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considered a recognition on their part of the territorial government established by Congress. A better spirit, however, seemed soon after to prevail, and the two parties met face to face at the third election, held on the first Monday of January, 1858, for members of the legislature and State officers under the Lecompton constitution. The result was the triumph of the anti-slavery party at the polls. This decision of the ballot-box proved clearly that this party were in the majority, and removed the danger of civil war. From that time we have heard little or nothing of the Topeka government; and all serious danger of revolutionary troubles in Kansas was then at an end.

The Lecompton constitution, which had been thus recognized at this State election by the votes of both political parties in Kansas, was transmitted to me with the request that I should present it to Congress. This I could not have refused to do without violating my clearest and strongest convictions of duty. The constitution, and all the proceedings which preceded and followed its formation, were fair and regular on their face. I then believed, and experience has proved, that the interests of the people of Kansas would have been best consulted by its admission as a State into the Union, especially as the majority, within a brief period, could have amended the constitution according to their will and pleasure. If fraud existed in all or any of these proceedings, it was not for the President, but for Congress, to investigate and determine the question of fraud, and what ought to be its consequences. If, at the two first elections, the majority refused to vote, it cannot be pretended that this refusal to exercise the elective franchise could invalidate an election fairly held under lawful authority, even if they had not subsequently voted at the third election. It is true that the whole constitution had not been submitted to the people, as I always desired; but the precedents are numerous of the admission of States into the Union without such submission.

It would not comport with my present purpose to review the proceedings of Congress upon the Lecompton constitution. It is sufficient to observe that their final action has removed the last vestige of serious revolutionary troubles.—The desperate band recently assembled, under a notorious outlaw, in the southern portion of the Territory, to resist the execution of the laws and to plunder peaceful citizens, will, I doubt not, be speedily subdued and brought to justice.

Had I treated the Lecompton constitution as a nullity and refused to transmit it to Congress, it is not difficult to imagine, whilst recalling the position of the country at that moment, what would have been the disastrous consequences, both in and out of the Territory, from such a dereliction of duty on the part of the Executive.

Peace has also been restored within the territory of Utah, which, at the commencement of my administration, was in a state of open rebellion. This was the more dangerous, as the people, animated by a fanatical spirit and entrenched within their distant mountain fastnesses, might have made a long and formidable resistance. Cost what it might, it was necessary to bring them into subjection to the constitution and the laws.—Sound policy, therefore, as well as humanity, required that this object should, if possible, be accomplished without the effusion of blood. This could only be effected by sending a military force into the territory sufficiently strong to convince the people that resistance would be hopeless, and at the same time to offer them a pardon for past offences on condition of immediate submission to the government. This policy was pursued with eminent success; and the only cause for regret is the heavy expenditure required to march a large detachment of the army to that remote region and to furnish it subsistence. Utah is now comparatively peaceful and quiet, and the military force has been withdrawn, except that portion of it necessary to keep the Indians in check and to protect the emigrant trains on their way to our Pacific possessions.

FINANCES.

In my first annual message I promised to employ my best exertions, in co-operation with Congress, to reduce the expenditures of the Government within the limits of a wise and judicious economy. An overflowing treasury had produced habits of prodigality and extravagance which could only be gradually corrected. The work required both time and patience. I applied myself diligently to this task from the beginning, and was aided by the able and energetic efforts of the Heads of the different Executive Departments. The result of our labors in this good cause did not appear in the sum total of our expenditures for the first two years, mainly in consequence of the extraordinary expenditure necessarily incurred in the Utah expedition, and the very large amount of the contingent expenses of Congress during this period. These greatly exceeded the pay and mileage of the members. For the year ending 30th June, 1858, whilst the pay and mileage amounted to $1,469,214, the contingent expenses rose to $2,093,309 79, and, for the year ending 30th June, 1859, whilst the pay and mileage amounted to $859,092 68, the contingent expenses amounted to $1,431,565 78. I am happy, however, to be able to inform you that during the last fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1860, the total expenditures of the Government in all its branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—exclusive of the public debt, were reduced to the sum of $55,402,465 46. This conclusively appears from the books of the Treasury. In the year ending on the 30th June, 1858, the total expenditure, exclusive of the public debt, amounted to $71,901,139 77, and that for the year ending 30th June, 1859, to $66,346,226 13. Whilst the books of the Treasury show an actual expenditure of $59,848,474 72 for the year ending on the 30th June, 1860, including $1,040,687 71 for the contingent expenses of Congress, there must be deducted from this amount the sum of $4,296,009 27, with the interest upon it of $146,000, appropriated by the act of 15th February, 1860, "for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the revenues and defraying the expenses of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine." This sum, therefore, justly chargeable to the year 1859, must be deducted from the sum of $59,848,474 72, in order to ascertain the expenditure for the year ending on the 30th June, 1860, which leaves a balance for the expenditures of that year of 55,402,465 46. The interest on the public debt, including Treasury notes for the same fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1860, amounted to $3,177,314 62, which, added to the above sum of 55,402,465 46, makes the aggregate of $58,579,780 08.

