WASHINGTON, March 10. WASHINGTON, March 10.

House.—The House sat as in Committee of the Whole, nothing being in order but general debate on the President's message. The attendance of members wastsmall, but the galleries were well filled.

Mr. Orth addressed the House, defending Congress from the charge of dilatoriness in legislation. The unmeaning and senseless

legislation. The unmeaning and senseless clamor for speedy action came, he said, from those whose hearts had not been on the side of the country during the war. Slowly, urely and deliberately Congress would pursue its work, determined to do it right, regardless of clamor, abuse or vituperation; he held that the legislative branch of the general government was alone clothed with authority to recognize State governments, and this was in accordance with the views of the people. The Union party of Indiana had recently given expression to that sentiment in their State Convention. The people were determined that traitors shall be punwere determined that traitors shall be punished and treason made odious; that these words should be a living reality, words of power and majesty, and not a majesty and not a majesty. power and majesty, and not a mere figure of rhetoric, or a feeble promise made to the of rhetoric, or a seeble promise made to the ear but broken to the hope. The people would never forget the public man, whatever his position, who should endeavor to hug treason or traitors to his bosom, turn his back on those who elevated him to power and forget in his delirium of that power the sacred principles on which he was elevated. He proceeded to show that the reconstructed States gave no evidence of loyalty to the government. Referring to the test oath he de-clared that the last traitor in the South should sleep the sleep of death before the statute book should be dishonored.

Mr. Stevens next obtained the floor. He commenced by apologizing to the House for the tameness of the remarks which he intended to make. It would be remembered that at the opening of the session, he had made some remarks on the condition of the country, which had been replied to by the gentleman from New York (Raymond), and the gentleman from Ohio (Delano). A recess had followed immediately, and when Congress reassembled for business on the 8th of January, he had prepared some reply, and had obtained the floor for the purpose of making it; but on that occasion the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. Latham) desired to make a speech, and he yielded him the floor, and had never since been able to obtain it for general debate, but as this was a school for debate, and as it had been intimated to him that his turn had come, he had dug up the old manu-script, and although its contents were rather tame, and had been all said by himself or others since, he did not wish to lose the paper, and would read now what he had ared for that occasion. [Laughter.]

Mr. Stevens went on to read his manuscript, which was devoted to strengthening his position in regard to the status of the rebel States. Referring to the position which some journals had assigned him of hostility to the President, he said that those journals had done him too much honor, and he would now say once for all, that instead of feeling personal animosity to the President, he felt great respect for him; he honored his integrity, his patriotism, his

courage and his good intentions.

He (the President) had stood too firmly for the Union in the midst of danger and sacrifice to allow him (Mr. Stevens) to doubt the purity of his wisnes, but all this did not make him less free to doubt his judgment and to criticise his policy. When he deemed the President's views erroneous he deemed the Freshtent's Views enhanced should say so. When he deemed them dangerous he should denounce them.
While he could have no hostility to the President, he might have, and did have, very grave objections to the course which he was pursuing. He should have forgotten the obloquy which he had calmly borne for thirty years in the war for liberty if he should turn craven now.

Mr. Price—I ask the gentleman from Pennsylvania whether there must not be some mistake in this matter? When I hear him speak in such warm terms of the President, and when I remember that the public press of the country has been for the last few weeks using the name of a certain Thaddeus Stevens as having been mentioned by the President in a speech in front of the White House; and now when I hear the gentleman, whom I supposed to be the Thaddeus Stevens referred to, speak in such strong terms in favor of the President,

such strong terms in layor of the President, I want to hear him say whether he is the same person or some other. [Laughter.]
Mr. Stevens — Mr. Speaker, does the learned gentleman from Iowa suppose for a single moment, that the speech which I presume he refers to as having been made in front of the White House was an actual fact? [Laughter.] I desire now to put the gentleman right. What I am now going to say, however, I do not wish to be reported. It is a confidential communication [laughter], and I presume that nobody will violate the confidence which I repose in him. Sir the confidence which I repose in him. Sir, that speech which was imposed upon the gentleman from Iowa, and which has had a considerable run, and has made some impression on the public mind, was one of the grandest hoaxes that have ever been per-petrated, and more successful than any except the "moon noax," which, I am told, deceived many astute astronomers. Laughter.] I am now glad of an opportunity. although I do not wish it to go out publicly, lest my motive might be misunderstood, of exonerating the President from ever having made that speech. [Laughter.] It is a part of the cunning contrivance of the copperhead party, which has been proscribing our President since the 4th of March last. Taking advantage of an unfortunate inci-dent which happened on that occasion, they have been ever since constantly denouncing him as addicted to lowand degrading vices. To show you that, and in order to prove the truth of what I say about this hoax, I send np to be read a part of that slander taken from the New York World of March 7th, 1865. The following extract was read by the

