

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

Merriman, from the committee on rules, reported adversely to the resolution submitted by Morton before recess, to amend the 25th rule so that bills may be introduced without giving previous notice.

After discussion, in which Morton said the committee had wholly misunderstood his resolution, it was recommitted to the committee.

Paddock introduced a bill to enable New Mexico to form a constitution and state government and for the admission of said state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states; referred.

Bogy introduced a bill to establish a branch mint at St. Louis; referred.

Dorsey introduced a bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi river, at Memphis; referred.

After the expiration of the morning hour, Cooper announced the death of his late colleague, Andrew Johnson, and delivered a eulogy.

Morton followed Cooper and declared that Mr. Johnson was a brave and honest man. He referred to the vote for his impeachment which he gave, and said for that he had no apology to make. He believed that he, Johnson, had violated the law, but he was willing to let the memory of what he regarded as his faults be buried with him, and to remember only his services to his country. He asked for him the same charity that he would ask for himself, in the inevitable hour. He reviewed, at some length, the life of Mr. Johnson, and said his services should always be remembered.

Eulogies were also delivered by Senators McCreery, Merriman, Paddock, Bogy, Bayard and Key. At the conclusion of the eulogies the usual resolutions of respect, and requiring Senators to wear a badge of mourning for thirty days, were adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

WASHINGTON, 12.—Conkling presented a petition of citizens of New York, asking an amendment to the Constitution of the U. S., prohibiting appropriations of money or property, for any purpose, directly or indirectly, to any religious body or sect; referred.

After the expiration of the morning hour, the Senate resumed the consideration of the resolutions reported by the committee on privileges and elections on Monday last, in regard to the President *pro tem.* of the Senate, the pending question being on the motion of Thurman to indefinitely postpone the third resolution, declaring that the office of the President *pro tem.* of the Senate is held at the pleasure of the Senate.

Edmunds spoke against postponing the resolution, and argued that the office of president *pro tem.* could be rescinded at the pleasure of the Senate.

Dorsey introduced a bill to place all colored troops who enlisted in the army on an equal footing with other soldiers as to bounty and pensions; referred.

The morning hour having expired, the Chair laid before the Senate the unfinished business, being the resolutions reported from the committee on privileges and elections by Morton on Monday, in regard to the President *pro tem.* of the Senate, the pending question being on the motion of Thurman to indefinitely postpone the third resolution, declaring the office of the President *pro tem.* of the Senate is held at the pleasure of the Senate.

Edmunds, of Vt., argued that the President *pro tem.* of the Senate held his office at the pleasure of the Senate, and that the Senate could elect a President *pro tem.* every morning, and that the duration of the office of President *pro tem.* had been fixed only by a long course of usage.

HOUSE.

Atkins, from the appropriation committee, reported the pension appropriation bill, and it was made a special order for Friday; it appropriates \$25,533,500.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the amnesty bill, and was addressed by Hill, of Ga. He disclaimed all desire, on the part of self and his associates, the democrats of the South, to reopen ill feeling, the two sections of the country had already suffered enough from feuds; he and his associates

had come here with the patriotic idea to remember nothing but the country and the whole country, and, turning their backs upon all the horrors of the past, to look with all earnestness to find glories for the future. The gentleman, Blaine, who was the acknowledged leader of the republican party in the House, and was aspiring to be the leader of that party in the country, has however willed otherwise. He seemed determined that wounds which were healing should be reopened and that passions which were hushed should be rekindled. He, Hill, wished the House to understand that he and his associates did not reciprocate either the purpose or the manifest desire of the gentleman, and while they felt it to be their imperative duty to vindicate the truth of history as regards their section, they did not intend to say anything calculated to aid the gentleman in that work of crimination and recrimination, and of keeping up the war by politicians after brave men have said the war shall end.

The gentleman from Maine had made two points in his speech, the magnanimity and grace of the republican party and the brutality of those whom he pleased to term rebels. As to the first question, he did not propose to weary the House to-day, because, with the history of the last fifteen years yet fresh in the mind of the world, it was useless to speak of the grace and magnanimity of the republican party. With the master enslaved, with intelligence disfranchised, with society disordered, with States subverted, with Legislatures dispersed, the people could not afford to talk of grace and magnanimity. If that were grace and magnanimity he prayed God to save the country in future from such virtues.

