

THIBTY-FIRST CONGRESS-1st Session.

House of Representatives-Election of Spen-Ker-Exciting Debate.

For the purpose of giving, our readers tional House of Representatives, we give Liplease. If any one wants the advantage room, to the following sketch of the debate of the secret ballot, it will no doubt be dethat took place on the 13th inst., as we voting by ballot is of ancient origin and It was the day following that on which the States. Granted. In popular elec-Wh. J. BROWN came within two votes of tions it is the practice. I think it proper, an election as the Speaker, and was only expedient, and popular; but we do not Excitement, as a matter of course, ran record on any resolution like that of the advise and take part in the matter. lutions were offered, proposing to take the appointment of the members to constitute [Mr. Carter,] I have heard of an adver- heard,] Committee, out of the hands of the Speak-

ject of the free soilers. Mr. McLANE, democrat, of Maryland; the District of Columbia, and on the terri- ion.

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Mr. MEADE soid: Neither of the resolu- be "disorganized" for a good while before which he thought would end in an organi- tion, but everything to fear. We are not I have resisted what I deemed unnecessa- will of a majority of the people, constitutions before the House strikes at the root they can make their escape from such a zation, as his side had been ready for it impatient to have the doors of your treas- ry and hurtful agitation. I hoped against tionally expressed ; but neither for the of the evil which affects the House. We hole as that, I trust. If they do, they will for some days. This he believed to be the ury thrown open, and forty millions of the hope, that a sense of justice and patriot- District of Columbia, nor California, nor have been acting for eight days a farce find a worse net just beyond it. I do not only way to settle the matter. Every- common taxes of the whole nation thrown ism would induce the North to settle these New Mexico, will we desire, or even before the people, at a cost to them of impute to my colleague any such design. thing tried so far, or that may be tried, it into the lap of one half of it. We ask for questions upon principles honorable and dream of a dissolution of this Union. a,000 a day, which all will agree is beco-intro the House designs selecting a Speak-probably continue to fail of the end inten-gentlemen must pardon my want of sym-planted myself upon a national platform, shall doubt—when you protest, we shall pathy for their impatience. By giving you resisting extremes at home and abroad, disclaim; but no fervid declarations, no afise which has prevented the organiza- ler unfit to choose the committees. I will ded. ion of the House is the fear of the intro- not vo'e for one who I think at the time Mr. McLANE wished to make a mo- the centrel of the treasury, we increase willingly subjecting myself to the asper- tiery appeals to southern feelings, no solduction of bills before the House from cer- should not be trusted to appoint the com- tion to lay on the table all the propositions your ability to oppress. I want grievan- sions of enemies, and, far worse than that, emn invocations addressed to the Almighain committees, which will produce dis- mittees, one and all. If we are to have before the House, in the hope that the es redressed, and security against their the misconstruction of friends, determin- ty, (as if, indeed, he were a God of discussion and agitation on a question which such a Speaker, there will be twenty times House wou'd return to its good sense and further perpetration, before I am willing ed to struggle for and accept any fair and cord,) will make us believe that here in threatens the peace and integrity of the as much trouble. I take it my colleague recover its integrity. He could see no to give you power over the supplies. Sir, henorable adjustment of these questions, this hall there is one man who chambers adn'ry-bills which, if passed, will either [Mr. Giddings] wants to be on the District more danger in proceeding as before with 1 do not regret this state of things in the I have almost despaired of any such, at in his secret heart a purpose so accursed pose everybody will be attempts to elect a Speaker, than on first House. It is time we understood one a- least from this House. We must arouse and so deadly. Sir, we do not believe the y, or enslave a Committee. I sun arge portion of it. Under the pressure of unanimous as to that. assembling on Monday last one week ago. nother; that we should speak out, and and appeal to the nation. We must tell Union can ever be dissolved. No evithe present difficulties which surround us, I now come to the subject of the disso-the present difficulties which surround us, I now come to the subject of the disso-the desired to protect against any proposi-the desired to protect against any proposi-the desired to draw forth lution of the Union. I trust that with the tion looking to a bargain between any two I is come, from the remarks of the gen-any calamities to submission to such deg-done. Yet, if such a thing bo possible, it from both sides of the House all the con- calm, considerate confidence of the honor- parties Such an arrangement between theman from New York, that we are to be radation and injury as they would entail shall not be our fault. We shall not be secrative principles of which each is com- able member from Virginia [Mr. Meade] the whigs and democrats he thought as intimidated by culogies upon the Union, upon us; that we hold that to be the con- intimidated by threats of violence Wo" Unrives from the North, who, regardless received his printed speech, which he sent the donnorats and free-soilers. It was ready to sacrifice national honor, essential positions. I have not argued them. I of our deliberate judgement, We are of personal consequences to himself, will to myself any many others, which was carly known