"The drunken and beastly Caligula, the most profligate of the Roman emperors, most promigate of the dignity of consul, an office that in former times had been filled by the greatest warriors and statesmen of the republic, the Scipios and Catos, and by the mighty Julius nimself. The consulship was scarcely more disgraced by that scandalous transaction than is our Vice Presidency by the late election of Andrew Johnson. That office had been adorned in better days by the talents and accomplishments of Adams and Jefferson, Clinton and Gerry, Calhoun and Van Buren; and now to see it filled by this insolent, drunken brute, in comparison with whom even Caligula's horse was respectable, for the poor animal did not abuse his own nature; and to think that only one frail life stands between this insolvent, clownish drunkard and the Pre-sidency, may God bless and spare Abraham

Mr. Niblack—I beg to inquire whether that may not be also a hoax, in the same

way as the President's speech was.
Mr. Stevens—That was a serious slander inserted in the New York World. Taking advantage of an incident which it is thought by many was brought about by them selves, they have been ever since persecuting him with such slanders as that; but, sir, although they have asserted it from time to time, they have never made the loyal Republican people of this nation believe it, and they never can. We never credit it and look with indignation on the slander and look with indignation on the stander thus uttered against the President of our choice. [Laughter.] Being unable to fix such edium upon our President by direct evidence, they bring in evidence alimite with the skill of a practical advocate in a case de lunatico inquerento, where the outside evidence was doubtful, they cautiously lead the subject of the inquiry to speak on they can get him to gabble and talk non. blessed in any great degree. The seed he

slanderers could make the people believe that the President ever uttered that speech then they have made out their case. [Continued laughter.] But we know that he never did utter it. It is not possible; and I am glad of this opportunity to relieve him from that odium, but they had

wrought it up in such a cunning way—
Mr. Winfield, interrupting—May I hope
that the injunction of secrecy will be removed from this earnest and sincere de-

fence? Mr. Stevens [with a comic seriousness of manner that irresistibly provoked laugh-ter]—Oh, I hepe not, sir; I hope the gentle-man will not violate the confidence which I have placed in him and all others in this confidential communication. Now, Mr. confidential communication. Now, Mr. Speaker, they worked it up pretty cunningly—enough to impose on the people; for instance, they went into circumstantial accounts, as in the moon hoax; they pretended that the counsel of the assassins of the late President supported him, and escorted him to the stand on which they say he stood in front of the White House, and they also pretended that he was supported by a late rebel major, who was furnished gratuitously with lodgings in one of our penal forts for some time. All these circumforts for some time. All these circumstances they threw about it. The people may have been deceived, but we who know the President knew it was a lie from the start. [Laughter.] Now, for having shown my friend that all the foundation for that thing was fallacious, I trust he will allow mestill to occupy the same friendly position to the President which I have occupied here-

Mr. Price (Iowa)-I am satisfied that the House and the country will agree with me that that was a mistake, and a very great mistake. Although I have not lived in the mistake. Although I have not lived in the world so long as the honorable gentlemen from Pennsylvania; yet I have found that history cannot always be depended upon. But for this accidental occurrence that speech would have gone down to history as a fact and the present or speeding.

speech would have gone down to history
as a fact, and the present or succeeding
generations might never have discovered
the mistake thus opportunely exposed.

Mr. Stevens then resumed the reading of
his manuscript. Speaking of the contest
between the President and Congress, he said
between the President and Congress, he said there was but one Union paper in the country that opposed the policy of Congress. Every paper in his own State, except one hermaphrodite concern in Philadelphia and one belligerent paper in Harrisburg, edited by the postmaster, sustained Congress; and so did every Republican in his State, who was not an applicant for office. He did not speak of New York in that connection, for he did not know much about her. No one did, except Secretary Seward, who professed to understand her. But every paragraph in the New York papers lauding the President was but the outcrop of an official ad-

At the close of his speech he said he had delivered it on the same principle as the late President had sent in a veto message to a oill which he had already signed—because he had written the veto, and thought it well done. So he allowed this speech of his to be cast upon the surges of this turbulent de-

bate.

Mr. Goodyear (N. Y.) next addressed the House in support of the President's policy, as against that of Congress. Speaking of negro soldiers, he remarked that much as had been said upon the subject, negroes had joined the army, not from patriotism, but for the sake of bounty or other inducements.