The gentleman from Maine had made the grave indictment against Mr. Davis that he was guilty of the murders and crimes at Andersonville, and the gentleman, Blaine, stood before the country with his very fame in peril if, after making such a charge, he failed to prove it.

He (Hill) would take the gentleman's propositions in their order. He hoped that no one would imagine that he was here to pass any eulogy on Mr. Davis; the record on which his fame must rest had been made up, and his companions and friends had remitted that record to the only tribunal that would give an impartial judgment, honest posterity. In the meantime, no eulogy of his could help it, no censure from the gentleman, Blaine, could damage it, and no act or resolution of the House could affect it. The charge against Davis was that he was the deliberate, wilful, scheming murderer of thousands of his fellow-citizens. Knowing the high character and reputation of the gentleman from Maine, he, Hill, had supposed when he heard the charge fall from his lips that he had certainly made a recent discovery, and he listened for the evidence, but what was it? Nothing but the partial report of a congressional committee; the testimony read was exclusively *ex parte* testimony, taken while the gentleman now on trial before the country was in prison, without a hearing and without an opportunity of a hearing. If there was any principle held sacred in the Anglo-Saxon mind it was that an Englishman was not to be condemned until he should be confronted with his witnesses; but the testimony was not only *ex parte*, but it was mutilated, ingeniously mutilated, palpably mutilated, most adroitly mutilated. In this connection Hill referred to the statement of Dr. Jones, one of the witnesses on the Wirz trial, who had been sent by the Confederate government to report on the condition of Andersonville, but whose report had never reached the Confederate authorities. That report had, in the hands of the Judge Advocate, been mutilated, and Jones had called the attention of the court to the fact, or of the suppression of statements that homesickness and disappointment among the prisoners had been more destructive to life than any physical cause. During the three months of the Wirz trial the Federal government, with all the means at its disposal, had not produced a single witness to connect the name of Davis with a single atrocity. On the day of his execution Wirz was offered a commutation of his sentence if he would implicate Davis. Wirz' answer to his counsel was, "You know I have always told you that I do not know anything about

Jefferson Davis; he had no communication with me as to what was done at Andersonville. I would not become a traitor to him or anybody else, even to save my life." "But," said Hill, "what poor Wirz, within two hours of his execution, would not say for his life, the gentleman from Maine says to the country to keep his party in power. Sir, Christianity is a falsehood, humanity is a lie, civilization a cheat, or the man who wouldn't make a false charge for his life was never guilty of wilful murder." Hill argued that on the logic of Blaine's speech, holding Davis responsible for the acts of Wirz, President Grant might be held responsible for the acts of McDonald and Joyce. He asked whether Blaine meant to establish a rule of construction that would authorize the country to arraign President Grant for complicity in the whiskey frauds. Was Grant responsible for the Credit Mobilier, for the Sanborn contract, or for the frauds in the District of Columbia? Yet Grant had absolutely sent to the Senate of the United States for confirmation for a high office the name of a man—alluding to Shepherd, of Washington—who stood charged before the country with the grossest speculations and frauds on this district, after the charges had been made and while pending. He, Hill, was neither the author nor disciple of such political logic, but if the proposition of the gentleman, Blaine, in regard to Davis were true, then, by the same law, General Grant, instead of being entitled to a third term was entitled to terms in twenty penitentiaries. The argument was false; it was a libel on American rules of law, and was without precedent, no precedent for it could be found in any civilized country. He, Hill, acquitted General Grant of complicity in the whiskey and revenue frauds, and facts acquitted Davis of complicity in any atrocity anywhere.

