

NAVY.—Messrs. Bean, Brooks, Brown, Bryant of Halifax, Bryan of Jones, Bryson, Bun, Carson, Collins, Copeland, Darden, Dudley, Duckworth, Ellison, Faulkner, Fisher, Fletcher, Gumbel, Garrison, Goodwin, Gullick, Grayson, Guyther, Hampton, Harris of Guilford, Harris of Franklin, Hargrove, Hardy, Heaton, Houston, Johnson of Edgecombe, Jones of Northampton, Joyner of Johnston, Justice, Kelsey, Kincaid, Loftin, Lyon, Mabson, Magler, Morcaid, Lottin, Lyman, Morgan of Wake, Mitchell, Newsome, Paze, Reavis, Robbins, Smith, of Halifax, Tucker of Craven, Willis, Mitchell, Williamson and York.—58.

The resolution in reference to Hon. Z. B. Vance was then taken up, and on motion of Mr. Luckey, was laid on the table, yeas 71, nays 11.

The special order having been disposed of, the question recurred on the reading of the petition.

Mr. Robinson moved that the House reject the same.

Mr. Strudwick said that he had intended to say nothing more as to this matter, but when he saw gentlemen on this floor disposed to spread this infamous calumny on the records to go down to posterity unexplained and uncontradicted, he felt a just indignation at such a course, and must say something.

He had a duty to perform to his people; a duty to himself. As he said before he had intended leaving this matter to the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat strange that all these infamous resolutions passed simultaneously, in seven or eight counties should be identical in their language.

But, sir, that is already explained. They were all written here in Raleigh by one and the same person, one and the same dastard and fiendish brain forged them all. They, sir, are lies, dark damnable and wicked as were ever forged in the brain of one of the devils in hell.

He defied all such men and their calumnies. He asked them to meet him before any tribunal or committee. He cared not how constituted. They may be all Radicals and all one spark of honesty or manliness is left them, and if he did not satisfy any man whose heart is not entirely crowded with prejudice of his entire innocence, and of the cowardly falsehood of all such resolutions, then expel him. He demanded investigations before the proper tribunals of the country.

Let the broad sun light of Heaven pour its scorching rays on every act of his life, and you would find not one, the recollection of which, would call the slightest blush to the cheek of an honest man. He had said more than he first intended, but if he had said less, he would have failed in his duty to himself and his constituents. He was aware that he had used extraordinary language, but this was no ordinary occasion, but most extraordinary. That he named members of this body are not associated with the most infamous crimes, on the authority of persons who do not profess to know anything and mean to do otherwise than stab in the dark.

Mr. Ashe said that he having early in the debate given his reasons why the petition should be rejected, he now desired to say a word about the petition itself. It contains a grave criminal charge against a member of this House. It purports to come from the citizens of New Hanover County. The truth, he had heard, it is an emanation from Raleigh, prepared here and sent by the would-be masters of the Republican Party to certain persons at Wilmington for adoption, in accordance with orders from Raleigh, it was adopted. It recites no grievance oppressing the people of New Hanover. It was not adopted in the mass meetings—by our citizens. It may have passed at a meeting held by Radical partisans for party purposes. The good people of New Hanover, whose good opinion is worth seeking for, know nothing of it, and in their name we repudiate the petition entirely. The position of the gentleman from Orange, who made criminal charges, not this Hall. Let such charges be investigated there according to the Constitution and Laws of the State and of the United States. We have no authority to put any person to answer a criminal charge.

Mr. Dudley, (colored), a bill to authorize the Commissioners of Craven county to levy and collect a special tax to build a bridge across Treat River. Referred.

Mr. Bean, bill to amend section 3, chap. 17 of the Revised Code. Referred.

Mr. McCauley, a bill in relation to bringing suits against railroads. Referred.

Mr. Marler, a bill to amend the Constitution by legislative enactment. Referred.

Mr. Willis (col.), a bill to incorporate the Newbern Educational Association. Referred.

Mr. Lucky asked to be relieved from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances. Granted.

Mr. Justice, a bill to amend the House rules. Calendar.

The bill to authorize the County Commissioners of Perquimans to issue bonds for funding and paying off the county debt, was taken up, (Mr. Darden explained the object of the bill), and passed its second reading.

House bill to amend an act to incorporate a Canal Company in Cumberland county, was taken up, and passed its second reading, and, under suspension of the rules, the bill passed its third and final reading.

On motion of Mr. Dudley (col.), the House adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

CALENDAR.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24, 1871.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, supported the passage of the bill. People of the West are bankrupt because this Commission have received money and not paid it to the contractors.

Mr. Love hoped the bill would not be postponed. It should be passed at once. Mr. Woodfin may reach Buncombe in ten days; he may not reach there until Spring.

