

# The Democratic Watchman.

VOL. XI.

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NO. 36.

"STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION."

"I can scarcely hear," she murmured,  
"For my heart beats loud and fast;  
But surely, in the distance,  
I can hear a sound at last."  
"It is only the reapers singing,  
As they carry home their harvest."  
And the evening breeze has risen,  
And rustles the dying leaves."  
"Listen! there are voices talking."  
"Calmly still she strove to speak;  
Yet her voice grew faint and trembling,  
And the red flushed in her cheek."  
"It is only the children playing."  
"Below, now their work is done,  
And they laugh that their eyes are dazzled  
By the rays of the setting sun."  
Fainter grew her voice, and weaker  
As with anxious eyes she cried,  
"Hush the strains of distant  
I can hear a harmonious side."  
"It is only the deer that were feeding  
If a hawk from the clouds pass;  
They were startled, and fled to the thicket  
As they saw the reapers pass."  
Now the night air is silent,  
Hark! by their lonely feet,  
And the crunching of their hooves,  
And the children wailing rest;  
There was only a sound of weeping  
From a mother's heart,  
But rest to the weary night,  
Peace to the quiet dead!

THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF  
**STEPHEN F. WILSON.**  
Page and Date Given, as Published in  
the Journals of Congress by  
Authority.

CONTRADICTION DEFIED!  
AN "ALL WOOD" CANDIDATE.

What the People pay Their Money For.

Before the assembling of the 39th Congress at Washington, in December last, the hope was entertained by the great body of the people that the triumphant close of the war, the ready acquiescence of the Southern States in measures calculated to restore harmony, and the pacific disposition of the North, would bring about the immediate restoration of the Union, a reduction of the army and navy, and the consideration of measures calculated to put an end to feud and bloodshed, and restore the credit and reduce the expenses of the government. But the 39th Congress defeated the hope of the nation by a turbulent factionism, manifested on the very first day of its session, when an inferior officer assumed the power to strike from the roll of representatives the members from sovereign States, and carried forward, to the close of its proceedings in a series of indefensible and unconstitutional acts, without precedent and without excuse. To merely scan the record is a whole history of villainous usurpation. We give herewith the authentic doings of one of the most insignificant, and, therefore, least responsible members of this Congress. It is copied from the Journal, printed by authority, and dated page are given. It is the history of a member only known in the year and name—who has probably never said a word, except in reply to the call of the clerk—and yet who has deserved much public censure as few men have lived long enough to earn. We allude to the member from the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Hon. Stephen F. Wilson, stand forth and answer!

THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN.

The members of the House were hardly fairly in their seats, on Monday the 4th of Dec. last, when Thad. Stevens moved to suspend the rules to enable him to introduce a resolution for the appointment of a committee of nine members of the House and six members of the Senate, who shall inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and report whether they, or any of them, are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress, with leave to report at any time, by bill, or otherwise; and until such report shall have been made and finally acted on by Congress, no member shall be received into either house from any of the said so-called Confederate States, and all papers relating to the representation of such States shall be referred to the said committee WITHOUT DEBATE.

Stephen F. Wilson voted for this resolution which was carried, December 4th, 1865—yeas 183, nays 82, page 12.

This committee was made up of desperate reactionists with Mr. Stevens at the head. It was modeled on the plan of the Revolutionary Committee of Public Safety in France. It put an effectual gag upon the deliberations of both houses. Free and open discussion was disallowed, and the great question of reconstruction turned over to a secret club chamber confabulation. The proper functions of both houses were consolidated in the hands of these select conspirators, and the clear mandate of the Constitution, which declares each house for itself, the judge of the qualifications of its own members, was set aside. The traitors were afraid to trust the free votes of their own party without this restraint. And Mr. S. F. Wilson said yes, possibly not knowing what he did.

USE OF THE HALL FOR FREEDMEN.

