

DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

March 3d.—In the Senate, Mr. Lane presented the credentials of the Hon. Joseph A. Wright, appointed senator from Indiana in place of Bright, expelled, who appeared and took the oath.

Mr. Wilkinson presented a petition from citizens of New York, asking Congress to reduce to a territory South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Mr. Chandler, from the committee of commerce, reported a bill requiring the oath of allegiance to be taken by captains of vessels sailing to foreign ports, which was taken up and passed.

Mr. Fessenden made a report from the conference committee on the bill for the better organization of the cavalry, and providing for forty regiments only, and for the discharging of all over that number.

Mr. Nesmith thought it best to reduce the cavalry as much as possible. They were a most useless branch of the service. A large number of them were armed with prod sticks, with red rags on the end.

In the House, on the 3d, Mr. Dawes, from the committee on elections, made a report on the petition of S. Ferguson Beach, asking to be admitted to a seat as a representative from the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia; it was passed by resolution; Mr. Beach was not entitled to a seat. Subject laid over.

Mr. Stevens, from the committee on ways and means, reported a bill providing internal revenue for the support of the government and to pay the interest on the public debt. Referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, and made the special order one week from next Tuesday.

Ten thousand additional copies were ordered to be printed for the use of members.

Mr. Holman offered a resolution that, in the judgment of the House, the unfortunate civil war in which the United States had been forced by the treasonable attempt of the southern secessionists to destroy the Union should not be prosecuted for any other purpose than the restoration of the authority of the Constitution and the welfare of the whole people of the United States, who are permanently involved in the preservation of our present form of government, without modification or change.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to lay it on the table. Carried—60 against 58.

Mr. Aldrich offered a resolution directing the committee on judiciary to report back the bill for the confiscation of all property of rebels, their aiders and abettors, and for the liberation of their slaves, and enjoining on all military commanders the seizure of all enemies' property made subject to capture by said bill.

Mr. Cox introduced the following joint resolutions in relation to maritime rights:

Whereas, International law cannot acquire any considerable extension except by the collective work of the nations, either assembled in Congress by delegates or by the combined negotiation of the principal nations;

And whereas, the events connected with the Trent affair have given rise to the discussion of maritime rights by the principal powers of the world, all interested in the authoritative settlement, and in that discussion the friendly offices of the Emperor of France were tendered to the United States, for the purpose of adjusting the questions involved on a clear and liberal basis, looking to the amelioration of neutrals upon the sea;

Therefore be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

1. That the national legislature acknowledges the friendly intentions and enlightened views of the Emperor of the French in said interposition.

2. That it favors the most liberal propositions with respect to maritime rights, and the abolition of such usages as restrict the liberty of neutrals and multiply the causes of dissensions in the world, believing that humanity and justice demand that the calamities incident to war should be strictly limited to the belligerents themselves, and to those who voluntarily take part with them, but that neutrals abstaining in good faith from such complicity, ought to be left to pursue their ordinary trade with either belligerent.

3. That the present time is propitious for the resumption of negotiations to secure these objects, and especially for the concurrence of the nations in the belligerent articles of the declaration of the Congress of Paris of the 16th of April, 1856, with the amendment proposed by Mr. Marcy, viz.:

1. Privateering is and remains abolished, provided that the private property of the subjects or citizens of a belligerent on the high seas shall be exempted from seizure by public armed vessels of the other belligerent, except it be contraband.

2. The neutral flag covers enemies' goods with the exception of contraband of war.

3. Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under the enemy's flag.

4. Blockades in order to be binding must be effective.

That the people of the United States entertain the hope that the great maritime powers of France and England, relinquishing their present objections growing out of their ill-advised recognition of our insurgent States as belligerents, will consent to the propositions of the Paris Conference, as the United States have constantly invited, and as Mr. Marcy proposed to the government of France on the 28th day of July, 1856, with such a liberal extension of them that the private property, not

contraband, of citizens and subjects of nations in collision should be exempted from confiscation equally in warfare waged on the land and in warfare waged upon the seas, which are the common highways of the nations.

