

## XXXVth CONGRESS.

The election of a Speaker by the House of Representatives being one of the most important items of news, for the benefit of our readers we make the following extracts from the proceedings of the House, during the last three days previous to its effecting an organization.

Jan'y 30th, the galleries were more densely crowded than at any former period during the session. By 11 o'clock not a seat was to be had. Crowds were wedged in the various door-ways, while the lobbies were alike uncomfortable with persons of both sexes.

The seats specially set apart for the diplomatic corps, with the exception of the front tier, were occupied by ladies.

Members and others were gathered in groups on the floor. The general scene was characterized by unusual excitement. Many strangers had arrived since Saturday, to witness the proceedings consequent upon the election of a Speaker.

The Rev. Mr. Kennard, who acted as chaplain on that day, in the course of his prayer, implored the Almighty to come to the deliverance of the country from its present excitement and danger, and to renew the bond of confidence which formerly existed as to our Confederacy.

The Clerk stated the pending question to be on the motion made by Mr. Winslow on Friday, to proceed to a vote 'viva voce.'

Mr. Davidson (Ad. Dem., La.) asked leave to offer a resolution that the Doorkeeper be directed to exclude all persons not entitled to the privilege under the rules of the House from the floor, except employees actually engaged in the hall.

Mr. Clemens (Ad. Dem., Va.) gallantly asked Mr. Davidson to except the ladies from the operation of the resolution.

Mr. Davidson said there were more outsiders on the floor than members.

Mr. Smith (Ad. Dem., Va.) also desired the ladies now on the floor to remain.

Mr. Stanton (Rep., O.) remarked that, if they permitted them to remain here, others would claim the privilege.

Mr. Vallandigham (Ad. Dem., O.) said that, if persons were here contrary to the rules, they were liable to expulsion by the Doorkeeper; but it was too late to exclude the ladies now, as they had been invited here.

Mr. Davidson repeated that there were all kinds of people on the floor. The time had come when they should be stopped.

Mr. John Cochrane (Ad. Dem., N.Y.) moved that the ladies be excepted from the operation of Mr. Davidson's resolution. This was a higher privilege than belonged to the male sex. [Laughter.]

Mr. Olin (Rep., N.Y.) reminded the gentlemen that we have no rules.

Mr. Smith (Va.) replied—"We have the parliamentary law."

Mr. Montgomery (Ad. Dem., Pa.) said that some weeks ago they adopted a resolution for the preservation of order, and the Doorkeeper could therefore enforce the rules.

Mr. Phelps (Ad. Dem., Mo.) said the seventeenth rule excludes ladies, and all those to whom special reference was not made.

Mr. Kilgore (Rep., Ind.) was for excluding all not privileged to the floor.

Mr. Craig (Dem., N.C.), amid the confusion, moved a call of the House.

Mr. Theaker (Rep., Ohio)—If you will exclude the ladies, I will vote against the resolution.

Mr. Burnett (Dem., Ky.) said it was the duty of the Doorkeeper to exclude all not entitled to the privilege of the floor. He had as much gallantry as Mr. Cochrane, but, if the doors were thrown open to all, it would be impossible to transact business. The Hall was already crowded. To admit a part of the ladies would be dealing unjustly toward the remainder of them. To favor the former would only make the latter mad.

After further conversation, Mr. Stanton (Rep., Ohio) offered a resolution that the Doorkeeper exclude all persons not members of the House.

Many voices said—"Except the ladies; don't put them out."

This seemed agreed to, but the fact was doubted by several gentlemen.

Mr. Ashmore (Dem., S.C.) yielded to no man in gallantry, but he did not understand Mr. Stanton's resolution to except the ladies.

Mr. Garnett (Dem., Va.) objected to a call of the House being proceeded with until all outsiders were excluded from the floor.

The Clerk decided that it was not in the power of any member to arrest the call.

Mr. Ashmore insisted on the enforcement of the rule. Unless those unprivileged persons were excluded, the House was here as a mob. If the ladies now on the floor be not excluded, the wives and daughters of others would claim a similar courtesy. [Applause in the galleries.]

The Clerk said he had no power over the Doorkeeper.

The ladies—about forty in number—here began to retire from the floor.

Mr. Curtis (Rep., Iowa) said something amid the confusion, to which Mr. Garnett replied—"There should be a strict and impartial execution of the rule."