It ought in justice to be observed that several of the estimates from the departments for the year ending 30th June, 1860, were reduced by Congress below what was and still is deemed compatible with the public interest. Allowing a liberal margin of 2,500,000 for this reduction, and for other causes it may be safely asserted that the sum of $61,000,000, or at the most $62,000,000, is amply sufficient to administer the Government and to pay the interest on the public debt, unless contingent events should hereafter render extraordinary expenditures necessary.

This result has been attained in a considerable degree by the care exercised by the appropriate departments in entering into public contracts. I have myself never interfered with the award of any such contract except in a single case with the Colonization Society, deeming it advisible to cast the whole responsibility in each case on the proper head of the department, with the general instruction that these contracts should always be given to the lowest and best bidder. It has ever been my opinion that public contracts are not a legitimate source of patronage to be conferred upon personal or political favorites; but that in all such cases a public officer is bound to act for the Government as a prudent individual would act for himself.

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE, &C.

It is with great satisfaction I communicate the fact, that, since the date of my last Annual Message, not a single slave has been imported into the United States in violation of the laws prohibiting the African slave trade. This statement is founded upon a thorough examination and investigation of the subject. Indeed, the spirit which prevailed some time since among a portion of our fellow-citizens in favor of this trade seems to have entirely subsided.

I also congratulate you upon the public sentiment which now exists against the crime of setting on foot military expeditions within the limits of the United States to proceed from thence and make war upon the people of unoffending States, with whom we are at peace. In this respect a happy change has been effected since the commencement of my Administration. It surely ought to be the prayer of every Christian and patriot, that such expeditions may never again receive countenance in our country or depart from our shores.

It would be a useless repetition to do more than refer, with earnest commendation, to my former recommendations in favor of the Pacific railroad—of the grant of power to the President to employ the naval force in the vicinity, for the protection of the lives and property of our fellow-citizens passing in transit over the different Central American routes, against sudden and lawless outbreaks and depredations; and also to protect American merchant vessels, their crews and cargoes, against violent and unlawful seizure and confiscation in the ports of Mexico and the South American republics, when there may be in a disturbed and revolutionary condition. It is my settled conviction, that without such a power we do not afford that protection to those engaged in the commerce of the country which they have a right to demand.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

I again recommend to Congress the passage of a law in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution, appointing a day certain, previous to the 4th of March, in each year of an odd number, for the election of representatives throughout all the States.—A similar power has already been exercised, with general approbation, in the appointment of the same day throughout the Union for holding the election of electors for President and Vice President of the United States. My attention was earnestly directed to this subject from the fact, that the 36th Congress terminated on the 3rd of March, 1859, without making the necessary appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department. I was then forced to consider the best remedy for this omission, and an immediate call of the present Congress was the natural resort. Upon enquiry, however, I ascertained that fifteen out of the 33 States composing the Confederacy were without representatives, and that, consequently, these fifteen States would be disfranchised by such a call. These fifteen States will be in the same condition on the 4th March next. Ten of them cannot elect representatives, according to existing State laws, until different periods, extending from the beginning of August next until the months of October and November.

In my last message I gave warning that, in a time of sudden and alarming danger, the salvation of our institutions might depend upon the power of the President immediately to assemble a full Congress, to meet the emergency.

TARIFF.

It is now quite evident that the financial necessities of the Government will require a modification of the tariff during your present session, for the purpose of increasing the revenue. In this aspect, I desire to reiterate the recommendation contained in my last two annual messages, in favor of imposing specific instead of *ad valorem* duties on all imported articles to which these can be properly applied. From long observation and experience I am convinced that specific duties are necessary, both to protect the revenue and to secure to our manufacturing interests that amount of incidental encouragement which unavoidably results from a revenue tariff.

As an abstract proposition it may be admitted that *ad valorem* duties would, in theory, be the most just and equal. But if the experience of this and all other commercial nations has demonstrated that such duties cannot be assessed and collected without great frauds upon the revenue, then it is the part of wisdom to resort to specific duties. Indeed, from the very nature of an *ad valorem* duty, this must be the result. Under it the inevitable consequence is, that foreign goods will be entered at less than their true value. The treasury will, therefore, lose the duty on the difference between their real and fictitious value, and to this extent we are defrauded.