5. That the efforts of the late Secretary Marcy and the present Secretary of State to have the maxims ingrafted as fixed principles of international law, were eminently wise and just, sanctioned by our traditional policy, and conducive to the welfare of the republic, and to the highest interests of peace and civilization.

6. That for the accomplishment of this result, it would be both courteous and wise for our government to consider the proposal of the eminent publicist of France, M. Hautefeuille, for a congress of the maritime powers, which, by uniting in one body the scattered forces of all neutrals, may secure to each the respect and security which they cannot obtain while remaining isolated, and that thus they may be enabled to maintain as a lasting element of the law of nations that maritime equilibrium so long sought by the United States of America, and so important to the freedom of commerce and the repose of the world.

On motion of Mr. Cox, the resolutions were recommitted and ordered to be printed.

March 4th.—In the Senate, Mr. Davis presented a petition from the citizens of Boston, asking Congress to drop the negro question and attend to the business of the country.

On motion of Mr. Davis, the bill for the safe-keeping and maintenance of United States prisoners was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. Collamer, the bill authorizing the Commission for the preservation of the Atlantic fisheries was taken up and passed.

The bill authorizes the President to appoint a commissioner to meet with the British and French commissioners to take measures for the preservation of the fisheries. The bill was passed.

Mr. McDougall resumed his speech. He quoted from Justice Story and other writers as showing that there should be no confiscation of any private property.

Mr. Cowan said that he agreed with the Senator from California—McDougall. Shall we stand by the Constitution or shall we open wide the field of revolution and go back to the doctrines of feudal ages, and introduce feuds which centuries cannot quiet? That is what this bill proposes. He contended that the passage of such a bill will make the whole Southern people our enemies. And further, the bill was directly in conflict with the Constitution, for the preservation of which alone the war was waged. The bill is unnecessary, impolitic and totally useless. The bill was unconstitutional because the Constitution provides that no bill of attainder shall be passed and no person punished for crime without regular proceeding in courts. This bill is, in fact, a bill of attainder. Congress has no power to pass it. The bill makes no distinction between those forced into the rebellion and the willing traitor. Thousands of Southern people have been duped into the rebellion by being told that the North were all Abolitionists. If ever there was a foul slander, it was the allegation made by the slaveholders of the South, and their allies at the North, that the sole object of the Republican party was the abolition of slavery. That slander enabled the traitors to consolidate the rebellion. He protested against that section of the bill for freeing the slaves as an entire departure from the principles of the Constitution, and especially impolitic at this time. Because we are in war, we ought not to make a law which was unconstitutional before. He hoped the bill would not pass, but that Congress would attend to the measures necessary to secure success in the great struggle in which we are engaged.

In the House, on the 4th, the Pennsylvania contested election case was taken up, the pending resolution being that John Kline is not, but that John P. Verree, the sitting member, is entitled to a seat as the member from the Third Congressional District, which was adopted by a vote of 105 to 13.

Mr. Campbell reported from the select committee, the Pacific railroad and telegraph bill, which was referred to be printed.

The resolution reported some time ago, from the committee on Government contracts, was taken up.

Mr. Shanks made a lengthy speech in favor of Gen. Fremont, alleging that a combination of disappointed contractors and treasury-plunderers had been arrayed against him.

March 5th.—In the Senate, Mr. Sumner introduced a bill to provide for carrying mails of the United States to foreign ports.

Mr. Latham said that for the last few months communication to the Pacific coast has almost been entirely interrupted. In consequence of the unprecedented floods, the overland mail could not run. Commerce was much injured in consequence. The line of ships plying from New York to Panama had decided they would not carry the mails nor government dispatches. This was an outrage on the government and the commercial community. This very company received ten millions from the government, but now they take the opportunity to force a mail contract from the government. Such vessels ought not to be allowed to clear from our ports or be allowed the protection of our flag if they refused to afford any accommodation to the country.

The bill was referred.

Mr. Dixon offered a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to make equitable settlements with those who are under penalty for failing to construct machinery by

the day fixed in the contract, which was referred to the Naval Committee.