"With a Committee of Fifteen" to act, and the delegates of the people—Dec. 6, page 84, to allow the use of the Hall of Representatives to the Freedmen's Aid Commission.

TO ALLOW MEMBERS ABOUT THE CUSTOMARY PRIVILEGES OF SEATS IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Nible introduced a resolution allowing such persons as had been elected representatives from the States lately in rebellion, during the pendency of the question as to their admission, the privileges of the floor of the House, voted down, Dec. 11—yeas 40, nays 111—page 47. Mr. Wilson voted yes—no the representatives of the people of the South, who were as much entitled to seats as Mr. Wilson himself, were not allowed to look on by Radical consent.

THE TENNESSEE DELEGATION.

Failing to secure an ordinary courtesy to be the whole representation asking admission into Congress from the Southern States, Mr. Raymond, a Republican member from New York, moved the reference of the credentials of the members from Tennessee to the Committee of Fifteen. The House graciously allowed the reference. It was a matter they did not trouble themselves about. Mr. Stevens said there was no such State as Tennessee, and the member from this district probably believed him. Mr. Wilson voted to refer Dec. 12—p. 52.

ENROLLING BY THIS SUCCESS, MR. STONE, A REPUBLICAN MEMBER FROM WISCONSIN, VENTURED TO MOVE THAT THE TENNESSEE DELEGATION be allowed the privilege of the floor of

the House pending their claim to seats. The President of the United States being from Tennessee, that State having ratified the amendment to the Constitution; the members claiming their seats being Union men, and among them some noted citizens who had grown gray in the public service, it is thought by Mr. Stone that the public interest would not suffer by admitting these men within the walls of the House. However the resolution was laid on the table. Mr. Wilson voting yes—Dec. 12, p. 52—yeas 90, nays 65. So Tennessee had failed to sit upon the steps of the Capitol; and Union men, the latest of whose shoes Mr. Wilson was unfit to loose, were thrust ignominiously aside.

The spectacle was a most humiliating one, and Mr. Cobb (Republican) moved that the Tennessee delegation be invited to occupy seats in the hall. Mr. Wilson voted to lay this resolution on the table—yeas 41, nays 122—page 64. But the resolution was carried; even Thaddeus Stevens voting for it.

ANOTHER GAG RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That all papers which may be offered in proof of representation of the late so-called Confederate States of America, or either of them, shall be referred to the joint committee of fifteen without debate, and no member shall be admitted from either of said so-called States until Congress shall declare such State or States to be entitled to representation.

Offered by Wilson, of Iowa, and pushed through by previous question—Dec. 14—yeas 107, nays 66—page 72. S. F. Wilson voted for the resolution.

THE RIGHT OF CONGRESS TO REGULATE THE SUFFRAGE.

Dec. 18, 1865, S. F. Wilson voted to lay on the table a resolution declaring the attempt of Congress or the President to extend the elective franchise was an assumption of power not warranted by the Constitution. Yeas 111, nays 40—page 79. Congress claims the right to do this, and Mr. Wilson voted not to commit himself to the contrary, not he.

THE ODIUM OF TESTIMONY.

On the resolution to enforce the Test Oath in all cases, Mr. Wilson voted yes—Dec. 18—page 82.

TO ESTABLISH NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

On the bill to ESTABLISH NEGRO SUFFRAGE, in the District of Columbia, Mr. WILSON VOTED AYE. This bill was passed Jan. 9, 1866, in the face of the united remonstrance of the white people inhabiting the District. At an election held in December, the result of which was laid before Congress, the vote on the question of Negro Suffrage stood 6,991 against it, to 65 for it. And yet in the face of this most earnest protest, the House passed the bill by a vote of 101 yeas to 64 nays! By what authority in the name of heaven, does Mr. Wilson pretend thus to misrepresent a Pennsylvania constituency? [Page 167.]

ARKANSAS HUNTER.