The temptations which *ad valorem* duties present to a dishonest importer are irresistible. His object is to pass his goods through the custom-house at the very lowest valuation necessary to save them from confiscation. In this he too often succeeds in spite of the vigilance of the revenue officers. Hence the resort to false invoices, one for the purchaser and another for the custom-house, and to other expedients to defraud the Government. The honest importer produces his invoice to the collector, stating the actual price at which he purchased the articles abroad. Not so the dishonest importer and the agent of the foreign manufacturer. And here it may be observed that a very large proportion of the manufactures imported from abroad are consigned for sale to commission merchants who are mere agents employed by the manufacturers. In such cases no actual sale has been made to fix their value. The foreign manufacturer, if he be dishonest, prepares an invoice of the goods, not at their actual value, but at the very lowest rate necessary to escape detection. In this manner the dishonest importer and the foreign manufacturer enjoy a decided advantage over the honest merchant. They are thus enabled to undersell the fair trader, and drive him from the market. In fact, the operation of this system has already driven from the pursuits of honorable commerce many of that class of regular and conscientious merchants, whose character, throughout the world, is the pride of our country.

The remedy for these evils is to be found in specific duties, so far as this may be practicable. They dispense with any inquiry at the custom-house into the actual cost or value of the article, and it pays the precise amount of duty previously fixed by law. They present no temptations to the appraisers of foreign goods, who receive but small salaries, and might, by undervalue on in a few cases, render themselves independant.

Besides, specific duties best conform to the requisition in the Constitution that "no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another." Under our *ad valorem* system such preferences are to some extent inevitable, and complaints have often been made that the spirit of this provision has been violated by a lower appraisement of the same articles at one port than at another.

An impression strangely enough prevails to some extent that specific duties are necessarily protective duties. Nothing can be more fallacious. Great Britain glories in free trade, and yet her whole revenue from imports is at the present moment collected under a system of specific duties. It is a striking fact in this connection that, in the commercial treaty of 23d January, 1860, between France and England, one of the articles provides that the *ad valorem* duties which it imposes shall be converted into specific duties within six months from its date, and these are to be ascertained by making an average of the prices for six months previous to that time. The reverse of the proposition would be nearer to the truth, because a much larger amount of revenue would be collected by merely converting the *ad valorem* duties of a tariff into equivalent specific duties. To this extent the revenue would be increased, and in the same proportion the specific duty might be diminished.

Specific duties would secure to the American manufacturer the incidental protection to which he is fairly entitled under a revenue tariff, and to this surely no person would object. The framers of the existing tariff have gone farther, and in a liberal spirit have discriminated in favor of large and useful branches of our manufactures, not by raising the rate of duty upon the importation of similar articles from abroad, but what is the same in effect, by admitting articles free of duty which enter into the composition of their fabrics.

Under the present system it has been often truly remarked that this incidental protection decreases when the manufacturer needs it most, and increases when he needs it least, and constitutes a sliding scale which always operates against him. The revenues of the country are subject to similar fluctuation. Instead of approaching a steady standard, as would be the case under a system of specific duties, they sink and rise with the sinking and rising prices of articles in foreign countries. It would not be difficult for Congress to arrange a system of specific duties which would afford additional stability both to our revenue and our manufactures, and without injury or injustice to any interest of the country. This might be accomplished by ascertaining the average value of any given article for a series of years at the place of exportation, and by simply converting the rate of *ad valorem* duty upon it which might be deemed necessary for revenue purposes, into the form of a specific duty.—Such an arrangement could not injure the consumer. If he should pay a greater amount of duty one year, this would be counterbalanced by a lesser amount the next, and in the end the aggregate would be the same.

I desire to call your immediate attention to the present condition of the Treasury, so ably and clearly presented by the Secretary in his report to Congress; and to recommend, that measures be promptly adopted, to enable it to discharge its pressing obligations. The other recommendations of the report are well worthy of your favorable consideration.

I herewith transmit to Congress the reports of the Secretaries of War, of the Navy, of the Interior and of the Postmaster General. The recommendations and suggestions which they contain are highly valuable and deserve your careful attention.

