

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.

Mr. Clark of Alabama, nominated Mr. Phelps of Missouri, 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, Mr. Briggs, of Virginia, nominated Mr. Boteler, of Virginia.

Numerous voices, impatiently, "Call the roll!" The Clerk appointed Messrs. Houston, Corwin, Adams, and Briggs, tellers.

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 strikers would be heard from Virginia, happen what may, in their political relations with others.

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 Mr. 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.

Mr. Curtis moved the previous question. Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, moved to lay the whole subject on the table—negatively by a vote.

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 shown 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-Leaumont Democrats.

But 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 for endorsing the slaves to put a negro in the book.

Mr. CHANDLER (Mich.) said at some time in the discussion the "irrepressible conflict," and show 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.

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; Bueock, 88; Gilmer, 22; scattering, 14.—Adjourned till 8 o'clock.

SENATE, Dec. 8.—Mr. Shildell 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 accepted 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 "Goliath." We do not see how a decent man can have longer belonged to the Democratic party.—Harbinger Telegraph.

Miscellaneous News.

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 obtained from any pretext, Virginia is a sovereign State, and, in any, if she chooses, initiate the espionage and espionage practiced 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 Gilmeron 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 creation 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." [Article I, section 1st.]

It is not to be known who set up Justices Donn and Gilmeron above the Constitution that made them. The individual opinions or expressions of Dr. Breed may be of trifling importance, but the point involved in this case is of the gravest consequence. It can hardly be overrated. The questions of compromise, of the admission of new States, and of the rights of Congress, both of them, are all insignificant compared with the right of free speech. It is the foundation of all our liberties. Once again discussion, and we cease to be a republic, and become a despotism. It matters not what the opinions are, whose utterance is forbidden, whether pro-slavery or anti-slavery, whether concerned in by the majority or minority, by nobody. Right is wrong, wrong is right, every man, whatever his politics, has the right to express his opinions freely, or soil that belongs to the Federal Government. We claim the same right for the slave trader as for the free soldier, in this respect—for him with whom we differ, as for him with whom we agree. We would equally regard it as a deadly blow at the liberties of the citizen, were even Dr. Bland, Stephens, or any other pro-slavery fanatic, denied the liberty of discussion at Washington. We know nothing of Dr. Breed's opinions, and it is quite probable we do not agree in them on many essential points. But that makes no difference as to his right to utter them. This right all citizens of the Union, without distinction, must have, or they will soon cease to have any.

The Columbia South Carolinian, of 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 accepted 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."

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A Protracter's Return.—In 1854, on the bill to locate the Michigan 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 honor to state, in this bill, for its passage will blot it out as a National organization, and, leaving it but a wreck in every Northern State, it will live only in history."

How literally this prophetic warning has been fulfilled, let the pro-tract condition of Democracy in the Northern States testify, trumpet-tongued. And, as a quest is not yet, unless it adjusts its Pr. Slavery measures.

Two struggling printers, named Daily and Dunn, were suspected of dangerous sentiments at King's Cross, & C., and rode out on a rail on Wednesday morning. The King's Cross was their intention to exterminate all such mud sills 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.

As some of the "Opposition" appear to be somewhat exercised in regard to the Convention to which the Senatorial delegates to be chosen by the State Convention which meets on the 23d of February next, are to be sent, we will state for the information of all concerned that the matter was discussed at the meeting of the Committee which is now in session, and that the undersigned by everyone that they were to be sent to the Convention which will be called during this month by the Republican National Committee. We think this statement is due alike to Republicans and those of the Opposition, if any such there be, who are opposed to recognizing such National Convention.—Norristown (Pa.) Herald.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at their late session in Philadelphia, on motion of Dr. Patton, voted to discontinue the Cherokee and Choctaw Missions for the reason that the tribes there have churches, composed in part of Indians who hold slaves.

Lord Macaulay has two more volumes of his "History of England" nearly ready for the press, but it is believed that they will not be published this season. The great care which he bestows on the work before it finally leaves his hands, necessitates some delay.

The Rev. Dr. Cox gives his ideas of the "Broad Church" as follows: "The Broad Church! Yes! make God's Church broad enough to take in Simon Magus, and Judas, and Satan! Out upon it! It is all pious stultology—and not so pious either."

A good joke about Harper's Ferry is laid to the door of Thaddeus Stephens. He was talking of the "invasion" at a Washington hotel, the other evening, with a Southern friend. Southern waxes hot, and declared that John Brown had deserved a dozen hangings. "Yes," said Thaddeus, in his solemn, drawing style, "you are right; he deserved hanging. Oh, you brought 17 men; he had brought thirty he would have settled the Slavery question forever."