that no party had a majority interests, and constitutional rights upon its reserve that for a future occasion. These here as freemen, to speak for freemen, leap into the guli which yawns for the soporific on me at least. However, if we here. Was it not further known that the altar. Sir, I have as much attachment to are principles upon which I act here. and we will speak and act as becomes us peace and happiness of this Union. Sir, are to have the dissolution, let it come as nominee of neither party could or did re- the Union of these States, under the con- Give me securities that the power of the in the face of the world and of posterity. let a proposition be mide and supported soon as possible. Better come before we ceive a sufficient number of votes to se- stitution of our fathers, as any freeman organization which you seek will not be Gentlemen, who is there among us, amid by those who are desirous of crushing this organize, as then it would not be binding cure his election ? Nevertheless, he was ought to have. I am ready to concede used to the injury of my constituents, then all this talk of dissolution, that does not demon of directed for the purples of uni. while the House is disorganized. Then for persevering in the election ; and instead and sacrifice for it whatever a just and you can have my co-operation, but not love the Union? is there is man in this vast ting the conservation on both sides in op. we can go to work and patch it up again: of adjourning at half-past 3 p. m., he ho- honorable man ought to sacrifice-I will till then. Grant them, and you prevent assemblage who, on the coolest reflection, position to any measures which shall look I ask my friend from North Carolina if it ped the House would remain and vote on do no more. I have not heeded the as- the recurrence of the disgraceful scenes would notgive his blood to cement it? Is of the abolition of slavery in the district of, would be binding under these circumstan- for Speaker until the day may be exhaus- persions of those who did not understand, of the last twenty-four hours, and restore not this our country, and is it not all jour Columbia, or the prohibition of it in the ces? If dissolved when we have a Spea- ted. He believed that, had he not come or desired to misrepresent, my conduct or tranquillity to the country. Refuse them, country? [Applause.] Sir I confess this eritories. If such a proposition should ker, and are abolishing slavery and the before the House trammelled by a caucus opinions in relation to these questions, and, as far as I am concerned, "let dis- response gladdens my heart : and already e adopted, I should be willing to take a slave-trade in the District, &c., then it will nomination, the gentleman from Georgia which, in my judgment, so vitally affect cord reign forever." I reproach myself that I could waver . in Speaker from either side of the House, re- be beyond help, I suppose. The genile- [Mr. Cobb] would have been elected.— it. The time has come when I shall not [A Member moved that the House do my confidence but for a moment. It was ving upon him to carry out the views thus man from Virginia has been waiting for Even now he thought that gentleman could only utier them, but make them the basis now adjourn, but the Clerk recognised a mournful spectacle to a true-minded xpressed by a majority of this body. | some northern man to come forward with be elected, there being a majority on the of my political action here. I do not, then, Mr. Baker, who gave way to Mr. Duer man, when threats of disunion, fierce and Batesir, if the organization of this House the olive-branch. Does he expect any floor opposed to the present administration. hesitate to avow before this House and the for a personal explanation. bitter, could draw forth shouts of applause on my people, I trust in God, sir, that my overflowing with patriotism, but none par- jority. During his administration of the to drive us from the territories of Califor- ganize. He voted for the whig member glory, and as if, indeed, the threat were ateyes have rested upon the last Speaker of ticularly anxious thus to make a mariyr office, the organization of the House was nia and New Mexico, purchased by the from Louisiana. the House of Representatives. This ex-pression is not the ebullition of feeling; it contains sentiments I have well consider-ediand often expressed, publicly and pri-tediand often expressed expression of the Computer of the C dates with the people I represent. And I tell the two great parties unite and attack him which a majority of members were oppo- my physical courage be equal to the main- He has said only that he would prefer dis- with the winds across the prairies of the gentlemen, if these measures be passed; instead of spending their strength in abu- sed to the war, and believed that it had tenance of my convictions of right and union to contingencies which, in his opin- West. It will reverberate through all the der-in 1849 gentlemen, it these measures be passed; instead of spending their strength in and the strength in the strength in the strength in and the strength in the strength in the strength in the strength in and the nd offi of Pena stue come when it may, and you will find without taking in the free-soilers. I am lieved, might expect just such magnaniun-asked nothing but justice-nothing but the the reporter. North, so rudely attacked-and speaking ed to a and For every southern sinew converted into a glad to hear this claim put in by a de- ity to be shown towards them if they c- maintenance of the principles and the spir-Mr. DUER said that if he believed a what I know to be their sentiments - I say spring of steel. I do not utter this as a mocrat, as it takes in Provisoists-nay, lect a whig Speaker on the present occa- it which controlled our fathers in the fora. accor who have threat. I am proud to believe that my the Wilmot Proviso itself. If any party sion. He trusted that if a coalition or mation of the