The report of the Postmaster General details the circumstances under which Cornelius Vanderbilt, on my request, agreed, in the month of July last, to carry the ocean mails between our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Had he not thus acted, this important intercommunication must have been suspended, at least for a season. The Postmaster General had no power to make him any other compensation than the postages on the mail matter which he might carry. It was known, at the time, that these postages would fall far short of an adequate compensation, as well as of the sum which the same service had previously cost the Government. Mr. Vanderbilt, in a commendable spirit, was willing to rely upon the justice of Congress to make up the deficiency; and I, therefore, recommend that an appropriation may be granted for this purpose.

I should do great injustice to the Attorney General, were I to omit the mention of his distinguished services in the measures adopted and prosecuted by him for the defence of the Government against numerous and unfounded claims to land in California, purporting to have been made by the Mexican government previous to the treaty of cession. The successful opposition to these claims has saved to the United States public property worth many millions of dollars, and to individuals holding title under them to at least an equal amount.

It has been represented to me, from sources which I deem reliable, that the inhabitants in several portions of Kansas have been reduced nearly to a state of starvation on account of the almost total failure of their [illegible] last the harvests in every other portion of [illegible] have been abundant. The prospect [illegible] the approaching winter is well calcu- [illegible] the sympathies of every heart. The [illegible] rs to be so general that it cannot be re[illegible] private contributions, and they are in such [illegible] circumstances as to be unable to purchase the necessaries of life for themselves. I refer the subject to Congress. If any constitutional measure for their relief can be devised I would recommend its adoption.

I cordially commend to your favorable regard the interests of the people of this District. They are eminently entitled to your consideration, especially since, unlike the people of the States, they can appeal to no Government except that of the Union.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, 3d December, 1860.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 2, 1860.

The Senate was called to order by the Speaker at 11 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Atkinson.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

Mr. Erwin introduced a bill to incorporate the Buncombe Riflemen. Passed its first reading and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Shaw, a bill to amend the charter of the Fayetteville & Western, Fayetteville & Albemarle and Fayetteville & Northern Plank Road Companies. Passed its first reading and referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

The Speaker announced Messrs. Whitaker, Winstead and Grist as the Committee on Enrolled Bills for the present week.

Mr. Bledsoe introduced a resolution requesting the Committee on Federal Relations to report at the earliest possible moment. Adopted.

A message was received from the House of Commons transmitting an enrolled bill, incorporating the Gardner Valley Mining Company.

Mr. Pitchford submitted a series of secession resolutions passed at a public meeting in the county of Warren. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

[It is due to Mr. Pitchford to state that he expressed himself in favor of exhausting all honorable means for the preservation of a Constitutional Union before resorting to desperate measures.]

Mr. Thomas of Jackson moved that the resolutions be printed.

Mr. Bledsoe objected to the motion to print, unless all memorials of like character were also printed.

Mr. Thomas withdrew his motion.

The bill introduced by Mr. Bledsoe on Saturday last to amend chapter 101 of the Revised Code, was read the second time, and, on motion of Mr. Dobson, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A message was received from the Governor transmitting to the Senate the report of the Engineer of the French Broad Railroad, which, on motion of Mr. Outlaw, was sent to the House of Commons.

Mr. Turner introduced a bill to incorporate the Orange Light Infantry. Read and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

On motion of Mr. Sharpe, the Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, Dec. 3, 1860.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Atkinson.

The Journal was read and amended.

The Committee on Enrolled Bills for the week was announced as follows: Messrs. Mebane, Pope, Greene of Chatham, Pearson and Kelly.

On motion of Mr. Hill, the memorial from Hon. R. M. Saunders and other Judges of Superior Courts, presented on Saturday last, was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Gorrell introduced a resolution to rescind the order to print 30 copies of the Governor's Message for each member and 100 for the Executive.

Mr. Gorrell said that the Legislature had been in session two weeks, and that these copies had not been brought in. That the papers of the State had published the message, and in this way the people had had an opportunity of reading it.—That the only use members could make of it was to distribute it, and the delay in getting it printed for their use had done away with any necessity for it for any such purpose; and as he thought the business of the Legislature should be transacted upon the principles of economy, he hoped the resolution would pass.

Mr. Hill was under the impression that the proposition to print come from the Senate, and was delayed by laying on the table in this house before being acted on. He had been informed that the printing was already done, and was ready to be stitched in pamphlet form for the use of members; if so, we would have it to pay for, and we had as well have them in that case. He, therefore, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Gorrell called for the ayes and noes.

The motion to lay on the table was then carried by ayes 50, noes 32.

When the name of Mr. Yeates was called, he asked leave to state that he considered there was a legal contract between the printer and both houses, and, as he understood from the gentleman from Caswell that the message was already printed, he would be compelled to vote aye.

