

their command, without a precedent to guide them in the preparation of such a display. The success of their labors was amply attested by the sustained attention which the contents of the government building attracted during the period of exhibition, from both foreign and native people. I am strongly impressed by the value of the collection made by the government for the purposes of the exhibition, illustrating as it does the general resources of the country, the statistical and practical evidences of our growth as a nation, and the uses of the mercantile arts and the applications of applied science in the administration of the affairs of the Government. Many nations have voluntarily contributed their exhibits to the United States to increase the interest in any permanent exhibition Congress may provide for. For this act of generosity they should receive the thanks of the people, and I respectfully suggest that a resolution of Congress to that effect be adopted.

Presidential Electors.

The attention of Congress cannot be too earnestly called to the necessity of throwing some greater safeguard over the method of choosing and declaring the election of a President. Under the present system there seems to be no provided remedy for contesting the election in any one State.

Restricted Suffrage.

The remedy is partly, no doubt, in the enlightenment of electors. The compulsory support of the free school, and the disfranchisement of all who cannot read and write the English language, after a fixed probation, would meet my hearty approval. I would not make this apply, however, to those already voters, but I would to all becoming so after the expiration of the probation fixed upon. Foreigners coming to the country to become citizens, who are educated in their own language, would acquire a requisite knowledge of ours during the necessary residence to obtain naturalization. If they did not take enough interest in our language to acquire sufficient knowledge of it to enable them to study the institutions and laws of the country intelligently, I would not confer upon them the right to make its laws nor to select those who do.

Administrative Events and Executive Recommendations.

I append to this message, for convenient reference, a synopsis of administrative events and of all recommendations to Congress made by me during the last seven years. Time may show some of these recommendations not to have been wisely conceived, but I believe the larger part will be no discredit to the administration.

Annexation of St. Domingo.

One of these recommendations met with the united opposition of one political party in the Senate, and with a strong opposition from the other, namely, the treaty for the annexation of Santa Domingo to the United States, to which I shall specially refer, maintaining, as I do, that if my views had been concurred in the country would be in a more prosperous condition to-day, both politically and financially. Santa Domingo is fertile, and upon its soil may be grown just those tropical products of which the United States use so much, and which are produced or prepared for market now by slave labor almost exclusively, namely, sugar, coffee, dyewoods, mahogany, tropical fruits, tobacco, etc. About seventy-five per cent. of the exports of Cuba are consumed in the United States. A large per centage of the exports of Brazil also find the same market. These are paid for almost exclusively in coin, legislation, particularly in Cuba, being unfavorable to a mutual exchange of the products of each country. Flour shipped from the Mississippi river to Havana can pass by the very entrance to the city on its way to a position in Spain, then pays a duty fixed upon articles to be re-exported, is transferred to a Spanish vessel, and brought back almost to the point of starting, paying a second duty, and still leave a profit over what would be received by direct shipment. All that is produced in Cuba could be produced in Santa Domingo, and being a part of the United States commerce between the island and the mainland, would be free; there would be no export duties on her shipments nor import duties of

those coming here; there would be no import duties upon the supplies, machinery, etc., going from the States.

The effect that would have been produced upon Cuban commerce with these advantages to rival is observable at a glance. The Cuban question would have been settled long ago in favor of a free Cuba. Hundred of American vessels would now be advantageously used in transporting the valuable woods and other products of the soil of the island to a market, and in carrying supplies and emigrants to it. The island is but sparsely settled, while it has an area sufficient for the profitable employment of several millions of people. The soil would have soon fallen into the hands of United States capitalists. The products are so valuable in commerce that emigration there would have been encouraged; the emancipated race of the south would have found there a congenial home, where their civil rights would not be disputed, and where their labor would be much sought after, but the poorest among them could have found the means to go. Thus in cases of great oppression and cruelty, such as has been practised upon them in many places within the last eleven years, whole communities would have sought refuge in Santa Domingo. I do not suppose the whole race would have gone, nor is it desirable that they should go. Their labor is desirable, indispensable almost, where they now are, but the possession of the territory would have left the negro master of the situation, by enabling him to demand his rights at home on pain of sending them elsewhere. I do not present these views now as a recommendation of the renewal of the subject of annexation, but I refer to it to vindicate my previous action in regard to it.

Unto This Last.

With the present Congress my official life terminates. It is not probable that public affairs will ever again receive attention from me further than as a citizen of the Republic, always taking a deep interest in the honor, integrity, and prosperity of the whole land.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT,
Executive Mansion, Dec. 5, 1876.

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 5.—Morton submitted a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, to provide for the election of President and Vice President by the direct vote of the people, which was read and laid on the table until the appointment of committees.

Morton presented a document, completed by the chief clerk of the Senate, in regard to the counting of the electoral votes from 1794 to 1873, and said the information contained therein was of great importance and valuable to the country at this time.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 4.—Banks, of Mass., argued in favor of the immediate swearing in of the member from Colorado, and sent to the clerk's desk and had read the proclamation of the President in compliance with law, declaring Colorado in the Union.

