debate upon it until it was disposed of, which he supposed would be tomorrow.

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the regular army; stating its necessity if we expect the executive to perform efficiently the duties invested in him by the constitution.

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## Proceedings in the House.

A special despatch to the N. Y. Tribune dated Thursday, says:

“Mr. Montgomery of Pennsylvania threw a bomb into the House this morning, by introducing a bill providing that in twenty days after the passage of Lecompton by Congress, the Territorial Legislature provide for the election of a Convention to provide for the election of a Convention consisting of sixty delegates, that there should be no Convention in case the Lecompton Constitution should be submitted for amendment; that if the Convention does not amend, Lecompton shall stand.”

If amendments be made, each shall be submitted separately to the people. All amendments requiring a majority of the votes shall be incorporated into the Constitution. At the termination of these proceedings, Kansas shall be declared a State of the Union.

The intention of Montgomery's bill is to secure to the people of Kansas the right to amend the Constitution, by putting that right out of the reach of Calhoun's Legislature—unlike Pugh's amendment, which leaves to Calhoun the power to prevent the people from changing the Constitution.

The Democracy flared up at Mr. Montgomery's bill which took the House by surprise. There was much railing and shouting, and a hasty muster of forces.

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