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BY BRATTON & KENNEDY.

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CARLISLE, PA. THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1867.

THE DISTRICT SUFFRAGE BILL. The President's Veto Message.

To the Senate of the United States.—I have received and considered a bill entitled "An act to regulate the election franchise in the District of Columbia," passed by the House of Representatives on the 13th of December, 1866.

It is presented for my approval on the 20th ultimo—six days after the adjournment of Congress—and it is now returned with my objections to the Senate, in which body it originated.

Measures have been introduced at the commencement of the first session of the Congress, for the extension of the elective franchise to the persons of color in the District of Columbia, steps were taken by the corporate authorities of Washington and Georgetown to ascertain the opinion of the people of the two cities upon a subject so immediately affecting their welfare as community.

The question was submitted to the people at special elections, held in the month of December, 1865, when the distinguished voters of Washington and Georgetown, with great unanimity of sentiment, expressed their approval of the contemplated legislation. In Washington, in a vote of 850—the largest, with but few exceptions, ever polled in that city—only thirty-five ballots were cast for inorganic suffrage; while in Georgetown, in an equally large vote, only one ballot was cast for inorganic suffrage.

It is not necessary to repeat the details of these elections, which have been conducted with the most scrupulous care, and accepted as a truthful expression of the opinion of the people of the District upon the subject of the elective franchise. It is sufficient to say that the result was in favor of the elective franchise, and that it was an example of a government without a party, and without a faction.

On the other hand, it was held, among other things, that the extension of the elective franchise to any new class of persons, without the consent of the majority of that class, in holding the power thus placed in their hands, cannot be justified as a measure of public policy, and that the extension of the elective franchise to any new class of persons, without the consent of the majority of that class, in holding the power thus placed in their hands, cannot be justified as a measure of public policy.

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