constitution. Unless we are power directly or indirectly to dissolve the shall be impossible, as long as an Ameribe gllec rder on both sides of the line are equally really desires to have an organization of combination is to be formed, it may be ar- unworthy of our ancestors, we will never Union, he would not vote for him, can heart heats in an American bosom, or quired l brave; but gentlemen will find a difference its own, why don't it unite its men? They ranged in open daylight. He did not, accept less as a condition of union. A Mr. HUBBARD. It is tearing your the Almighty sends his wisdom and his between men contending for their firesides, failed to do it yesterday. and the robbers who are seeking to despoil [Here Mr. Root described at length the work, believing that an organization could clared by a distinguished northern justice ing on us. Excelle d the of Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, did not nsylvani them of their rights, and degrade them be- occurrences in the hall of the provious day, be effected without it. To that end he of the Supreme Court (Judge Baldwin) to Mr. BAKER of Illinois said; Although wish to be called on to discuss the question. re, and a fore the world. If there be any southern with which the reporter presumes the rea- would favor a proposition to elect by a be the corner-stone of the Union, and with- among the weakest and humblest of the Union of these States. He cherishman who would refuse to stand by his der is familiar.] country in such an emergency, ["There de you adopt the plan of balloting, it will the convertion, that the authority of a cau-it would never have been formed, has al-sense of duy to permit the observations of ed by our fathers after, the revolutionary case and mumorest of the one converting to the convertion of the observations of ed by our fathers after, the revolutionary case and strengthening ready practically been abrogated in all the honorable gentlemain from Georgia struggle. But, I tell this House, that when y of ou f Penn nht only be execrated by his own people, letters to let the people know how I vote the democratic nominee, had defeated his of the non-slaveholding States. I mean [Mr. Toombs] to pass without immediate the Wilmot Provise is consummated in we have several guaranties against it .- same manner upon the whig nomination. I ask any and every northern man ou this him to be one of the most eloquent and the Union is dissolved ; and whether the upon dus grave. 1. we have several guaranties against n.— same manner upon the wing nonlination. It ask any and every normern man on this hun to be one of the most eloquent and the Union is dissolved; and whether the Mr. ROOT. The propositions before When you come to divide the Union you the When you come to divide the Union you the Will find the people of the northwest insist- the way of the organization of this House are two in number: first, that will find the people of the northwest insist- the way of the organization of this great right, indispensable to the unreasonable to the unreasonable excitement, and I trust in a the common benefit. We of the South h Dis we work for Speaker by ballot; and sec- ing that the Mississippi neer is a part of the apparent and wer understood increasing onger, for any practicable unreasonable excitement, and 1 trust in a the common benefit. We of the South order, or any practicable unreasonable excitement, and 1 trust in a the common benefit. We of the South order, or any practicable unreasonable excitement, and 1 trust in a the common benefit. We of the South and should be understood by the country. purpose, a living principle? There are becoming temper. I avow inyself, in the came into it for mutual benefits as well as portant functions of the Chair, to moder. Mr. DUER. We have balloted long. A great sectional question lies at the foun-ate the spirit of anarchy beroad in the Lexpected it, and that afterwards the House have our rights or feelings trampled on a der of rigade 14th ate the spirit of anarchy abroad in the Lexpected it, and that anerwards do note of a disposition to organize graceful events of yesterday, and the ex-land. I do not think the mover of the first would come to a disposition to organize graceful events of yesterday, and the ex-proposition had a disposition to have it un-proposition had a disposition to have it un-without more ado, as best they can. Nei-planations consequent upon their exposure, prove conclusively that the democratic Union; yet you wonder that we look up-at once, in answer to questions such as this subject. We will not suf-the honorable gentleman sions on our rights - F Gen for Dre 194 Vet I think it will be thought that the arrangement between two parties. Such ing in reference to it. The southern dem- sacred principles you have thus trampled from new York, [Mr. Duer,] that I have this subject be proposition originated in the belief that some an arrangement was attempted and failed ocrats were satisfied, from the public course under foot as nothing better than incree- not sought to make this a test in the selec- meets a resp members would, under the different modes yesterday—rit cannot be repeated. A pro-of giving the vote, vote differently. I will position to resolve the gentleman from ber whom they supported and his friends, ceded immediately after the constitution this House. The differently into the Speaker's that he was worthy of trust upon these im-was formed. It was the girt of Maryland was cheerfully voted for the take. The fur mi did not believe his colleague [Mr. Schenck] chair has been offered; that is calling on portant sectional issues. The disclosures to her sister States for the location of their honorable gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. table just had env such motive when introducing a this side of the House to make an uncon- which were made proved that they were common government. Its municipal law Toombs,] and I did on yesterday vote for weak