Mr. Hoke introduced a resolution designating the room occupied by the reporter for the Supreme Court for the use of the Engrossing Clerks.

Mr. Merrimon suggested that, in a few days, the reporter would require his room in the discharge of his duties. The resolution was then amended, designating the room at present occupied by the keeper of the Capitol, and passed.

Mr. Wilkerson introduced a resolution directing the Public Printer to fix up and deliver such copies of the Governor's Message as he had printed, and to print no more; and another resolution directing a reservation of 50 copies for the use of the Executive office, and dividing the remainder equally amongst the members of the Legislature.

Mr. Merrimon thought that there had been too much delay in this matter. The rules of order governing this House was not yet upon the desks of members, and the Legislature had been in session two weeks. There was a number of new members here, himself among them, that were not familiar with the rules, and it was important that they should be in the hands of all. If the Printer elected did not have sufficient force to do the printing with proper despatch, it was his duty to procure more.

Mr. Person here raised a point of order.

Mr. Person said he wanted justice done; that the order to print was made on Monday last—but one week had elapsed. He would like to be informed how long a time it usually required to have the message printed.

Mr. Wright thought that the message should be printed in a good form for future reference.—He would not give a button for a newspaper copy of it. There was many an old farmer that would like to have it in such form as he could read and refer to it at leisure.

Mr. Wilkerson said that he understood it was usual to have the message printed within two or three days after being sent in; and it was now distributed throughout the country in the papers.

Mr. Yeates said that when the motion was before the House to lay the resolution of the gentleman from Guilford on the table, he voted yea for the reasons then stated; but the resolution of the gentleman from Person proposes to receive the number of copies of the message that are now printed, and to forbid the printing of any more. That proposition was a fair one, and as the object in printing had been defeated by the delay, viz: sending the message abroad to the people, he thought that the resolution of the gentleman from Person ought to prevail on the score of economy, if for nothing else. The gentleman from Cumberland had said, that if you would strike out that portion of the message in relation to Federal Affairs, which seemed to give dissatisfaction, that the other parts of the message was very valuable, and would do to be placed in the houses of our farmers. But, said Mr. Yeates, it is true that a portion of the message, relating to our Federal relations is objectionable, but there were other portions also objectionable to him, which would serve as an electioneering document against the rights of the people as embodied in the principles of equal taxation, principles that he discussed before his constituents, and received their approval in his election. There was no contract with the Printer until the work was done, and he hoped the resolution would prevail.

Mr. Flemming said, that so far as the cost of printing was concerned, the printing was completed, and would have to be paid for. That the usual courtesy had not been extended to the Public Printer by the press of this city. He moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Henry called for the ayes and noes, which resulted as follows: Ayes 47, noes 37. The motion did not prevail.

Mr. Martin offered a resolution as an amendment, directing the Public Printer to give a portion of the printing to some other office, if not in his power to print in time for the use of the Legislature.

Mr. Merrimon, a resolution as amendment to the amendment, to appoint a committee of five to superintend the Public Printing ordered by the House.

Mr. Merrimon said that the Legislature heretofore had deemed the printing of the State of sufficient importance to require the creation of the office of State Printer, and one object had in view was to have all such important matters as come before this body in such shape as to be convenient for use and reference without causing great and unnecessary delay. It is, therefore, but reasonable that the Public or State Printer be required to execute the work sent to him within a reasonable time. Now, he did not hesitate to say that reasonable diligence had not been exercised by the State Printer in furnishing this House with the Governor's Message ordered and with the Rules of Order of this House and the Joint Rules of this House and the Senate. Two weeks had already elapsed, and the work ought to have been executed in three or four days. It had been said, by way of apology for the State Printer, that the usual courtesies of the press and printers had not been extended to him by the printers of this city. This body could not help this; and, besides, it is not the duty of this House to look after this matter. When the Printer was elected and he accepted the office, he agreed to execute the work in good order and expeditiously, and this he had failed to do. If he has not the means and appliances to execute the work, then he ought to be removed and some one appointed that could command the same. For one, he needed the Rules of Order. He was a new member of this body, and it is difficult to understand the rules of business unless they are made known. He was not familiar with the old rules, the rules of the last session, and it was difficult to find a copy of them.

The Committee was necessary to see to the printing, and if the present State Printer cannot do the work, then the proposed Committee can report this fact to the House, and proper action could be taken.

He could now begin to see how and why the Legislature of this State had to sit three months. The printing is greatly delayed, and this delays the action of the Committees, and thus the action of the Legislature is retarded. If the Committees could report, then this body might sit more than two hours each day, and, if the printing were done, the Committees could act in very many cases with more promptness.

