## 41ST CONGRESS--SECOND SESSION.

CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Reported for the Bulletin.

WASHINGTON, May 27.

Mr. DAVIS moved to take up his resolution, offered recently, calling for the appointment of a committee to investigate as to alleged threats or intimidations used towards Senators in regard to the impeachment trial.

The yeas and nays were called, and the resolution was taken up—yeas 37, nays 12.

He then offered the following as a substitute:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to inquire into and report the facts in relation to any improper influences, or other improper influences that were used or attempted to be used, directly or indirectly, to control or influence the consideration or decision of the Senate, or any Senator, in the trial of the impeachment of the President of the United States, lately pending in the Senate of the United States; also, to inquire into and report the facts in relation to any improper offer of an improper character to any Senator, or any attempt to induce a Senator, by or in behalf of any person connected with the impeachment, or any other matter, or any attempt to have power to send for persons and papers, to summon witnesses, take evidence and employ a stenographer, and report as early as practicable.

Mr. CONKLING inquired whether the resolution in the last clause was to confer the investigation to overture made by a Senator or person professing to be acting in his stead.

Mr. DAVIS said he had no particular reference to any Senator. He was not responsible for the statements in the newspapers and head statements implicating Senators, but he was willing to extend the inquiry to them, which opinion he still held. He desired that an investigation into the purity of the Senate might be made in regard to every approach made to any Senator, whether by the President or his friends, or by anybody else during the progress of the trial.

He denied it strangulated the resolution was first introduced, the object being to inquire into and report to the Senate whether any grounds existed for the belief that improper influences were used in behalf of his colleague (Mr. Fessenden), that he had received any offer of a Brandering character, or some of them threatening his assassination; and that one of them was put in writing and offered to him in the Senate. The Senator could correct his statement if incorrect.

Mr. FESSENDEN said he had learned of a remark made in the cloakroom, but he disclaimed the idea, but it was by an outside person. He was willing to designate the person, and he thought it was probably a hasty and passionate one, without any intent.

Mr. DAVIS said he was not his recollection of the Senator's statement, but that his inference was that an officer of the Senate was the person.

Mr. FESSENDEN.—No, sir; a person not connected with the Senate in any way.

Mr. DAVIS made a pointed remark to the effect that he had not the slightest doubt that the Senate, corruption, and improper influence were attempted upon various occasions to corrupt and influence the impeachment trial.

Mr. MORRILL of Maine, said that, on the occasion referred to by the Senator, he had simply called upon him to state the grounds upon which he offered the resolution. He had stated that he had received some himself, but he did not deem them worthy of a moment's consideration, and the reason he had called upon the Senator for his reasons was, Mr. CONKLING suggested that the words "any Senator," in the last clause, be stricken out, and the question out if the words, "or other person" be put in question, and the resolution was so modified.

Mr. DAVIS said he was not, Mr. Morrill, then said, he had received such letters, but did not deem them worthy of notice. He had the most credible information, from other quarters, that improper approaches, and were threatened and intimidated, face to face. He desired an investigation in regard to the sort of intrusion of the privileges of the Senate.

Mr. HOWARD suggested that the committee should consist of five persons instead of three.

Mr. TRUMBULL seconded the amendment, and the resolution was so modified.

Mr. HOE made a personal explanation, as follows:

Mr. President—The vote taken in the Chamber on the 16th instant, which resulted in the acquittal of the President of the charge of a high misdemeanor in office, set out in the eleventh article of impeachment, the whole country has been filled with the more of bribery and corruption on the part of the President and his friends. Were these rumors confined to a street or bar-room gossip, they might not be worthy the notice of the Senate. But when the highest authorities have deemed them of sufficient importance to make them the subject of a message, and since the date of that vote the Board of Managers have been in daily session prosecuting investigations on this subject, session prosecuting investigations on this subject, session prosecuting investigations on this subject. Were these charges confined to the honor of the Senate, and as they have received from the House of Representatives the sanction and approval of others, it is beeming in the Senate to take notice of them. An investigation for the purpose of fixing on the guilty character, to its accused members, and to the American people. I have not yet heard a Senator, who has received, or offered, or agreed to take a bribe, or any nature whatever, to corrupt or influence his vote, or intent, let him be proven guilty before a committee of his peers, and expelled.

If there be any such, let the guilty conviction to the country and scorn of a contemptible coward. If there be one who has attempted to bully or bribe a fellow Senator, let an inquiry be made into the matter, and let it be a act associate to us in this high council chamber. But if some of the accusers have incurred the dignity of this great trial, let the calumnies which the tongues and pens of the honorable statesmen have contained broadcast over the land be dissolved, and let the purity and dignity of the Senate be vindicated. It is for the interest as well as of the highest of its members be thus treated by an investigation.