Mr. Worth said that he had some knowledge of the character of N. W. Woodfin. It would be casting the imputation upon Mr. Woodfin, that he was set to catch rogues, and has got to stealing to himself. He promises to furnish us with the exact information asked for in Mr. Merrimon's bill as soon as he gets home. I cannot vote for the passage of the bill to-day.

Mr. Gilmer said that he would hate to be put in a condition of treating Mr. Woodfin hastily. He had some knowledge of Mr. Woodfin's character. He was an intimate friend of my father. I cannot vote for this bill to-day. I am in favor of such a bill, but I do not think we should pass this bill, when Mr. Woodfin promises to make a report such as demanded by Mr. Merrimon's bill.

Mr. Merrimon said that bill was not intended as casting any imputations against the honesty and integrity of the Commission. Only two reports have been made to the Governor; in which an itemized account of the receipts, disbursements, and expenses of the Commission has not been made. The Western people are in favor of abolishing the Commission. I don't want the Commission abolished. If they can do any good, I want them to do it.

Mr. Morehead would vote for the bill, because the Commission have failed to meet the requirements of the law under which they were appointed. I disclaim any intention of casting any imputation on any member of the Commission.

Mr. Flemming said that the Commissioners had received \$76,000 from G. W. Swepson;—\$53,000 from S. W. Hopkins & Co.;—making \$129,000. All of which has been paid to contractors. \$58,000 has been received from G. W. Swepson, none of which has been paid to contractors. I hope this bill will not be put on its second reading to-day. Let us give the Commissioners a few days to make the report called for by Mr. Merrimon's bill.

Mr. Robbins, of Rowan, was in favor of postponing the bill.

Mr. Merrimon demanded the yeas and nays, which were granted.

The roll was called, and the motion to postpone was lost by the following vote:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Beasley, Brown, Council, Covles, Currie, Eppes, Fleming, Flythe, Gilmer, Hawkins, King, Lehman, Moore, Murphy, Norment, Price, Robbins of Davidson, Robbins of Rowan, Skinner, Speed, Waddell, Warren, Whiteside, Worth.—44.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24, 1871.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Guyther presented a petition from the citizens of Washington county in reference to the Ku Klux Klan. [Substance same as one from New Hanover, presented by Mr. Mabson, on yesterday.—REP.]

Messrs. Withers, Martin, Dunham, Waring, Jones, of Caldwell, Womack, and others, spoke in favor of the rejection of the petition.

Messrs. Guyther, Justice, Grayson, Harris, of Guilford, and Welch, and others, advocated the reception of the petition.

The yeas and nays being demanded, the petition was rejected by the following vote: Yeas, 32—nays, 49.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. McNeill, for an indefinite period.—(Death of father.)

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Johnston, of Buncombe, introduced a resolution in favor of Jas. M. Young, Sheriff of Buncombe. Referred.

Mr. Guyther, a bill to incorporate the Trustees of University Institute of Rocky Mount. Referred.

Mr. Johnston, of Edgecombe, a bill to amend an act to change the county line of Edgecombe and Nash. Calendar.

Mr. Willis, a bill to incorporate St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1, Council of Friends, of Newbern. Referred.

Mr. Ashe, a bill concerning the public debt of North Carolina. Referred.

Mr. Tucker, of Iredell, a bill to revise the public statutory laws of North Carolina. Referred.

Mr. Smith, of Anson, a bill to prevent the sale of spirituous liquors within two miles of Shiloh Church, Anson county. Referred.

Mr. Johnston, of Buncombe, a bill to repeal chapter 29, of the laws of 1871.—Referred.

On motion of Mr. Drake, the rules were suspended and the bill to change the county lines of Edgecombe and Nash, was taken from the Calendar, and referred to the Committee on Counties and Towns.

Mr. Mills asked a suspension of the rules to take up a resolution to enquire into the origin of the petition from New Hanover. The rules were suspended, when

Mr. Marler moved that the resolution be postponed and made special order for Tuesday next, at 11 o'clock. He stated that he was not opposed to the resolution, but did not wish so much haste. The motion to postpone was lost.

On motion of Mr. Johnston, of Buncombe, the resolution was made special order for to-morrow, (Saturday) at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Ashe (by permission) introduced a resolution concerning certain monies received by the Public Treasurer, for the year 1871. Referred.

Mr. Johnston, of Buncombe, was excused from service on the Judiciary Committee.

CALENDAR.

A bill to authorize the Commissioners of Perquimans county to issue bonds (\$5,000) for the purpose of funding and paying off the county debt, was taken up and passed its first reading.

On motion of Mr. Loftin, the House adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Dudley, (colored), a bill to authorize the Commissioners of Craven county to levy and collect a special tax to build a bridge across Treat River. Referred.

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