like proposition some time since. He dis- ditional surrender. I am willing to or- mistaken; and, with a promptness honor- maintained and protected domestic sla-; the distinguished member from Kentucky, tude in which it will not be known how I person to occupy that chair. the negative. sirable for his purposes. We are told that A MEMBER. Who then ! find it reported in the Washington Union: long practice, and popular in a majority of Mr. Meade. Mr. MEADE. It is fulse. Mr. DUER. You are a liar.

to record themselves."

claimed it ; and I know him too well to be ganize with a Speaker of either of the able to them, they instantly withdrew their very. You accepted it. Your honor was [Mr. Moorehend.] Sir, in voting thus, as lieve that he thinks one way and speaks three parties-under any Speaker but a support, and left the discredit to fall where pledged for its maintenance as a national in voting for Mr. Winthrop, Thave desired another. I will not be placed in an atti- disunionist. I will not vote for any such it properly belonged. The free-soilers, Capital. Your faith was pledged to the to select a whig as Speaker-known to me who were engaged in the discreditable maintenance of the rights of the people who and to the country. I have not asked, for the purpose of giving, our readers vote; and I ask the "two great parties," Mr. BAILY was understood to inquire conspiracy, secretly and dishonorably were thus placed under your care. Your and I would not ask, that his opinions up feint idea of the exciting scenes attend. diamed by some to have all the rights if the gentleman regarded the democratic sought to acquire advantages in the organ-Mr. BAILY was understood to inquire conspiracy, secretly and dishonorably were thus placed under your care. Your and I would not ask, that his opinions up ... ing the election of a Speaker in the Na- here, to permit me to vote in any manner nomince [Mr. H. Cobb] as a disunionist? ization of the House by private pledges, slavcholder and all other citizens in their him in the selection of committees ; but I

Mr. DUER was understood to reply in concealed and intended to be concealed rights, and in all respects faithfully and do desire that he should be a whig-confrom the great majority of those whose honestly executed the trust; but they have stant and reliable-and with this I have votes were necessary to elect the person been gathered to their fathers, and it was been, and would be, content. I desire, in Mr. DUER was understood to point to for whom they voted. They sought, by left to their degenerate sons to break their the next place, to remark asto these threats

a discreditable trick, to secure those ad- faith with us, and insolently to attempt to of disunion, listened to so painfully and so vantages in the organization which they play the master where they were admit- intensely. Sir, I deny that the great bohad not the courage or the boldness open- ted as brethren. I trust, sir, if the repre- dy of the people of the North have wished [Here great commotion arose in the ly to demand. They affected to rely on sentatives of the North prove themselves to raise such a question, or to excite states defeated on the next ballot by the discove-resentatives having the right, on any ques-wards the neighborhood in which these given in fraud and treachery. I leave the prove ourselves unworthy of ours; that ry of a secret pledge to the free soilers.- tion, to demand, by a vote of one fifth, a gentlemen stood. All scemed disposed to morality and honesty of this party to be we have the courage to defend what they before them, will they believe our brethtested by the simple fact of this transac- had the valor to win. The territories are ern of the South to be in earnest.

