

THE TWENTY-SECOND AT WASHINGTON. EXCITING MEETINGS.

Speech by President Johnson. DEFENCE OF HIS POLICY, &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—After the adjournment of the meeting at Grover's Theatre, the assembly visited the White House, to see the President Johnson. The Chairman of the meeting at the theatre announced to the multitude that Mr. Johnson had consented to address them. Mr. Tindall said: "Fellow-citizens, I am the committee which on behalf of the people of the District of Columbia, has just waited on the President of the United States to present to him the resolutions adopted by the meeting at Grover's Theatre to-day. The committee requested the President to present himself to you to give expression to his sentiments, and he has accordingly come here. Mr. Johnson said: 'The President, as he appeared, was received with enthusiastic and long continued applause. When it had subsided, he spoke as follows:—

slavery. True, the objects which they sought to accomplish were different, so far as slavery was concerned. The Union was the desire to break up the Government, the precise thing to which I have always been opposed, and whether disunionists come from the North or from the South, now as I did then, vindictive against the Union of these States and the Constitution of my country. [Tremendous applause.]

only dread him when in disguise, and where his footsteps are noiseless. If they would blood let them have the courage to strike like me, I know they will be able to do so. My blood is as red as yours, and I will shed it for the Union, and I will lay me upon it, and the blood that now warms and animates my existence shall be poured out as the last of my earthly tribulations. These States, [Great applause.] But let the opponents of this Government remember, when it is poured out, that the blood of the martyrs will grow, and it will continue to increase in strength and power, though it may be cemented and dried in blood. I have already spoken to you long, and I intend when I come out, [Go on.]

and indeed it seems now to be supposed that it can be repealed by a concurrent resolution. [Laughter.] But when the question is submitted to the judgment, and to the mass of the people, these men will find that they might just as well introduce a resolution to repeal the laws of gravitation, and that the people of the Union from being restored is just about as feasible as would be resistance to the great law of gravitation, which binds all to a common center. [Tremendous applause.] The great law of political gravitation will bring back these States, and replace them in all their relations to the Federal Government. [Tremendous applause.] All that is wanted is time. Let the American people get it, and they will soon manifest their determination.