On motion of Mr. Grimes, the bill to provide for the codification and revision of the laws of the District of Columbia was taken up and passed.

The bill to define the pay and emolument of certain officers of the army was taken up, and several unimportant amendments adopted. On the amendment relative to chaplains for hospitals a discussion ensued.

Mr. Wilson said there were but a few hospital chaplains, and army chaplains were limited one to each regiment. He did not believe we had over five hundred thousand men in the field, though the paymaster reported seven hundred and forty regiments. Regiments were authorized in a very loose manner. Even a clerk in the War Department, who now occupies a foreign position, was authorized to raise regiments.

Mr. Nesmith thought we had better reduce the number of chaplains as a financial measure. We were paying for chaplains now one million, fifty-four thousand eight hundred dollars.

After further discussion the pay of all chaplains was fixed at one thousand two hundred dollars per year. The bill was then postponed.

In the House, on the 5th, Mr. Crittenden, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill making an appropriation of sixty thousand, three hundred and fifty-three dollars, the proportion of the United States, as damages and compensation to the King of Hanover for the sacrifices in his abolition of the Stadt dues in accordance with the terms of the treaty, which was passed.

The House took up the Senate's joint resolution appropriating eight thousand dollars for removing the army bakeries from the capitol building.

The resolution was tabled by a vote of 76 to 42.

Mr. Duell, from the committee on revolutionary pensions, reported a bill for the discontinuance of the pensions to the children of officers and soldiers of the Revolution, which was passed.

Mr. Edwards, from the Committee on Public Expenditure, reported a joint resolution, which was passed, authorizing the Secretary of War to cause all goods furnished as army supplies now on hand, and unsuitable for use, to be sold for the benefit of the United States.

March 6th.—In the Senate, Mr. Harris presented a petition in favor of conferring the rank of major-general on Gen. John E. Wool.

On motion of Mr. Sherman the bill in relation to the pay of members of Congress was taken up.

An amendment was adopted, making the mileage of members twenty cents a mile.

Mr. Hale, from the naval committee, reported a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Commodore Goldsborough, his officers and seamen, for their gallant conduct at Roanoke Island, which was adopted.

In the House, on the 6th, the Speaker laid before the House a message from President Lincoln, suggesting the passage of a joint resolution providing for co-operation with any State for the abolition of slavery, with pecuniary compensation. The President proposes this as an initiative step, predicting important practical results therefrom.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, the bill was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The House went into committee of the whole on the bill to regulate the franking privilege.

Mr. Perry spoke in opposition to extreme anti-slavery measures. This was a time for the exhibition of patriotism and defence of the Union. He was at a loss to see how it was necessary to set the slaves free now as an ally in the suppression of the rebellion. This was not a war for the destruction of the South, but for the restoration of respect everywhere to the authority of the government. Behind the dark cloud of the rebellion the sky of the Union was clear and bright, and the stars of all the States were sparkling in all their beauty. Soon it would be that the dark cloud would pass away and one by one the stars would reappear in all their glory, and the people would thank God they were all there.

THE LATE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—A work has just been published in Germany which may create a great sensation. The private physician who attended the late Czar Nicholas records that he sent for him one day and ordered him to furnish a bottle of poison. The doctor hesitated, whereupon the Czar wrote an order declaring that he had ordered the doctor to administer the poison, and enjoined a solemn oath upon him not to hold him harmless. The doctor gave the deadly potion to his master, who swallowed it. A few minutes later he repented the rash act: "Doctor, give me a remedy; I will not die." The doctor groaned out an admission that the poison was now in the Czar's veins, far beyond the reach of art. "Tis well, then," he replied, and then, applying no very complimentary epithet to his son, he directed that he should be sent him. Within an hour Nicholas was a corpse.

BROADBENT'S DETERMINATION.—A bickering pair of Quakers were lately heard in high controversy, the husband exclaiming:

"I am determined to have one quiet week with thee!"

"But how wilt thou be able to get it?" said the taunting spouse, in the reiteration, which married ladies so provokingly indulge in.