Mr. Killinger (Rep., Pa.) said, as the ladies have been turned out, the men, not here by privilege, should be put out.

Mr. Ashmore—I go with you.

Mr. Hickman (A. L., Pa.) as a remedy

for the pressure, suggested that all the members withdraw for five minutes and let the floor be cleared. Then the Doorkeeper could distinguish, as they severally returned, who were members.

Voices—That would be the best way. Mr. Briggs (Rep., N.Y.)—saw no necessity for such a course. If all the members take their seats, it could be easily ascertained who were not privileged here.

The House was called, and the only absentees reported were Messrs. Brown of Ky., C. B. Cochrane, and Stallworth.

Mr. Van Wyck (Rep., N.Y.) asked the Democratic members from the City of New York to afford a pair for C. B. Cochrane, Rep., N.Y.

Mr. Craig (Dem., N.C.) suggested that Mr. Cochrane be paired with Mr. Stallworth.

Mr. Van Wyck objected to this, that among other reasons, Mr. Stallworth has never been here.

John Cochrane (Dem., N.Y.) said he could not consent to a pair with his colleague unless it could be shown that he was under some peculiar personal obligation to do so. He felt that a superior obligation of party, as well as patriotic considerations, prevented him from lending himself to a pair.

Mr. Delano (Rep., Mass.) referred to the fact that he had, on a former occasion, paired with John Cochrane three days, with the understanding that the latter was not able, from sickness, to attend. He thought the same courtesy and humanity should be extended to Clark B. Cochrane from the Democratic side.

During these proceedings, the floor was cleared of ladies and many unprivileged persons of the other sex.

Mr. Clemens (Dem., Va.) in consideration of the courtesy always extended to him by the Republican side, was willing, in a spirit of magnanimity, to pair off with Mr. Cochrane, if the Republicans would furnish a pair to Mr. Stallworth.

No understanding was arrived at on this subject.

The House decided to proceed to the election of a Speaker.

Mr. Sherman rose amid profound silence. He said throughout this prolonged contest he had been supported by a large plurality of his friends. They till now had adhered to him with a fidelity and devotion which he respected, and which he believed had received the applause of their constituents. They had stood here undismayed amid threats of disunion and disorganization, conscious of the rectitude of their intentions, firm in their adoration of the Constitution and the obedience to all laws. They have been silent, firm and manly; on the other hand they have seen their ancient and national adversaries broken into fragments.

They have seen some of them combined by a written agreement to prevent a majority of the House from prescribing rules for the organization of this body. They have heard others proclaim that if a Republican should be elected President of the United States, they would tear down this fair fabric, and break up the union of these States, and now they have seen their ancient adversary broken, dispersed, and disorganized, unite in supporting a gentleman here in open and avowed hostility to their organization. I should regret extremely, and I believe it would be a national calamity, to have any one who is a supporter, directly or indirectly, of this administration, or who owed it any allegiance, or favor, or affection, occupy any position in this House.

I should regret it as a public calamity to have the power of this House, directly or indirectly, under the control of this administration, and it would be, it seems to me, a fatal mistake, a fatal policy, to trust the power of this House in the hands, or under the control, of gentlemen who have proclaimed that, in any event, and under any circumstances, they would dissolve the Union of these States. I regard it as the highest duty of patriotism to submerge personal feelings, and that every man should sacrifice all private feelings, and all private interests, for the good of his country.

I proclaimed here a few days ago, and I have always stood upon the position, that whenever any of my political friends or associates could combine a greater number of votes than I could, I would retire from the scene and give him the honor, if there is an honor in the position I occupy. I believe the time has now arrived. I believe that a greater concentration can be made on another gentleman than upon myself of those outside of the Republican organization. Therefore, I respectfully withdraw my name as a candidate, and in doing so, Mr. Clerk, allow me to return my heartfelt thanks to all my political friends who have stood by me in this contest, especially to those with whom I am not connected by party ties, but by the higher ties of mutual sympathy, respect and affection. Sir, if I had one more favor to ask of them, it would be that in one unbroken column, with an unfaltering front and an unwavering column, every man of them wheel into the line and cast his vote in favor of any gentleman belonging to our organization who can command the majority of this House, or who can be elected Speaker of this House. (Applause.)

The House proceeded to vote.

Whole number	232
Necessary to a choice	117
Mr. Pennington	115
Mr. Smith	113
Mr. Davis, of Ind.	2
Mr. Allen	1
Mr. Bocock	1

Two other ballots were taken the same day with the same results.

