

A Quorum Present.

New York Tribune.

Speaker Reed's debate was anticipated in remarks by The Tribune some time ago.

He has found it duty "to open his eyes and see for himself whether there is a quorum present." Then the great constitutional lawyer of the country lined several great halls of Representatives, while the most profane epithets were hurled at Speaker Reed from the Democratic side.

After some preliminary business had been transacted, Representative [Name], of the Boston Committee, moved to take the case up for consideration. Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, the leader of the Democrats on the committee, immediately raised the question of consideration. This called for a vote.

The Democrats refused to vote with the exception of Rhode Island, of New York, of New Jersey, of North Carolina, and of Arkansas. These four voted by mistake.

They afterwards tried to withdraw their votes, and although objection was raised two of them were allowed to do so.

During the roll-call the Speaker kept a list of the members before him, and checked off the names of those present and refusing to vote. When the call was completed and the result was ascertained, as expected, the Speaker deliberately took up the list from his table and instructed the clerk to enter on the journal as present and refusing to vote the names which he then proceeded to read off.

Immediately the whole Democratic side of the House was on its feet shouting and yelling in the most excited way. As no one could be heard above the other they joined in one loud rebel yell. Then their shouts of "Can" and "We dare you to do it," and "Don't let them pass," which could not be heard above the riotous din. When the Democrats had somewhat quieted down the Speaker proceeded to read the names, and was vigorously applauded by the Republican side.

As soon as he came to the name of Breckinridge, of Kentucky, that gentleman jumped to his feet and shook his fist at the Speaker. He declared that the Speaker had no right to put his name on the journal when he had refused to vote, and that he was a revolutionary. Mr. Cooper, a new member from Indiana, was particularly conspicuous when his name was read. He jumped up, yelled and shook his fist at the Speaker, and kept up a clatter which no speaker could understand, and refused to stop for several minutes. Mr. Outwater, of Ohio, also was very conspicuous in his protest, and, in fact, all over the Democratic side of the House members were on their feet gestulating and yelling at the Speaker.

The Speaker's voice was heard above the din, and he called for order. He said that he was merely making a statement of facts. When a member would denounce the Speaker for instructing the clerk to record him, Mr. Reed would inquire whether the member would deny that he was present, and of course, as the member could not deny the Republicans would set up a laugh. The Speaker repeatedly informed the Democrats that he was proceeding in an orderly manner, and that they would have opportunity to be heard, and that he must insist on their keeping order.

Finally he concluded his announcement, and then stated that as he had made a ruling it was proper that he should give reasons for it, which he proceeded to do in a very able and convincing manner. He gave the constitutional requirement as to the presence of members, and showed clearly that it rested with the speaker to determine when a quorum was present or not. He gave such precedents as he had found, and showed that he was proceeding in a similar manner made by Governor Hill, when presiding officer of New York State. When the Speaker read Governor Hill's reason for ruling in this way, and his denunciation of the refusal of members to vote as a revolutionary act, there was a great cheering upon the Republican side, as this was the word which many Democrats had hurled at the Speaker.

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