

Congress—First Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5th.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at noon by Vice President Beckwith, and opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Gurley. On the roll being called, 48 Senators answered to their names.

Mr. Mason of Virginia, submitted a resolution for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the facts of the Harper's Ferry invasion, and whether other parties, not present during the affair, are not implicated; also, what legislation is necessary on the subject.

Mr. Gwin gave notice that he would call up the Pacific Railroad bill. The usual resolution was passed informing the President and the House that the Senate had organized. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The interest in the organization of the House, is as follows, on the increase. Long before noon, the hour of meeting, the galleries were densely filled. No members were unable to obtain admittance. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was the usual attendance of ladies on the floor of the House.

The customary salutations among members and others were exchanged, and a pleasant excitement prevailed everywhere. At noon, Mr. Allen, the Clerk, called the House to order.

The din of voices immediately ceased, the spectators were excluded from the floor, and the members took their seats. The roll was then called. 231 members answered to their names.

ADDRESS.—Messrs. Stalworth and Clanton, of Alabama, Brown and Adams of Kentucky, Hindman and Rust, of Arkansas, and Hamilton, of Texas—7. On motion of Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, the House agreed to the election of a speaker pro tempore.

Mr. Houston, of Alabama, nominated Mr. Phelps, of Missouri. Mr. Corwin, of Ohio, nominated Mr. Sherman of Ohio. Mr. Adams, of New Jersey, nominated Mr. Davis, of Indiana.

Mr. Haskin, of New York, nominated Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, nominated Mr. Groves, of Pennsylvania.

but the very document read, contained all the facts officially set forth. If the Senator wanted to prevent the recurrence of such transactions he would not stand in the way of applying the proper legislation. But now, when four years had elapsed, and neither that Senator nor those who acted with him have asked an investigation, it is a little strange he should be so anxious to couple these transactions, saying that no shrieks would be heard from Virginia, happen what may, in their political relations with others. He did not know what a man's political education could be to lead him to use such expressions in reference to the recent event.

Mr. Trumbull answered that nothing the Senator might say could drive him to speak disrespectfully of Virginia, or any other State in the Union. He spoke of the term "shrieks," as used in regard to the people of Kansas, but not with a view of casting ridicule on any portion of the country.

Mr. Mason said his impression was that the term came from the political associates of Mr. Trumbull—at first it was strikes for freedom.

Mr. Hale followed, denouncing the Supreme Court of the United States for its decision in the Deed Scott case, and defining his position generally in regard to the Slavery question.

The debate has continued at great length, and is being followed by Messrs. Houston, of Va., Davis, of Miss., Green, of Mo., Crittenden, of Ky., Wilson, of Mass., Clark, of N. H., Brown, of Miss., Pugh, Ohio, and Mason, of Ga.

Without taking action on the question before it, the Senate adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House reassembled at noon.

Mr. Clark's resolution, that no one who endorsed Helper's book, The Impending Crisis of the South, is fit to be Speaker of the House, coming up.

Mr. Crawford made an ineffectual motion to submit a resolution for the adoption of the hour-roll, it being evident, he said, that after Mr. Clark shall have concluded his remarks, a reply will be expected from the other side. It would be remembered that at the meeting of the House on Congress one gentleman occupied the floor for two days, hence his proposition.

A resolution was adopted, that the daily hour for the meeting of the House be 12 o'clock. Mr. Clark caused to be read a list of those who recommended the circulation of Helper's book.

ment. We are too apt to overlook laws enacted. He deprecated the attempt to render one political party responsible for such outrages as a dangerous proceeding, and one not calculated to quiet the people. It was the duty of the Federal Government to extend protection to all parts of the Union.

Mr. Mallory, of Va., said, since the resolution had been affirmed of all its moral effect, he was indifferent to its fate. The cause of Virginia was the cause of the South; they are proud of the high tone she has taken in this matter, and expect to stand by her. He was not surprised that Senators denied a knowledge of Brown's plans; but the sympathy universally expressed in the North showed that the irrepressible conflict had indeed commenced. He referred to Helper's book in severe condemnation; and said the only safety for the country was to be found in the Democratic party.

Mr. Iverson, of Ga., said the Republican disclaimers of sympathy for Brown were not worth the paper they were written upon—Actions speak louder than words. He believed that the Northern portion of the Democratic party was as rotten as the Republicans. There was no difference between Senator Douglas and his supporters, on this vital question, and the Black Republicans themselves. The South stands on a volcano, and unless they take timely action, what will be the consequence? He presumed that Mr. Sherman would be elected Speaker, for doubtless, traitors enough would be found in the ranks of the anti-Leopold Democrats.

If such should be the case, he would counsel the Southern members of Congress to retire from these halls, and let the Union be dissolved. He alluded to Mr. Helper's book, as coming to put the knives to their masters' throats.

Mr. Hale had never seen such language in the book. Mr. CLINGMAN said that the language was fully as strong as that quoted.

Mr. FESSENDEN remarked that no one objected to a thorough investigation of this question. There was no objection for the speaker to express their opinions, if newspaper statements were to be considered as final authority. It is the trade of Democratic newspapers to misrepresent. It is insulting to charge Senators with complicity. He would as soon think of charging the Senator from Kansas with complicity with the African slave trade.