Jan. 31st. The galleries were densely crowded on the meeting of the House, but the excitement was not so intense as on the day previous.

On motion of Mr. Stanton, there was a call of the House. It appeared that the following gentlemen were absent: Messrs. Boyce, Stallworth, Brown of Kentucky, Sickles, Kunkel, Somes, and Clark B. Cochrane. The last two are Republicans.

Mr. Smith (S. Am., N.C.) rose, when there were cries of "Sit down, Order." Quiet being restored, that gentleman said: Mr. Clerk, I cannot find language adequate to convey to the members of this body my deep sense of obligation to the honorable gentlemen of the various political organizations constituting this House, for the honor which they endeavored to confer upon me by placing me in the chair, and intrusting me with the high and important responsibility of presiding over this body. When I recollect how much of self-sacrifice must have been incurred, how much gentlemen have given up in the patriotic effort to concentrate the votes of this House on some individual who stood on national and broad comprehensive ground; and when I remember that I, myself, with a name unknown to fame, now making my entry on this floor for the first time, have received the honor of so large a vote as was conferred on me, I shall only say I shall cherish the kindness during the residue of my official term, and while a member of this body, and carry with me into the shades of private life, when my public service shall have ended, a grateful and abiding sense of the deep obligation under which gentlemen have placed me. But without intending now—as this is not the proper occasion—to go into any matter of detail, I will here take the liberty of saying that I am satisfied that the presentation of my name longer before this body would not contribute toward the success or wishes of those gentlemen who have so cordially and steadily sustained me. I therefore beg leave, before another ballot is taken, to withdraw my name as a candidate before this body, and to say that I hope that the indications which are now presenting themselves may be the harbingers of the return of good will among all the States of the Confederacy; and that, in preserving intact and inviolate the Constitution, we may find the guaranty of the rights of every part of our Confederacy, in our glorious and blessed Union, perpetuated to the remotest period of time. [Applause.]

Mr. Smith, at the conclusion of his remarks, was privately congratulated by many of his friends.

Impatient cries from the Republican side of "Call the roll."

Mr. Reagan (Dem., Texas) said there had been a combination of various elements of the House, with the view of securing for Speaker a man of national and conservative character. The Democrats, he trusted, have a name for liberality and readiness for any sacrifice which the present condition of the country requires. When the name of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Smith), though differing with the great body of the Democrats, was presented, they supported him, satisfied that his purpose was to maintain the Constitution and the integrity of the Government. They voted for him on Friday, and thrice yesterday. They were now satisfied he could receive no more votes. In presenting the name of another gentleman, they thought they had a right to expect that those differing in political sentiment from him would make a sacrifice of their personal and political preferences, in order to secure the election of a conservative national man as Speaker of the House. If eighty Democrats said they would vote against Mr. Sherman "till Gabriel blew his last trump," and that Mr. Stevens of Pennsylvania had declared that "the Republicans would adhere to Mr. Sherman till the crack of doom," the canon of prophecy had closed.

Mr. Morehead (Rep., Penn.) congratulated the House and the country on the fact that they were now ready to proceed to the election of a Speaker. They were informed at an early day of the session that there was to be a smoking-out process before such an election. He thought the smoking-out process had been pretty effectually gone through with to-day. (Laughter.)

Mr. Clark (Dem., Mo.) acknowledged he did make that assertion, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania now felt the effect of it. His resolution has had its effect, at least so far that no indorser of the sentiments of Helper's book can be Speaker of this House. He wished to tell an anecdote, which even the gentleman would enjoy. He had heard of a hunter who went turkey hunting; he found the turkey on the top of a high tree; he fired, and the bird fell, but got up and run, with one wing broken. The hunter failed to secure his game, "But," said he, "I have one consolation: you will have to roost lower the remainder of your life." (Laughter.)

The roll was proceeded with, and the result was announced as follows:

Whole number present	233
Necessary to a choice	117
Pennington	116
McClernand	91
Scattering	26

Mr. Winslow moved to adjourn.

Mr. English moved that the House again proceed to vote.

Mr. Florence said they had better adjourn, and reminded the Republicans of the fact that the Democrats last Friday consented to adjourn at their pressing request.

The House, by a large majority, refused to adjourn.

Mr. Sherman moved to proceed to another vote.

Mr. Florence moved to adjourn till the day after to-morrow.