"I will keep thee a week after thou art dead?" was the Quaker's rejoinder.

JEFF. DAVIS'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: On this, the birthday of the man most identified with the establishment of American Independence, and beneath the monument erected to commemorate his heroic virtues and those of his compatriots, we have assembled to usher into existence the permanent government of the Confederate States. Through this instrumentality, under the favor of Divine Providence, we hope to perpetuate the principles of our Revolutionary fathers. The day, the memory, and the purpose seem fitly associated.

It is with mingled feelings of humility and pride that I appear to take, in the presence of the people and before high Heaven, the oath prescribed as a qualification for the exalted station to which the unanimous voice of the people has called me. Deeply sensible of all that is implied by this manifestation of the people's confidence, I am yet more profoundly impressed by the vast responsibility of the office, and humbly feel my own unworthiness.

In return for their kindness, I can only offer assurances of the gratitude with which it is received, and can but pledge a zealous devotion of every faculty to the service of those who have chosen me as their Chief Magistrate.

With a long course of class legislation, directed not to the general welfare, but to aggrandizement of the northern section of the Union, culminated in a warfare on the domestic institutions of the Southern States—when the dogmas of a sectional party, substituted for the provisions of the constitutional compact, threatened to destroy the sovereign rights of the States, six of those States, withdrawing from the Union, confederated together to exercise the right and perform the duty of instituting a Government which would better secure the liberties for the preservation of which that Union was established.

Whatever of hope some may have entertained that a returning sense of justice would remove the danger with which our rights were threatened, and render it possible to preserve the Union of the Constitution, must have been dispelled by the malignity and barbarity of the Northern States in the prosecution of the existing war. The confidence of the most hopeful among us must have been destroyed by the disregard they have recently exhibited for all the time-honored bulwarks of civil and religious liberty. Bastilles filled with prisoners, arrested without civil process, or indictment duly found; the writ of habeas corpus suspended by Executive mandate; a State Legislature controlled by the imprisonment of members whose avowed principles suggested to the Federal Executive that there might be another added to the list of seceded States; elections held under the threats of a military power, civil officers, peaceful citizens, and gentle women incarcerated for opinion's sake, proclaimed the incapacity of our late associates to administer a Government as free, liberal, and humane as that established for our common use.

For proof of the sincerity of our purpose to maintain our ancient institutions, we may point to the Constitution of the Confederacy and the laws enacted under it, as well as to the fact that through all the necessities of an unequal struggle, there has been no act on our part to impair personal liberty or the freedom of speech, of thought, or of the press. The courts have been open, the judicial functions fully executed, and every right of the peaceful citizens maintained as securely as if a war of invasion had not disturbed the land.

The people of the States now confederated became convinced that the Government of the United States had fallen into the hands of a sectional majority, who would pervert that most sacred of all trusts to the destruction of the rights which it was pledged to protect. They believed that to remain longer in the Union would subject them to a continuance of a disparaging discrimination, submission to which would be inconsistent with their welfare, and intolerable to a proud people. They therefore determined to sever its bonds and establish a new confederacy for themselves.

The experiment instituted by our Revolutionary fathers of a voluntary union of sovereign States for purposes specified in a solemn compact, had been perverted by those who, feeing power and forgetting right, were determined to respect no law but their own will. The Government had ceased to answer the ends for which it was ordained and established. To save ourselves from a revolution which, in its silent but rapid progress, was about to place us under the despotism of numbers, and to preserve in spirit, as well as in form, a system of government we believed to be peculiarly fitted to our condition, and full of promise for mankind, we determined to make a new association, composed of States homogeneous in interest, in policy, and in feeling.

True to our traditions of peace and our love of justice, we sent Commissioners to the United States to propose a fair and amicable settlement of all questions of public debt or property which might be in dispute. But the Government at Washington, denying our right to self-government, refused even to listen to any proposals for a peaceful separation. Nothing was then left to us but to prepare for war.

The first year in our history has been the most eventful in the annals of this continent.