A resolution inviting the members from the State of Arkansas "to occupy seats in the hall of the House," was voted down: yeas 64, nays 94, January 8, page 203. Mr. Wilson voted nay.

TO FIX THE CONSTITUTION.

On a joint resolution to amend the Constitution—after a series of dodges—Mr. Wilson voted aye, cheerfully. The resolution was reported from the Committee of Fifteen—page 213.

TO PROTECT OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF TANKER SHIP BUILDERS.

A bill referring registry to American vessels, sold during the war, (solid because the entry afforded no adequate protection to our merchant marine,) was passed by Mr. Wilson aye. Whether he was paid for this voting we do not know—page 217.

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU BILL.

This monstrous act is dignified with the name of Mr. S. F. Wilson: Feb. 6—page 240. It was intended to place at the disposal of the President FIFTY OR SIXTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS to buy a subservient ally to all the land with a host of new officials—to continue MILITARY RULE in the Southern States to introduce NEGRO SUFFRAGE, and firmly consolidate the Government, making the Republican party a permanent and fixed power in the land.

Feb. 6, page 238. Mr. Wilson voted to force the provisions of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill upon the State of Kentucky, against the protest of her representatives, against the protest of the Senate, against the protest of the President, against the protest of the people of the State of Kentucky, and against the protest of the people of the State of Tennessee.

A UNION SOLDIER DISPOSED OF.

Feb. 14, a resolution was offered admitting James M. Johnson, from the 3d district in Arkansas, to the privilege of the floor of the House, while the Committee of Fifteen were deliberating on his credentials. Col. Johnson had espoused the Union cause in Arkansas at the outset of the rebellion—he had raised a Regiment of Union men in that State, and fought with great gallantry at the head of his regiment during the war. His signal services it was claimed by Republican members of the House, entitled him to special consideration. The vote was: yeas 79, nays 70, nays. Bt. Boutwell, Kelly, Stevens and OUR UNION, voted to KICK OUT from their presence the deserving soldier who had perished his life, and deserted his State, and given his life for the Union—page 267.

A DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION.

Feb. 14, while the House was in the humor, they thrust out from among them Hon. A. C. Baldwin, of Michigan—Wilson assisting, page 278. Baldwin's title to his seat was better than Mr. Wilson's; but it was necessary to provide for a two-thirds vote, to checkmate the President who was getting constitutional.

NO RABBIT CORPUS BY PLANT OF MURKERS.

Feb. 19, Mr. Wilson voted to continue the suspension of the Habeas corpus, and to maintain military possession of the States lately in rebellion—page 291. Very easy voting for—but very hard to pay for.

SWEARING ONE WAY—VOTING ANOTHER.

Feb. 20, a resolution was introduced in the House declaring "no Senator or representative shall be admitted into either branch of Congress, from either of the seceded States, until Congress shall have declared such State entitled to representation." The Constitution, Art. V. declares: "No State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate." S. F. Wilson, and 109 other Republicans, took a solemn oath to support the Constitution when they took their seats, and DELIBERATELY DEPRIVED THEMSELVES, by voting to amend the instrument they had sworn to support. Page 318.

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EXIT VOORHEES.

Feb. 23, Mr. Wilson voted to oust Voorhees from his seat.

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA INSULTED.

March 9, the Speaker having proposed to lay before the house a communication from the Governor of North Carolina, Mr. Stevens objected to its reception. The question being on receiving the same, Mr. Wilson voted nay—page 368—thus obeying the whole of his master, and disgracing his constituents.

THE PICTURE BUSINESS.

March 12, the year and says being demanded on a joint resolution to purchase a portrait of Giddings, it was purchased—Wilson assenting—page 386.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

March 13, The Civil Rights bill to confer on NEGROES ALL THE RIGHTS OF WHITE MEN, and some privileges denied to white men. Yeas 111, nays 38—page 386. Wilson voted aye.

ANOTHER DODGE.