I have spoken in this case as one sensible on my character and motives as a member of the court such as few, if any, of my associates have enjoyed. I do not allude to the fierce storm of party denunciation which burst over the heads of my associates, Republicans who voted "not guilty," for that was anticipated and I was prepared for it. Its fierce lightnings I have borne with equanimity, conscious that I had performed a just and worthy act, and confident that the developments of time would bring an ample vindication of my conscientious motives. Some members of my party and of the Democratic party, have charged me with the crime of bribery in its various forms now before the Senate in the investigation of impeachment, in secret session. I allude to the scandal which has been delivered against me, and which I urge the cause of impeachment, and repeated threats of assassination, and of personal violence, in the view of stifling my action in favor of the conviction of the President. Rebellious and treasonable words and acts have far submitted in silence to those accusations and assaults rather than to expose the cause of my vote, lest it should be construed into a confession of guilt, or an attempt to bribe the public mind against the trial, which I believed to be a high and my duty to say. At the beginning of the trial of this great criminal, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States as a member of the Senate of impeachment, I felt it my duty to Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, according to the Constitution of the United States.

I had been and still am an earnest opponent of the reconstruction of the Administration, in certain parts I still think, that policy in many respects, and increase of violence which it has produced, and the injury to the country, I regard it as a great misfortune. I felt the responsibility of my position in the government as would conform it to the views of the dominant party of the country, and to the reconstruction policy of Congress. But I could not, on the high crime and misdemeanor the President guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors on more difference, to be convicted.

I sought it divest my mind of all party prejudice, hear the accusation, the evidence, and examine proofs to cast my vote in the cause in the order of court, and in the manner of the oath of a juror. I discharged my duty as a member of the Court of Impeachment, I received and heard the evidence offered by both the prosecution and the defense, as the law of the Senate, sitting as a court and jury, as judges of law and fact, judged all it all and decided upon the course, with the fact that our technical rule which bore on the guilt or innocence of the accused, and not on case on the several articles of impeachment I cast out of the scale, as far as I was able, all the party considerations, and weighed the cause as the Constitution and laws and my oath of office required.

I do not claim for my vote in the Senate, to-day, to be a vindicate the wisdom of my vote. You have and the approbation of the Senate and patriots have been ably discussed by the managers on the part of the House of Representatives, the President, and the lawyers of the Senate; and my argument from me would be quite superfluous. I have now out of mine. I ask the attention of the Senate, to assert the integrity of my conscience and of the refuge in the vote to denounce falsehoods set about affecting my honor as a Senator; to denounce the charge of my vote, and to denounce the charge of bribery, and to denounce of improper influence upon my honorable and thoroughly investigated by the Senate. I challenge the most rigorous investigation but public criticism of the board of prosecutors appointed by the House.

I challenge any man or board to appear before this Senate or its committee and establish accusations or evidence against me, and finally, to give notice that when that committee is appointed I shall move the Senate to call on the House for copies of all the testimony taken by the Board of Managers, and of the evidence of the 16th instant, so that every Senator, whether he be one of those voting for or against conviction, be in the possession of the Board, it may not fail to be brought before the Senate.

As a foundation for the charge of bribery brought against me, it is claimed that I have my colleague repeatedly, and up to the day of the vote, that I would vote for conviction on the eleventh article; that he had my pledge in writing to that effect, together with the pledge of Senator Grimes, and that I had stated that emphatically, except, the suggestion of bribery, changed my determination in a single night. If the charge is true, it is a very strange, the inference unmorbidly called. Who among you, Senators, assumes to be so blind as not to see the political scene at all times free from cause?

The honorable Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Willey), in a card published on the 25th inst., in the papers of this city, says that he and his colleague were in doubt as to the eleventh article until the week of the judgment, and that he was led by the announced opinion of the Chief Justice, and the manner of taking the vote on that article, to vote for conviction, and if his colleague was led by the same motives to vote for conviction, as I confess, as I am sure a large part of the people might reasonably do, he having entertained doubts about that and other articles, and I then resolve the question in my own mind to vote for the country the benefit of my doubts.

Until a few days before the vote was taken I do not deny that it had been my intention to vote for the acquittal of the President on the ground, and that I favel given members of the Senate, and that I had given members of the Senate, and that such was my intention, but, since that debate has from claimed, and that I become convinced that a strong ind to be proper, and to carrying it out! is it an unusual thing for men's minds to be changed with the lapse of time and the further development of the questions at issue? But no man ever had from me a positive assurance that I would vote either for conviction or acquittal, or any other of the articles voted on prior to Thursday, the 16th inst. That my colleague has spoken in pence, but was fully informed of my position upon these articles, which I have shown upon the investigation, and I have reason to believe, by the testimony of Senators on both sides of the question of conviction.

Mr. President, I have been no summer soldier nor sunshine patriot. I was baptized in politics in the old Abolition party of '44, when not seven thousand men in the United States dared to say that they were the friends of the slave, and bore my share of the whipping and scorn which fell to the lot of the abolitionists. I anti-slavery became a popular and honorable cause, I was with the party in its struggle of 1856, and there struggled, with a conscience that cannot be seared, and a heart that, when violation threatened the nation's life, and the rights of the Union, and the life of the Union, and the rights of the Union, and the life of the Union, and the rights of the Union, and the life of the Union