high, and all the speakers were perhaps honorable member from Mississippi. On The Sergeant-at-arms bore the mace in- tion, with the single remark that these are the common property of the people of the Mr. WALLACE, of South Carolina.more than usually animated. Two reso. all subjects you can thus force members to the scene of the disturbance, and after the men whose consciences have no rest, United States, purchased by their common We will teach you that we are in earnest are some time, when the Chamber had quieted on account of what they call the sin of sla- blood and treasure. You are their com- Mr. BAKER. I should be obliged to As to the resolution of my colleague, down sufficiently to permit him to be very. The whig party presented their mon agents; it is your duty, while they gentlemen if they would tell me how this nomince, who has received the support of are in a territorial state, to remove all im- knowledge shall be imparted.

the Committees on the District of Colum- tisement of the play of Hamlet with the Mr. DUER continuing, asked pardon of the great majority of that party. No pediments to their free enjoyment by all Mr. WALLACE. When I said they bia, on Territories, and the Judiciary play of Hamlet omitted. This is just such the House for what had transpired, on his pledges were asked by the northern mem-sections and people of the Union, the slave-would teach you, I spoke in the name of the Speaker another advertisement. We are to have part, derogatory to its rules of order. He bers of that party, for the very sufficient holder and the non-slaveholder. You the people of the South; and in my opin-rd a play of Speaker, and the part of the had, he thought, only vindicated his own reason that being in a majority of nearly have given the strongest indications that ion, they will have their rights in spite of er, and giving their selection to the House Speaker left out. I trust the House wish- position as a gentleman by making such three to one, they were very abundantly you will not perform this trust-that you the North-and it is that we intend to to have control of these committees, it es to elect a man fit for the place. Is not an answer as he thought was called for,- able to take care of themselves. I did not will appropriate to yourselves all of this teach you. hould be understood, being the great ob. one fit for the office fit to select the com- He had said nothing personally offensive act with them, because the events of the territory, perpetrate all these wrongs which Mr. BAKER. Sir, I profess myself

mittees ? The office is the third in the to the gentleman from Virginia, [Mr. past, of the present, and the prospect of the I have enumerated; yet with these declas still unable to learn, from the gentleman's The speakers, sketches of whose re-and it is proposed to divest it of its most from his printed speech, in which he said, that the interests of my section of the U-refused to act in party caucuses with you, The North will stand by the constitution, marks follow, are Mr. MEAD. democrat, important functions. If adepted, what is that if a certain state of things was to con- nion are in danger; and I am therefore un- in which you have a controlling majority and thus stand by the Union. We will of Virginia; Mr. Roor, free soil whig, to be gained by it? We will have to bal-tinue, which he believed existed, then he willing to surrender the great power of -when we ask the simplest guaranty for think, and act, and vote upon the proviso, of Ohio; Mr. DUER, whig, of New York; lot for the committees on the Judiciary, loathed and detested the name of the Un-the Speaker's chair without obtaining se-the future-we are denounced out of doors as Jefferson did. We will be governed curity for the future. We have just listen- as recusants and factionists, and indoors by the majority of the people upon this tories, when the "demon" will have his He had risen to allay excitement, not to ed to strong appeals upon the necessity of we are met with the cry of "Union, U- question.

Mr. Tooms, whig, of Georgia; Mr. Ba- horns up again. It will not answer for a create it-to endeavor to effect an organ- organizing the House. I confess I do feel nion." Sir, we have passed that point. [Here Mr. HILLARD, of Alabania, **RER**; whig, of Illinois ; and Mr. STEPHENS, whig, of Georgia : I have used all my ener- denied that a majority of the people had if a music if we can find one-tifth disposed to He thought a proposition should be made fore me, I cannot see that my constituents gies from the beginning of this question right under the constitution, to decide it.]¹⁴ have the yeas and nays. This House must to adjourn until Saturday for a conference, have anything to hope from your legisla- to save the country from this convulsion. I repeat sir, we will be governed by the