April 7, Mr. Wilson, voted to oust Brooks and put Wm. E. Dodge in his place, although Mr. Dodge was convicted of bribery and corruption—page 516.

CIVIL RIGHTS BILL PASSED BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE AFTER THE VETO.

April 9, Mr. Wilson assisted to carry the Civil Rights bill over the head of the President, notwithstanding the Constitutional objection thereto. Page 306—yeas 122; nays 41.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL makes the Negro the equal of the White Man before the law. No State can ever make a distinction between them. It destroys State Laws, and gives a justice who decides according to the law.

The Negro murders a White Man or ravishes a White Woman, he is only liable before the law of the United States.

Parity of equality between the races is created by it. The Negro may marry the White Woman. No State can prevent it.

They can force thousands by it into our country in the hotels, in the parlors, in the negro room and in all public assemblies.

The power essentially of the bill is to vote, to all citizens, and to hold office equal to the white people of the State.

It creates a swarm of officers to eat out our substance. The White Man pays them to take care of the Negro.

It creates a public prosecutor, who is paid by the government as a spy upon the White Man for the benefit of the Negro.

FORNEY.

April 19, on the bill to furnish three copies of Forney's daily newspaper, to each of our foreign legations, consular agents and commercial agents—a job to pay Forney fifteen to twenty thousand dollars per year, out of the contingent fund of the House, Mr. Wilson voted aye; page 655. This was an attempt at a most abominable swindle, originated by Thad. Stevens.

COLORADO.

May 8, on the preliminary motions to admit Colorado, Mr. Wilson voted with his radical friends: 659. But on the final passage he dodged: page 600.

HONOR TO GENERAL ORANT.

May 4, on the bill to revive the grade of General, for the purpose of doing honor to General Grant; Mr. Wilson voted NO, Yeas 117; nays 111—page 670.

THE CONSTITUTION.

May 10, on a joint resolution to amend the Constitution, Mr. Wilson voted aye; page 687; yeas 128; nays 37.

THE CRIME OF PRAISING THE PRESIDENT.

May 14, on the resolution to censure Mr. Chandler of New York, for introducing a resolution praising the President for his "independent, patriotic and Constitutional course in seeking to protect by the veto power the rights of the people" Mr. Wilson voted aye; page 696.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE TERRITORIES.

May 15, on the bill to amend the organic acts of Colorado and other Territories, providing that within the Territories THERE SHALL BE NO DENIAL OF THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE ON ACCOUNT OF RACE OR COLOR, and declaring void all acts of Congress or legislative assemblies inconsistent therewith—passed, yeas 79, nays 48. Mr. Wilson voted aye; page 704. This was another STRAIGHT VOTE FOR NEGRO SUFFRAGE; with no regard to the consent of the people, and NORTHERN Territories.

PROVOST MARCHAL PROVIDED FOR.

May 28, on a bill extending the provisions of the Pension Law to Provost Marchal, assistant Provost Marchal and enrolling officers; Mr. Wilson voted aye; page 758—yeas 65; nays 60.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF FERRY AND PAUL FERRY.

May 28, on the proposition to amend the Internal Revenue laws so as to prevent the publication of the list of incomes—an outrageous violation of the rights of private citizens. Mr. Wilson dodged—page 760.

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU AS AMENDED.

May 29, the second Freedmen's Bureau Bill was passed by a majority of 64 votes. Mr. Wilson voting for the bill—page 778.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

June 18, the final vote on the joint resolution to amend the Constitution, as amended by the Senate was taken. It passed the House by a vote of 188 yeas, 86 nays. Wilson voted aye; page 884.

EXPORT DUTIES.

June 18, on Stevens' proposition to amend the Constitution to give Congress power to lay an export duty on cotton, Mr. Wilson voted yes. This infamous attempt to alter the Constitution in the interest of Yankee cotton spinners was only defeated by two yeas—yeas 61; nays 81—page 867.

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