Mr. Person here interrupted, to inquire if the gentleman undertook to say that these rules had been two weeks in the hands of the printer.

Mr. Merrimon replied that he did not; but he thought one week was sufficient.

Mr. Merrimon continued: The gentleman from New Hanover, Mr. Person, called him to order. He could not tell whether himself or the gentleman was correct in reference to the point of order. How could he know, when the rules had not yet been made known to members? This interruption showed the necessity for the very proposition contended for by him.

Mr. Person called for the reading of the resolution ordering the printing of the joint rules, &c. The Clerk was unable to put his hands on it, and the reading was dispensed with.

Mr. Person said, if his recollection was correct, the resolution required the Constitution of the U. States, the State Constitution, the Rules of Order governing both houses, and standing committees, &c., to be printed in pamphlet form. He thought it too much to be done in so short a time, taken in connection with the other printing ordered.—The gentleman thought that the business of the House had been delayed for the want of these rules, &c. He was of the opinion that the gentleman would find that the business was delayed quite as much by speeches made for buncombe.

Mr. Fleming moved to lay the resolution and amendments on the table—which motion was lost by nays 49, yeas 46.

The question now recurred upon the amendment offered by Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin accepted the amendment.

Mr. Hoke inquired the effect of the resolution.

Mr. Merrimon explained the object contemplated by the resolution.

Mr. Hoke objected. He understood the gentleman to say that the Committee should direct what should be printed.

Mr. Merrimon again explained, the gentlemen had misunderstood him.

Mr. Hoke was opposed to taking the power from the House, and giving it to the Committee to control the printing for the House.

Mr. Mebane said the resolution was plain enough; it merely apointed a Committee to superintend the printing.

Mr. Fagg said that he was in hopes when he came here, that there would be no party spirit exhibited, and that all would go to work for the benefit of the State, but it seems it is not to be so; gentlemen seem disposed to draw party lines, upon this subject. He would therefore say to the democratic party, "To thy tents, Oh! Israel," and meet this question at once.

Mr. Merrimon said that he had no desire to array parties in this House against each other. Nothing in the resolution indicates such a disposition. Indeed it was nonsense to talk about parties now at this critical juncture of affairs.—Parties are broken up and we all ought to look to the public good. It had been said that he was a partisan, that his action on this floor showed this. This he denied. The Journal showed that he had frequently voted with those styling themselves Democrats, while those sitting around him thought him too generous in his votes. As much could not be said for the gentleman from Madison. He is a new convert to Democracy, and he votes as the Journal will show, invariably with his party. Such a charge comes with a bad grace from one who knows nothing but his party. He deprecated party spirit, and especially now.

It is said by the gentleman from New Hanover, (Mr. Person,) that he could explain how the labors of this body are greatly delayed. That too many "speeches for Buncombe" are made. He concurred in this sentiment, but he ventured to say, that there are more speeches made for Buncombe, than by Buncombe. We have just had an example of this. It was well known that he always favored the dispatch of business, and that he regretted unnecessary delay. The gentleman is welcome to all he takes by this motion.

Mr. Crumpler said he did not wish to engage in in this discussion, but he was unwilling for it to go out that his party was offering factious opposition to any measure, and thereby retarding the business of this House. The Journal would show to the contrary. So far from having done so, the party with which he had the pleasure to act, had in a number of instances, allowed the nominations for officers, &c., made by the other side to be elected without making a nomination against them, and had done more, they had in several instances given their nominees a complimentary vote, instead of complimenting some gentleman of their own party.

The resolution now before the house, upon which the appeal has been made by the gentleman from Madison to the democratic party to rally and vote down, was introduced by a democrat, the gentleman from Person. Does the gentleman suppose that we are so dull that we do not know it is our policy to conciliate and that in proportion as party lines are drawn, we must lose. He did not, as he said in the outset, wish to discuss this matter; he arose merely to repel the charge of factious opposition. He hoped that the members on the opposite side would vote for the resolution, and not allow this blast from the trumpet to control their action.

Mr. Waters was for tabling all of them, but wished to say that he was willing to have a committee on the subject.

Mr. Fagg said he knew something about Legislative manœuvering, and that he could tell which way the wind was blowing when he saw the motion of the straws.

Here Mr. Bridgers raised a point of order, and stated it, but the reporter was unable to hear it with sufficient distinctness to undertake to report it. The Speaker, however, decided it to be more a point of Law than one of order.

Mr. Bridgers then said he would submit the question how this House could raise a committee to investigate a matter that was directed by both Houses.

