

# Congressional.

## PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.** House.—The House was opened at noon with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Stockton. The roll of members was then called by the Clerks. One hundred and fourteen members answered to their names, including Messrs. Seward and Phelps of California, Mr. Hooper of Massachusetts, Mr. Wilson of Iowa, and Mr. Berneke, delegate from Utah, and Mr. Cram, delegate from Nevada.

Mr. Davis, (Mass.) moved that Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, be sworn in as the member from the second district of Tennessee.

On motion of Mr. Fenton, (N. Y.), a resolution was adopted appointing a committee to wait on the President and inform him that a quorum of both houses assembled and were ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Hickman, (Pa.) presented the certificate of the Provisional Government of North Carolina, dated at Hatteras, certifying to the election of Mr. Foster as member of Congress from that State.

Mr. Wadsworth, delegate from New Mexico, was present.

Mr. Blair, of Virginia, the successor of Mr. Corcoran, was also qualified.

Mr. Richardson, (Ill.) moved that Mr. Seeger, of Virginia, be also sworn in.

The subject was then referred to the Committee on Elections.

Seargeant, and Mr. Trumbull, (Ill.) gave notice that he would introduce to-morrow a bill to confiscate the property of rebels against the authority of the United States government and give freedom to persons held to labor in the state states.

Mr. Wilkinson, Miss., gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to abolish the distinction at present existing between the regular and volunteer forces of the United States army.

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House.—Mr. Loveloy, (Ill.) offered a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Capt. Walker for his arrest of the traitors Messrs. Siddle and Mason which was adopted.

Mr. Edgerton (Ohio) moved as a substitute that the President be requested to present Captain Willey with a gold medal, with suitable emblems and devices expressive of the high sense entertained for him by Congress, in his prompt arrest of the Rebels Siddle and Mason.

The substitute was rejected, the original resolution adopted.

Mr. Blair moved the following as a question of privilege:

*Resolved*, That John W. Reid member of the House from the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, having taken up arms against the Government of the United States, be hereby expelled from the House, and that the Speaker notify the Governor of Missouri of this fact.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Coffey (Ind.) offered the following:

*Resolved*, By the House of Representatives of the United States of America,

That we do solemnly declare that the war in which we are now engaged against the insurgent bodies now in arms against the Government, has for its object the suppression of such rebellion and the re-establishment of the rightful authority of the National Constitution and laws over the entire extent of our common country.

Second. That while we disclaim all power under the Constitution to interfere by ordinary legislation with the institutions of the several States, yet the war now existing must be conducted according to the usages and rights of military service, and that during its continuance the recognized authority of the nation that the safety of the State is the highest law, subordinates the right of property and dominates over civil relations.

Third. That, therefore, we do hereby declare that, in our judgment, the Commander-in-Chief of our Army, and the officers in command under him, have the right to emancipate all persons held as slaves in any military district in a state of insurrection against the National Government, and that we respectfully advise that such order of emancipation be issued wherever the same will avail to weaken the power of the rebels in arms, or to strengthen the military power of the loyal forces.

Mr. Dugay (Md.) moved to lay the resolution on the table, but the motion was disagreed to by yeas, 57, against 70, as follows:

Yea—Messrs. Allen, Ancon, Bailey (Pa.), Biddle, Blair (Mo.), Blair (Va.), Burnham, Calvert, Campbell, Cobb, Conway, Corning, Cox, Craven, Delano, Dunlap, Dunn, Fonda, Haight, Harding, Harrison, Holman, Horton, Kellogg (Ill.), Law, Lazar, Leary, Leibman, McPherson, Maynard, May, Meeker, Morris, Noble, Norrt, Odell, Pennington, Perry, Rice (Mass.), Richardson, Robinson, Speff, Shiel, Stein, Steel (N. Y.), Steele (N. J.), Thomas, Train, Timble, Upton, Vandallingham, Verree, Ward, White, (Ohio) Woodruff.

Nay—Messrs. Aldrich, Alley, Arley, Arnold, Asbury, Babcock, Baily (Mass.), Baker, Baxter, Beaman, Brigham, Blair (Pa.), Blake, Balfour, Clarke, Colfax, Frederick A. Conkling, Conklin, Frank, Goowin, Granger, Greeley, Heckman, Hooper, Hutchins, Julian, Kelley, Lanning, Loomis, Loveloy, McKeen, Mitchell, Morrill (Me.), Morrill (Vt.), Patton, Phelps (Cal.), Pike, Pomery, Porter, Potter, Rice (Md.), Riddle, Bolles (N. H.), Sergeant, Sedgwick, Shanks, Shielabarger, Sherman, Sloan, Spalding, Stevens, Trowbridge, Vandebe, Vanaukenburg, Van Wyck, Washburn, Wheeler, Wilcox and Worcester.

The question recurred on Mr. Eliot's reso-

lution. Mr. Rescoe A. Conkling (N. Y.) proposed an amendment, which Mr. Eliot accepted, so as to make the resolution apply to the slaves held by disloyal citizens.

On motion of Mr. Stevens the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until to-morrow week, in order that it may be discussed and amendments submitted. He was in favor of the proposition but desired modification.

Mr. Campbell (Pa.) gave notice that he would call up the following resolution next Tuesday week:

*Resolved*, That, in legislating to meet the exigencies of the present Rebellion, Congress should confiscate the property, slaves included, of all Rebels, and protect the property and rights, under the Constitution and laws, of all loyal citizens.

Mr. Stevens (Pa.) submitted the following for future consideration:

Whereas, Slavery has caused the present rebellion in the United States; and whereas there can be no solid permanent peace and union in this Republic so long as that institution exists within it; and whereas slaves are now used by the Rebels as an essential means of supporting and protracting the war; and whereas, by the law of nations, it is our right to liberate the slaves of an

enemy, to weaken his power; therefore be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President be requested to declare free, and direct all officers, generals and officers in command to order freedom to all slaves who shall leave their masters, or shall aid in quelling the rebellion.

Second. And be it further resolved, That the United States pledge the faith of the nation to make full and fair compensation to all loyal citizens who are and shall remain active in supporting the Union, for all the loss they may sustain by virtue of the resolution.

Mr. Fenton (N. Y.), from the Joint Committee, reported that they had waited on the President, and that he desired them to state that he would send his Message to the House tomorrow, at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Stevens (Pa.) gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to repeal certain laws creating ports of entry.

Mr. McPherson (Pa.) offered a resolution which lies over, setting forth the want of a more complete railroad, and instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of constructing an air line railroad from Gettysburg to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Rescoe A. Conkling submitted the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to report to this House whether, any, and if any, what measures have been taken to ascertain who is responsible for the disastrous movement of our troops at Ball's Bluff.

On motion of Mr. McPherson it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish to the Quartermaster's Department for feeding disabled horses during the winter, to state the names of these contractors, the names of the contractors and the number of horses given out, and whether these contracts were made upon public notice.

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