Hill proceeded to quote the law of the Confederation on the subject of the treatment of prisoners, which provides that the rations for prisoners of war shall be the same in quantity and quality as those furnished to enlisted men in the Confederate army. That law was passed by the Confederate Congress, and approved by Davis, and so far as Davis' agency was concerned, was executed. The gentleman from Maine had gone so far as to say that Davis sent General Wirz to Andersonville for the purpose of organizing a den of horrors; the answer to that was an order for locating a prison, which Hill proceeded to read, which provided that it should be in a healthy locality, with plenty of pure water, a running stream if possible and shade trees, and in the immediate neighborhood of grist and saw mills. That, he said, did not look like organizing a den of horrors.

Blaine had said that no confederate in the hands of the federal authorities had suffered, but had always been allowed whatever he wanted. The only answer he would give was that he himself had once the honor of being in prison in the North, and the first day the officer in charge of the prison told him he would put him on Andersonville and would not allow him to buy anything. He only got released from prison after ten days' effort before General Dix of N. Y.

He then proceeded to discuss the cause of the horrors at Andersonville. He said the first cause was want of medicines, but whose fault was that? They could not get the medicine, they did not have the medicine in the Confederacy; the Federal Government held that it was contraband of war, which no other country on earth ever did before, not even the Duke of Alva did such a thing. Federal officers received instructions to examine women passing through the lines, and to search their petticoats to prevent their carrying medicine to the Confederacy. Who was responsible for that? There was another misfortune, that was the want of clothing. Clothing, of course, had been made contraband of war. He declared that whatever horrors had existed at Andersonville not one of them could be attributed to a single order of the Confederate Government, but that every one of them grew out of the necessity of the occasion, which was fastened on the Confederates by the conduct of the other side. He challenged Blaine to meet him face to face, fact to fact, in the discussion of the question, declaring that the time was past when the country could accept impudence and as-

sertion for force of argument, or recklessness of statement for the truth of history. He, Hill, did not want to unfold a chapter on the other side; he was an American who honored his country, and it was not pleasant for him to bring forward proof that any portion of his country had been guilty of wilful crime or wilful cruel treatment of poor manacled prisoners. Most of those horrors were inseparable from a state of war. He wanted the people to recollect that, so that hereafter they shouldn't be hurried into another war. Still, as a set off to Blaine's statement about Andersonville, he would read from a letter by a Confederate surgeon who was a prisoner at Elmira. He read portions of that letter in which it stated that the mortality at Elmira was no less than at Andersonville.

Platt asked him who was the author of the letter. Hill replied he did not know. Platt declared that he was living within thirty-six miles of Elmira and the statements were unqualifiedly false.

Hill did not say the statements were true, only they were as good as the statements quoted on the other side. He merely used them as a set off. After all, what was the test as to the degree of misery suffered in the north and south prisons? The test was the result.

The report of Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War—and the republican side of the House would believe him, exhibited the fact that of the federal prisoners in the hands of the confederates during the war, 22,576 had died; that of the confederate prisoners in the federal hands 26,436 had died. Surgeon General Barnes—he supposed the republicans would believe him—also had given the number of confederate prisoners in federal hands during the war at 220,000 and of federal prisoners in Confederate hands at 270,000, therefore, out of 270,000 prisoners in Confederate hands only 22,576 had died, while out of 220,000 Confederate prisoners in Federal hands 26,436 had died. The ratio was 12 per cent. of the Confederates in Federal hands who had died, and less than 9 per cent. of Federal prisoners in Confederate hands; "and my friend," addressing Blaine, with great emphasis, "who is the murderer?" I would have believed General Barnes in preference to any politician over there. Platt says he lives 36 miles away from Elmira; perhaps he could have smelled the smallpox that, far, he certainly could not have seen it, for I venture to say, that if the smallpox was at the prison camp, no one could have got him nearer than thirty-six miles. He is a wonderful witness, but he is not equal to the mutilated evidence which the gentleman from Maine introduced yesterday. We know how our prisoners suffered in Federal hands if we choose to tell. Thousands came home from Elmira, Fort Delaware and other places with fingers frozen off and teeth fallen out. The great question is, at last, who was responsible for that state of things? and that is really the only important question.

He went on to discuss the history of the exchange of prisoners, stating that all the propositions from the confederates for the exchange and the amelioration of the condition of prisoners were rejected by the federal government.