The question was then taken on the motion to lay on the table, and negatived, noes 49, ayes 48.

Mr. Person offered as an amendment, a resolution to send a message to the Senate, with a proposition to raise a joint committee of 6, three on the part of each House to superintend the printing.

Mr. Davis, of Rutherford, moved a division of the question. The question was then put upon the motion to strike out, and was carried by yeas 51, nays 39.

Mr Martin proposed, the resolution originally offered by him, as an amendment.

Mr Davis, of Mecklenburg, offered a resolution as an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Martin, appointing a committee to enquire into the ability of the public printer to do the printing.

Mr. Person raised a point of order, which the chair decided against him.

The question was then taken on Mr. Davis' resolution. It was rejected.

The question being now upon Mr. Martin's resolution, the reading was called for, and was had. It was then negatived by 47 to 39.

The question then recurring upon Mr. Person's resolution it was concurred in.

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting Documents connected with a survey of a Rail Road from the French Broad river to Tennessee line.

A message from the Senate, informing the House of their Senate committee on enrolled bills, for the week.

The Speaker presented a communication from the Superintendent of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution.

The following resolutions were then introduced and appropriately referred.

By Mr. Bullock, a resolution to allow Jos. H. Gooch, late Sheriff, to collect arrears of taxes in Granville county.

By Mr. White, a resolution authorizing Jonas Chne, late Sheriff, to collect arrears of taxes.

By Mr. Padgett, a resolution relative to Justices of the Peace.

Mr. Cheek presented the proceedings and resolutions of a meeting recently held in the county of Warren. Referred to committee on Federal relations.

Mr. Bullock presented a communication from J. A. Stanwater.

Mr. Hayes presented a memorial, asking for a new county out of part of Cherokee.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Cowles presented a bill providing for letting out the public printing to the lowest bidder. Referred to committee on Library.

Mr. Cheek, a bill to prevent free negroes from hiring or controlling the time of Slaves.

Mr. Wright, a bill to allow the sureties of John S. Willis, late Sheriff of Bladen county, to collect arrears of taxes. Referred to committee on private bills.

Mr. Padgett, a bill to amend 4th article, sec. 3rd of the State Constitution. Referred to committee on Constitutional reform.

Mr. Kelly a bill to place on equal footing creditors of deceased insolvent debtors. Referred to committee on Judiciary.

The resolution introduced on Saturday by Mr. Williams of Nash, fixing the time of meeting of the House at 10½ o'clock, was taken up and adopted.

House bill No. 13, to abolish the office of State Geologist was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Folk was passed over informally.

House bill No. 15, relating to Banks was taken up and read the 2nd time, and on motion was referred to the committee on Banks and Banking.

House bill No. 23, to exempt from taxation time pieces worn by Locomotive engineers, was taken up, read the 2nd time, and on motion of Mr. Taylor, was indefinitely postponed.

On Mr. Pope's motion, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 4th.

The Senate assembled at 11 o'clock, and was opened by prayer from the Rev. Dr. Mason.

Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Lane, from the committee on propositions and Grievances, reported back the following bills.

A bill to authorize A. C. Latham, Sheriff of Craven county to collect arrears of taxes, recommending its passage.

A bill to prevent the cutting of timber in certain portions of Iredell. Recommending its passage.

A Bill to authorize E. D. Hampton, late Sheriff of Davidson county, to collect arrears of taxes, recommending that it do not pass.

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting the report of Q. Busbee, Attorney for the State, in regard to the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal Company, and suggested the appointment of an Attorney, resident in Raleigh, to be consulted by the officers of the State in the absence of the Attorney General.

Mr. Barringer asked to recall the reference of the memorial from citizens of Iredell and Cabarrus, presented by him, in regard to the punishment, for trafficking with slaves, from the committee on propositions and Grievances, and its reference to the committee on the Judiciary.

The Speaker suggested the propriety of the memorial being reported back by the committee, to whom it was referred, recommending its reference to the appropriate committee.

The Chair announced the following committee on Agriculture:

Messrs. Dockery, Lane, Shaw, Watson, Dowd, and Grist.

A message was received from the Governor transmitting a memorial from John H. Haughton and others, recommending the favorable consideration of the same.

On motion of Mr. Pitchford, said memorial was referred to the committee on claims.

Mr. Lane, from the committee on propositions and Grievances, reported back the memorial from the citizens of Iredell and Cabarrus, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration.

On motion of Mr. Barringer the memorial was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

A message was received from the House of Commons proposing to raise a joint committee of three on the part of each House to superintend the State Printing.