Mr. Garnett replied, reminding Mr. Colfax that on Friday Messrs. Curtis and Stanton took the responsibility of an adjournment, those gentlemen then saying that the Republicans were distracted and wanted time for consultation, which the Democrats accorded.

Mr. Colfax rejoined that on that occasion the House was in favor of adjournment, while to-day a large majority was opposed to it.

Mr. Stanton said that no good could come from this struggle. He as an individual was willing to reciprocate the courtesy extended by the Democrats on Friday and would take the responsibility of the delay of organization.

Another motion was here made to adjourn. Mr. Kellogg, of Illinois, said to the Democrats, if we adjourn now, will you consent to vote to-morrow without debate.

The greatest possible confusion now existed. Gentlemen in every direction with hats in their hands were preparing to leave the hall.

Mr. Burnett said we are not now ready to vote. When you, on Friday, said you were not ready, we consented to adjourn. We tell you frankly you can't have a vote to-night, but that you can to-morrow, after a preliminary vote for all of the House to see that all our friends are here.

The proposition was generally acceded to, and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Feb. 1.—The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rabbi Raphael. It abounded with fervently-expressed patriotic and religious sentiment. He implored divine blessing to direct the House in the election of a Speaker who may preside without favor or fear, and that the members might speak and act for the glory of their common country. The prayer was listened to with marked attention.

The Clerk having stated that the question pending was the motion of Mr. Sherman, that the House proceed to vote for Speaker.

On motion of Mr. Phelps (Ad. Dem., Mo.), there was a call of the House.

While the vote was being taken, there was much confusion in the House, many members wishing to explain their position, &c., &c.

Before the result was announced, Mr. Briggs of New York, one of the tellers, arose and said: I rise for the purpose of changing my vote. It will be recollected that a day or two since I made a statement as to what I might do in a certain contingency. That contingency has now arrived, and it becomes me to state my reasons for the vote I am about to give. The time has come when my vote will elect a Speaker. I have said on several occasions that I could cast my vote for any conservative gentleman like Mr. Pennington or Mr. Corwin, whenever I had discharged all the obligations to my own party which I had made. I voted for Mr. Smith, the nominee of my party, and whom I should have been pleased to see placed in the Speaker's chair, until he was no longer a candidate. When Mr. Smith was presented as a candidate for Speaker of this House, the Democrats came forward with magnanimity and generosity hardly, if ever, equalled, and voted for him. In justice to myself and to that party, I felt myself bound to return that act of generosity by voting for their candidate, Mr. McClernand. I have done so twice, but it is now evident and proved beyond doubt that if all the votes of his own and my party were thrown for him, he could not be elected.

I have now discharged every obligation upon me with faithfulness and consistency, and am now free to act for myself and country, and to fulfill the other statements which I have made that I could vote for any sound, conservative man of any party, when my vote would elect, in order that the Government may be relieved. The time has now come when I can do so. Gov. Pennington has now 116 votes, and 117 will elect him.

I have said, as I stated before, that I could vote for him. For general, apparent reasons, I could not vote for the other candidate, Mr. Sherman, and had I done so, he could not have been elected. In the vote I am about to give, I desire it shall be distinctly understood that I do not give up my own party preferences any more than did the gentlemen of the Democratic party when they voted for a member of my party, Mr. Smith of North Carolina, and do not indorse all the principles of the gentleman for whom I am about to vote.

I am, as I have said from the first, an American, and a member of the National American Union party, but I give my vote to a gentleman who I am assured will act fairly and impartially to all sections of the country, that those who are suffering for want of their just dues may be relieved, that the wheels of Government may not stop, and to restore peace and quiet to the country. For three days I have held the organization of this House in my hands. I can no longer, if I would, take that responsibility; but I was determined to do so until I had discharged every honorable obligation I had made.

Aware of the responsibility which I assume in so doing, Mr. Clerk, I now withdraw my vote from Mr. McClernand of Illinois and cast it for Mr. William Pennington of New Jersey. [Prolonged applause.]

[Mr. Douglas stood at the desk, watching Mr. Briggs during the whole of his remarks.]

The vote was then proclaimed:

Whole number present	233
Necessary to a choice	117

Mr. Pennington, of New Jersey, (Rep.) 117.

Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, (Dem.) 85.

Mr. Gilmer, of North Carolina, (Amer.) 15.

In addition to all the Republicans, the fol-

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