Blaine asked Hill whether he had not been a member of the Confederate Senate. Hill replied that he had. Blaine quoted a resolution offered in the Confederate Congress by Hill, of Ga., to the effect that every person pretending to be a soldier or officer of the U. S., captured on the soil of the confederacy after January, 1863, shall be presumed to have entered the territory with the intention of insurrection, and to abet murder, and that unless satisfactory proofs to the contrary is adduced before the military court before which his trial shall be had, he shall suffer death. He asked Hill whether he was the author.

Hill—"I will say to the gentleman from Maine, very frankly, that I have not the slightest recollection of hearing it before."

Blaine—"You don't deny it?" Hill—"I don't know; my opinion is that I never was the author of the resolution; I have no recollection of it. If the gentleman can give me the circumstances under which it was introduced I may recollect."

Blaine—"On the 1st of October, 1862, the judiciary committee of the Confederate Congress made a report and offered a series of resolu-

tions, and thereupon Senator Hill is recorded as having offered the resolution which I have just read."

Hill—"I was chairman of the judiciary committee in the Senate, and very likely, like the chairman of the committee on rules at the last session, I may have consented to that report."

Blaine—"Does the gentleman admit that he made that report?"

Hill—"I do not know, but it is likely."

Blaine—"The copy which I have quoted from is entitled 'Republicanism in America.' I wish to know whether the gentleman was the author of that resolution."

Hill—"I really do not recollect." (Renewed laughter on the republican side.)

Blaine, persistently—"The gentleman has not said he was not the author of it."

Hill—"I do not, but I think I was not the author of it."

Blaine—"I thought, as the gentleman's efforts to show the humane character of the Confederate Congress, this might aid him in remembering the facts."

Hill—"With all due deference to the gentleman, he did not think any such thing. (Laughter.) What measures the Confederate government might have thought proper to take at that time to protect the women and children of the Confederacy from the insurrection, I don't recollect, but I shall not be diverted by the gentleman from the course of my argument to go into the history of slavery or the history of John Brown's raid. I do not know whether I or any other gentleman on the committee was the author of the resolution, and I think it more probable that our purpose was not to do injustice to any man, woman or child, North or South, but to adopt what we deemed stringent measures to protect our wives and children from a servile insurrection and slaughter, while our brave sons were in the field."

Hill continued relative to the exchange of prisoners, and said that the Confederacy officially proposed, in Aug., 1864, that if the Federal Government would send steamers and transports to Savannah the Confederate Government would return the sick and wounded prisoners in its hands without an equivalent. This was communicated to the Federal Government in Aug., 1864, and remained unanswered till Dec., 1864, when some ships were sent to Savannah. "The record shows that the chief suffering and the chief mortality at Andersonville were between August and December, 1864. We sought to allay that suffering by asking you to take your prisoners off our hands without an equivalent and without asking you to return a man for them, but you refused to do it."

Hill went on to quote a series of resolutions passed by the Federal prisoners at Andersonville in September, 1864, in which all due praise was given to the Confederate Government for its attention to them, and in which they said that the sufferings which they endured were not caused intentionally by the Confederate Government, but by the force of circumstances. "Why did the federal authorities refuse to allow their own surgeons to attend on their own soldiers when prisoners of war, and to carry to them medicine and comfort? Why did the Federal Government refuse to exchange prisoners, man for man and officer for officer? Why did it refuse to stand up to the engagement made in 1862, for the exchange of prisoners? Who was in fault? There must be a reason for this great atrocity."

In August, 1864, the rebels offered to renew the exchange, man for man. General Grant telegraphed the following important order—"It is hard on our men in the Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humane to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man released on parole or otherwise becomes an active soldier against us at once, either directly or indirectly. If we begin a system of exchange, which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated; if we hold those caught they count for no more than dead men. At this time to release all the rebel prisoners north would insure Sherman's defeat and compromise our safety."

Here Garfield asked from what book he was reading.

Hill replied that the volume from which he was reading was "The Life of Jefferson Davis." (Derisive laughter on the republican side.) He asked Garfield whether he