The reported death of Kit Carson is contradicted. Mr. Haunum, late of the Allegheny Democrat, has purchased the Luzerne Union and will take possession with the new volume. He has engaged General Goodrich to relinquish his editorial labors.

Postmaster-General Holt has recently decided an interesting and novel question. A husband, who had been separated from his wife, demanded that his village Postmaster should deliver her letters to him, and he threatened a suit of law if his demand was not complied with. The wife, on the other hand, forbade the delivery of her letters to the husband. In these circumstances, the P. M. appealed to Mr. Holt for instructions. That officer pronounces the claim advanced by the husband too preposterous to be seriously refuted. Indeed, he says it is absurd to law as it is to the Christian civilization of the age, and he directs the Postmaster to deliver the letters to the wife.

Asa A. Gore, of Preston, Conn., died at his home on the 1st inst., at the age of 81 years and five months. He was the last survivor of the Wyoming massacre, having been carried away when a child, in his mother's arms. His father and all of his relations but his mother were killed.

Several of the Virginia officers who commended at Charleston are in Washington, on their return to Richmond, where they are making and counter-marching of the troops under order of Col. Smith, while Old Brown stood with the halberd round his neck, excited a feeling of horror and indignation among those troops.

A Republican has been chosen member of the National Committee of the Cherokee Nation over a staunch Southern man. Thus the "Native Americans" are coming right. Charles Sumner has been chosen a foreign associate member of the French Society of Political Economy at Paris. He is the first American on whom this honor has been conferred.

The Legislature of Virginia organized on Monday of last week. Gov. Wise's message reviews the Harper's Ferry affair at great length, it speaks of fanaticism and one idea of the Abolitionists which has seemed to madden whole masses of an entire section of the country, which enters into their religion, education, politics, prayers, Courts of Justice, and Legislatures; which has trained up three generations in moral and social habits of hatred to the masters of African slaves in the United States, but turns not upon slaves elsewhere; which would have sent a rescue to assassins, robbers, murderers, and traitors whom it has sent to felons' graves. Unless the numerical majority shall cease to violate the confederate faith, and cease to destroy our peace, to destroy our lives and property, and to deprive us of all the protection and redress under the perverted forms, and distorted workings of the Union, we must take up arms. The issue is too essential to be compromised any more. We cannot stand such insults and outrages as those of Harper's Ferry, without suffering worse than death as citizens, and without suffering in dishonor the death of a State. It is not to be denied that we have many sound and sincere friends in the non-slave holding States, but the conservative elements are passive, whilst the fanatic are active, and the former are fast diminishing, whilst the latter is increasing in numbers and force.

Kentucky is first in the field with delegates to the Republican National Convention. Cassius M. Clay, George D. Blackley were appointed as delegates at a State Convention held in Covington, on the 8th inst.

Judge Terry has been indicted by the Grand Jury of San Francisco, for killing Senator Broderick; he was placed under \$10,000 bonds.

A Mormon advertisement reads as follows: "To be let—rooms for two gentlemen and six wives, or rooms for one gentleman and six wives."

In Virginia a new panic has been created by the alleged discovery of infernal machines, which, according to the Richmond Enquirer, are to be addressed to all the leading citizens of the State, with the immediate and diabolical design of blowing them up.

Two suspicious characters have been apprehended in Petersburg, Va. They are named John Hunting and Henry King. The only suspicious circumstance yet proven on them is that a few months since they were apprehended, King took a negro to go and tell Hattings he wanted to see him!

The receipts of the New York Tribune for Weekly and Semi-Weekly subscriptions, which, during the month of November, 1855, were \$11,164, against \$7,750, in the same month of 1854—being an increase of nearly fifty per cent. for the present season. This may be taken as an indication of the progress of the Anti-Slavery sentiment, as well as of the steady prosperity of that brave independent and reliable journal.

The Legislature of Virginia have unanimously passed resolutions approving the sentence of Cook and the other prisoners, and refusing all interference in their behalf.

Fernando Wood is elected Mayor of New York. Wood received 39,309 votes; Havemeyer 26,813; O'Podyke, (Hep.) 22,716.

... We see it stated that the Michigan Central Railroad has now been running thirty-one years under its present management. In the time not a single passenger car has been broken up by accident on the track.

... The brakeman, John Gray, spoken of last week as being dangerously injured, at the time of the railroad accident at Lansboro, died last Friday night.—Northern Pennsylvania.