Springer defended his resolution, declaring that delay in admitting the member would not do injustice to Colorado, a comparatively small State claiming two Senators, one representative and three electoral votes.

Springer's motion referring the credentials of the Colorado member to the judiciary committee was adopted—142 to 98, the republicans voting against it, as also Blount, Cox, Durham, Hartzell, Holman, Kehr, Lemoyne, Morgan, Neil, O'Brien, Rea, Savage, Stevenson, Waterson, and Wells, democrats.

McCrary presented the credentials of Buttz, of South Carolina. Objection was made, and the House was about to adjourn by agreement, when Hewitt offered a resolution providing for the appointment of three select committees, one of fifteen members to go to Louisiana, one of six for Florida, and one of nine for South Carolina, to investigate the action of the returning boards. Also to report all the facts

essential to an honest return of the electoral votes, the commissioners being empowered to send for persons and papers, appoint sub-commissioners, clerks, etc.

McCrary refused to yield to the resolution and the Speaker ruled that a suspension of the rules to adopt the resolution was impossible.

Morrison presented a memorial and protest, signed by citizens of the district, against the admission of Buttz, and moved the reference of the question to the elections committee—adopted 142 to 89.

Hewitt then asked unanimous consent to offer his resolution for three select committees. Objections being made, Hewitt moved to adopt the resolution under a suspension of the rules.

The Speaker overruled the technical objections which were made, that the morning hour had expired.

Kasson appealed from the decision. The appeal was put in writing. It claimed that the decision was a violation of the rules of the House, and argued in support of his resolution.

The House, by a vote of 144 to 73, voted to table Kasson's appeal.

Hewitt's motion to suspend the rules and adopt his resolution being in order, Kasson suggested that it be modified to apply only to Federal officers.

Hewitt, Cox, Blackburn and other democrats objected, and Hewitt's motion was adopted, 156 to 78. The announcement was loudly applauded by the democrats. Bagley, of New York, Pierce and Seelye voted with the democrats.

A committee, to join the Senate committee and notify the Senate that Congress was prepared to receive any communication, was ordered, and Hood, Clymer and Hoar were appointed.

The Speaker appointed, as the South Carolina committee, Sayler, Abbott, Stenger, Jones, of Ky., Phillips, of Mo., Banks, Hale and Laurence. Hoar having announced that Hale could not serve, the Speaker appointed Willard, of Michigan, who asked to be excused, and Lapham, of New York, was appointed.

The House at 7.30 adjourned. WASHINGTON, 5.—Immediately after the reading of the journal Plasted, arising to a privileged question, asserted that on the vote yesterday evening on Hewitt's resolution for three select committees for Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, he had distinctly voted in the negative and had subsequently heard his name so read by the clerk, but he now found he was not so recorded in the journal, inasmuch as a correction of his vote would have defeated the resolution any change of the journal which would affect the report was opposed by Holman and other democrats.

On the report of the clerk it was granted by the Speaker that the journal was correct, and that Plasted's vote had not been heard. The upshot of the matter is that Plasted's vote was changed, also the vote of Fuller, who claims that his vote had been misunderstood by the clerk. This left the vote as previously recorded, and the Speaker, to avoid all misunderstanding, exercised what he claimed to be his constitutional right, to vote, and voted, so the resolution stands to appoint committees of investigation for South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana.

AMERICAN.

CHICAGO, 4.—The *Inter-Ocean's* Columbia special says when the democratic house withdrew, Speaker Mackey, amid breathless silence, read resolutions rehearsing the events of the last four days, and calling on the Governor to take measures to protect the House against the threatened unlawful intrusion, intimidation and violence from the democrats, who had intruded themselves unwarrantably in the hall. The resolution was carried and the house, exclusively republicans, went into secret session. The senate adjourned without meeting with the house.

OMAHA, 4.—Counsel for the republican electors, to-day, asked Judge Savage to put the case, whereon the democratic electors petition for an injunction to prevent the former from casting the votes, over till to-morrow morning, but the Judge decided that he would hold a night session. Counsel then put in a demurrer, and are arguing against it to-night, quoting authorities to show that the petition is not perfect, and also that the court has no jurisdiction in the matter. Should the Judge overrule the de-

murrer the case will be tried on its merits to-morrow. It seems to be the general belief that the republican electors will meet and cast their vote without regard to the decision of the case. Energetic efforts continue to be made by the republicans to get a quorum at the extra session of the legislature at Lincoln to-morrow. The democrats are wielding all their powers to prevent a quorum.

NEW YORK, 4.—About one thousand people witnessed the unveiling of the printers' bust of Horace Greeley, at Greenwood Cemetery this afternoon. Speeches were made

by several distinguished persons.

WASHINGTON, 4.
Two batteries of the First Artillery arrived to-night, and are quartered at the arsenal.

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