Mr. Grinnell (Iowa) took exception to that statement, and instanced the fact that in the

statement, and instanced the fact that in the State of Iowa more than three hundred black men had joined the army the first opportunity they had, without any promise of bounty. He understood that the same was the fact in regard to the whole Northwest, and wished the gentleman to place that in his speech as a jewel to set it off, is it was susceptible of improvement.

that out of a population of four millions, three hundred men, living in a free State, were induced to join the army by the same inducements that were offered to white men.

inducements that were offered to white men. I am willing the gentleman shall have the benefit of that statement.

Mr. Grinnell—I wish to state this further fact, that General Thomas enlisted over twenty thousand black men without the promise of bounty. The State of Kentucky alone had credited to her over twenty-five thousand black men who now if they go thousand black men, who now, if they go back there, forfeit, under her laws, the guns which they carried during the war, and are liable to a fine of five dollars for carrying

Mr. Goodyear resumed his speech where he had been interrupted, and spoke for over an hour. He was followed by Mr. Ashley (Nevada), who rated Congress for its action in reference to the Southern States. He believed the time would come when those States, whether dead or not now, would have life enough to secure the admission of their representatives into Congress. He knew that to be so. Gentlemen might delude themselves with the idea that they could continue this system of excluding he Southern States, but he would tell them that even those men who had been in the ranks of the Union party during the war would not always consent to be voting would not always consent to be voting against reconstruction. He wished to have some steps taken immediately for the ready admission of the Southern States. He was satisfied that many of the measures passed

by Congress could not be carried out, and he was sure that the President was right interesting the Freedmen's Bureau bill. It would not be long before a majority of the American people would vote that the States could not be ruled as conquered provinces; that the people resident there must be left to control their own local State governments. He did not care whether men had been in the rebellion or not. If Congress objected to their sitting here as representatives they should be brought before the courts and punished. If they were not fit to be citizens or to be trusted with political power, they should be tried and imprisoned or executed. These people had been already punished by the destruction of that institu-tion on which all their material interests hinged. The President had been denounced as a traitor because he was not willing to attempt to force negro suffrage on the people all over the country. The President had always stood upon that ground, and he (Mr. Ashley) was one of those who did not believe that the negroes were fit to vote. They had during the rebellion lent some material and to the government, and for that they had been well rewarded by getting their freedom. He was in favor of that, and of opening up to them the chances of education

ing political rights; but this should not be insisted on now. A proposition to adjourn being made at the close of Mr. Ashley's speech, the Chairman stated that it was quite doubtful, with the accumulation of public business, whether

and improvement, and ultimately of obtain-

more than another Saturday could be devoted to general debate.

Mr. Holmes (N. Y.) next addressed the House on the question of the reconstruction of the rebel States, advocating the course of Congress as against that of the President, who he said had successfully met the opposition (the Democratic party), but could not outlive its political support. He did not on the whole regret the course that had been taken by the President, because it gave to the people of the Southern States an opportunity to show to the world what they would do if they were again intrusted with unrestricted stricted power. If they had permitted loya men to go to the polls, then Congress might have been deceived. Now Congress had no excuse for shutting its eyes against evidences of disloyalty so apparent as that he

The President had labored patriotically lead the subject of the inquiry to speak on and carnestly to bring about a better state the question of his hallucination, and it of sifairs, but his labors had not been

sense, then the intrinsic evidence in the had scattered had fallen on stony ground, case is made out. [Laughter.] Now, if these and had produced a very inconsiderable and scattered had falled on stony ground, and had produced a very inconsiderable crop of loyalty. Who was to determine whether the impaired vitality and suspended functions of the Southern States, which the President had spoken of in his message to Congress were restored? Had Congress President had spoken of in his message to Congress, were restored? Had Congress nothing to do with it, except to pass, each House for itself, on the certificates of election for members claiming seats in such House? In his judgment the decision of that question rested with the law-making power, and required the sanction and assent of the entire law-making power of the grant of the entire law-making power of the grant of the sanction and seats. power, and required the sanction and assent of the entire law-making power of the government. No other way could the rule be uniform. Separate and independent action might leave one rule prevailing in this House, another rule in the Senate, and still another with the Executive Department.

The Southern States were entitled in the senate in the senate

The Southern States were entitled to full and absolute recognition by each of the departments of the government, or else they were not entitled to recognition by either If asked when these States should be admitted to representation on this floor, his answer would be, when their governments are republican and their people loyal, and when they send loyal men to represent them. There should be not only loyal representatives but loyal constituencies behind them; and no person should with his conmitted to representation on this floor, his them; and no person should, with his con-sent, ever hold office under the government of the United States who had in any way voluntarily aided the rebellion. The House then adjourned.

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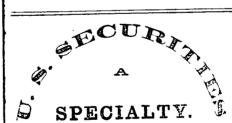
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