

Mr. Raymond referred to the reports of outrages committed in the Southern States, though there was a good deal of exaggeration in them, and thought such violations of law the natural effects of war, demoralizing a whole community. The House would recollect the extraordinary bit of evidence introduced here the other day by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Bingham) in the shape of that celebrated extract from the Norfolk Post, which was represented as a secession organ, and which was not the animus of the South. He had not himself attached much importance to it at the moment, for he knew something about the character of the paper; but when he saw that the article had then been taken on the strength of that article...

Mr. Woodbridge (Vt.) desired to state that the editor of that paper was a Vermont and a thoroughly loyal man. That article was no expression of his sentiments, and he had no doubt, however, that the article was a faithful representation of the sentiments and hence the necessity of such a bill as had been reported by the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Schenck (O.) thought that the point of the bill was the consideration of the resemblance of the sentiment expressed in it and that actually uttered and entertained there as shown by the testimony laid before the Reconstruction Committee. He was not sure that the bill did not do it all like the general utterance of the South. If the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Schenck) had had an opportunity to peruse the testimony as to the conditions of the Southern States, it was more than he (Mr. Raymond) had. He should like to have an opportunity to read that testimony before voting on this bill, and hence the necessity of such a bill as had been reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Delano (O.) next addressed the House. He confessed that while he was in favor of the object of the bill, he had serious doubts in his mind as to the power of Congress to pass it. He should not believe that there was a reasonable probability of its constitutionality, but that he could justify his conscience, but without some further light on the question he felt that there were certain difficulties in the way which called for careful examination in a constitutional point of view. He considered that the bill would be very much improved if amended in accordance with the proposition suggested by his colleague (Mr. Bingham). The first section provides that all citizens shall have the same civil rights as are enjoyed by the citizens of the State in which they reside. He thought that the bill was not a bill of rights, but a bill of powers, and that it was not the duty of Congress to pass it.

Mr. Wilson (Iowa) - I do not believe that it confers that right upon emancipated negroes, or upon any portion of the citizens of the United States who are not qualified by the laws of the several States to act as jurors. Mr. Delano, without doubting the sincerity of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, considered that the bill was not a bill of rights, but a bill of powers, and that it was not the duty of Congress to pass it. He thought that the bill was not a bill of rights, but a bill of powers, and that it was not the duty of Congress to pass it.

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