Mr. Brown (Miss.) alluded to the prayer meetings in New England for Brown, and said, if sympathy was not generally felt for him, let Republicans call meetings and disavow it.

Mr. CHANDLER (Mich.) said that some time ago he discussed the "irrepressible conflict," and showed that for the last 3000 years there had been no cessation of that conflict. It was in favor of the resolution, for reasons of his own. This was the first execution for treason in the United States, and he wanted to go forth as a warning to all traitors—whether Garrisonian abolitionists or Southern Congressmen, who declare that under certain contingencies they will raise their hands against the Government of the United States.

Mr. Sherman offered a substitute for Mr. Clark's resolution, looking to the union of national and conservative men on the basis of the declarations heretofore made by the Whigs and Democrats against the further agitation of the Slavery question. Mr. Curtis moved the previous question.

He believed the intention was to drive the South to disunion. He was not a distinctionist; but we will not permit any persistent violation of the terms of the Constitution, but will fight for them.

Mr. Nelson (Tenn.) favored the Gilmer's substitute, proposing to ignore the agitation of the Slavery question. He agreed with the extraneous either of the North or the South, and proceeded to show the progress of nullification in South Carolina, and abolitionism in the North. In conclusion he appealed to the patriotism of members, to make sacrifices on the altar of their country.

Mr. Pryor (Va.) replied to Mr. Nelson. He thought the latter was, after his remarks and his declaration that he was a slaveholder, likely to lose the respect of slaveholders. He had misrepresented public sentiment in the South, and thrown himself into the arms of the Black Republicans. The Representatives of the South will never consent that that creature and champion of the Republicans (meaning Sherman) shall take possession of the Speaker's chair. Mr. Pryor inquired of Mr. Nelson whether he, as a representative of a Southern constituency, in the event of the election of a Republican President, would vote to remain in the Union.

Mr. Nelson, much as he deprecated such a result, did not believe that the election of a Republican President would, of itself be a cause for disunion, for they ought to wait and see whether he would do anything injurious to the rights of the South. The House proceeded to vote for Speaker, by the following result: Sherman, 107; Breckock, 88; Gilmer, 22; scattering, 14—Adjourned till 8 o'clock.

SENATE, Dec. 8.—Mr. Sillid gave notice of a bill making an appropriation to facilitate negotiations for the acquisition of a Homestead bill. Mr. Mason's Harper's Ferry resolution was then taken up again, and speeches made, when the Senate adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE, Dec. 8.—The discussion on the Helper book was resumed and continued throughout the session, and the House adjourned without taking a vote on Speaker.

SENATE, Dec. 9.—Not in Session. HOUSE, Dec. 9.—The time of the House adjourned on the 12th inst. says: "The premium offered by Col. A. M. Hunt, for a specimen of a native African, to be exhibited at the State Agricultural Fair, was taken up yesterday by Dr. Bland, of Edgefield, who brought two in the grounds. Their arrival created quite a sensation with the large crowd assembled in the amphitheatre. The premium was a beautiful silver goblet."

Suppose some old Brown should have exhibited at our State Fair two slaves rescued from Virginia or South Carolina, masters, who would the South say? Yet two kidnapped Africans, brought from Africa in violation of all law, are exhibited in the South, and a premium given! These things are allowed in a civilized and Christian land, and sustained here, and no Democratic press is heard raising its voice against it, for fear of offending the "Gentle South." We do not see how a decent man can have longer belong to the Democratic party.—Harbinger Telegraph.

A PROSPECT FULFILLED.—In 1854, on the bill to locate the Missouri Territory, by giving Slavery a chance to enter the proposed Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, Hon. Galusha A. Grow made the following remarkable and sweeping prediction: "As an earnest and devoted friend of the Democratic party, to which I have cheerfully given my best energies from my earliest political action, I have the intention to vote against all such bills from the society which they disgrace by their plebeian and Northern presence. They were ridden about the village, borne by negroes, and compelled to sing while traveling in this manner. They were then turned loose.—They took the noon train for Charleston, and the other passengers refused to ride with them they were put out of the train at St. Stephen's station, and walked to Charleston, where they were sent to jail as suspected persons."

Right of Free Speech.

The following just views from the Albany Evening Journal were elicited by the fact, reported in our columns at the time, that Dr. Breed had been held to bail by two Justices of the Peace in Washington City, for freely expressing his views in conversation, and when provoked to it, on the subject of slavery.

It was a common impression that white men, at least, were entitled to free speech under the laws of these United States. But it seems, such is not the case. While dozens of arrests for opinion's sake have been made in Virginia during the past few weeks, we have abstained from any protest. Virginia is a sovereign State, and, if she chooses, might suppress and imprison Dr. Breed at Naples and Vienna; but the District of Columbia does not belong to Virginia. It is the common property of the whole Union, of free States as well as slave States. All authority exercised by Congress is derived from the Constitution. Who are Justices Donn and Gilchrist who thus assume to lord it over the liberties of freemen? Why, creations of Congress, both of them. And what is Congress, that it can grant such despotic power? Why, a creature of the Constitution. And what says the Constitution on its very first page? It says: "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech."

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