

XXIXth CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.—Mr. Henderson (Mo.) presented the petition of citizens asking Congress to annul the acts of the President in establishing civil governments in the South, and to secure equal rights to all, without distinction of color.

Mr. Lane (Ind.) presented the petition of assessors of Internal Revenue for an increase of compensation. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Morgan (N. Y.) presented the memorial of the Loyal League Club of New York, in the subject of reconstruction, which was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. Sumner (Mass.) presented a petition from citizens of Massachusetts, and also from citizens of Wisconsin, asking for equal rights. Referred to the Special Committee.

Mr. Wade (Ohio) introduced the following joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the Constitution:

Resolved, etc., That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, viz:

Article.—The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and will not be eligible to that office during the term of his natural life. In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, who shall not again be eligible to the office of President of the United States during the term of his natural life.

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the will and action enjoyed by the Southern rebels before the restoration of the Union.

They had it all their own way, and you and I, Mr. President, felt relieved when we saw them voluntarily leave these halls, "the greatest blunder of the war," more fatal than the blunder of withdrawing from power in Congress, when they had it all in their own hands.

Therefore, I shall move, at a very early period, to take this resolution up, and early upon it. It is no new thing. It is the result of the experience of the greatest statesmen who have occupied the Presidential chair.

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and refugees, and for other purposes. It has been my desire that the various departments of the government should harmonize in the restoration of the States to their full constitutional rights.

He had declared to us, in his message, delivered at the commencement of the session, that we shall but fulfill our duties as legislators by according equal and exact justice to all men, special privileges to none.

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all its consequences. We have not yet escaped from the evils inflicted by the war. Peace and harmony are yet restored.

Why, sir, what was the condition of the country when that act passed in March, 1865. At that time most of these States were the freedmen were under rebel control, and the Freedmen's Bureau at that time could only take jurisdiction of such freedmen and refugees as came within the lines of the army.

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It has invariably had this effect, reducing the amount which had been distributed by the army commissaries, and actually decreased the expenses which the dictators of humanity in the army had occasioned.

He replied to the suggestions of the President, that while the freedmen should be protected, they should be so through the civil power of the courts, and referred to the enactments of the Legislature of Mississippi which protected the holding or leasing of land by freedmen, gives to the whites in certain cases power over their natural rights.

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entitled to representation in the Thirty-ninth Congress, and that the representatives elected from that State are hereby admitted to seats therein, on qualifying by taking the oath required.

Mr. Stevens, having heard the reading of the report, objected to its reception. Mr. Grider inquired whether he objected to the resolution?

Mr. Stevens said, having heard the speech from that side of the question, I do not intend to make a speech from this side, I hope none of our friends will make speeches, and all understand the question, which agitates not only this body but the entire country.

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