Mr. Avery moved to lay the message on the table.

Mr. Ramsay called for the yeas and nays.

The message was laid on the table, yeas 24, nays 18.

A message was received from the House of Commons proposing to assign to the engrossing Clerks the room at present occupied by the Reporter of the Supreme Court. Concurred in.

Mr. Ramsay introduced the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the State be requested to report to this body, at as early a day as practicable, his opinion as to the policy of this State making an increase of its present indebtedness either by appropriations to works of Internal Improvements or appropriations of money for the purpose of placing the State on a war footing.

Resolved, That the Treasurer also communicate to this body his opinion as Treasurer, and one presumed to know the means of the State, what amount of money can be raised by it, at this time, either for meeting its present and prospective obligations, or for warlike purposes.

Mr. Avery moved to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. Ramsay called for the yeas and nays.

Mr. Avery's motion prevailed. Yeas 26, nays 15.

Mr. Faison presented a series of resolutions passed at a public meeting in the county of Sampson, irrespective of party, which being read, were referred to the committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. Turner asked to have read the message of the Governor, and the report accompanying it from Q. Busbee, in regard to the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal Company.

The same being read, were on motion of Mr. Turner referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Simpson introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of so amending the Revenue Law, so as to exempt the owners of slaves from the payment of taxes on any slave that shall die after he or she has been listed for taxation, and before the time of collection of the same, and that they report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. Hall, a bill to appoint an additional Flour Inspector for the Town of Wilmington. Passed its 1st reading, and on motion of Mr. Hall, the rules were suspended and the bill read the 2d and 3rd times, and passed.

Received a message from the House of Commons announcing the passage of the following engrossed bills:

A resolution to amend a resolution in favor of certain entries of Cherokee Lands. Referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

A Bill to incorporate the Duplin Riflemen.—Referred to the joint committee on Military Affairs.

A Bill to incorporate the Swananoa Lodge of I.O.O.F., in the town of Asheville, in Buncombe county.

A bill to authorize the Chairman of the county Court of Chatham, to call together Justices of the Peace to transact county business. Referred to the committee on Judiciary.

A bill to appoint a person to take tax lists in Beaufort county.

A resolution in favor of Thomas Dicks of Anson county. Referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

A bill to incorporate the Female College in the town of Henderson. Referred to the committee on Education and the Literary Fund.

A bill to incorporate the Edinburgh Male and Female Academy in the county of Montgomery. Referred to the committee on Education and the Literary Fund.

A bill to authorize the sureties of Wm. Pollock, late Sheriff of Jones, to collect arrears of taxes. Referred to committee on Propositions and Grievances.

A bill to repeal an act, passed at the session of 1858 and 59 concerning constables in Cherokee and Robeson counties.

Mr. Lane introduced a bill relative to the hire of Slaves. Ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Hall, a bill to amend 3rd Sec. of the 85th Chap. of the Revised Code, concerning Pilots.—Passed its 1st reading and referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Slaughter, a bill to prevent the felling of timber in certain streams in Hertford county.—Referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Avery moved a reference of the bills from the House of Commons, which had not been referred to any committee, to the committee on Corporations. Adopted.

Mr. Lane moved that the bill to repeal the act of 1858 and 59 *vide supra* be referred to the committee on Judiciary. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Dobson the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, Dec. 4, 1860.

The House of Commons met pursuant to adjournment.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Baxter presented a memorial from a portion of the citizens of Currituck county, relative to the removal of free negroes from the State, which was read, and on motion of Mr. Williams, of Nash, ordered to be printed.

Mr. Faison presented a memorial, with resolutions, adopted by citizens of Sampson, which was read and referred to the committee on Federal relations, with an order to print.

Upon the motion to print, Mr. Donnell called for the yeas and nays. The vote resulted, yeas 56, nays 53.

Mr. Hill moved the re-consideration of the vote by which the resolution was adopted yesterday, designating the room occupied by the keeper of the Capitol for the use of the Engrossing Clerks. Carried, and, on motion of Mr. Hoke, the resolution was then amended, substituting the room usually occupied by the reporter for the Supreme Court, and passed.

Mr. Cheek presented the proceedings and resolutions adopted by a meeting held in the county of Warren, relative to Federal matters, which were referred to the committee on Federal relations.

Mr. Cheek moved that the resolutions be printed.

Mr. Yeates remarked that he had supposed the reason why the motion was not made to print when the reference was made, to be that the resolutions were already in print. They were read from a printed copy by the Clerk, and he could, therefore, see no necessity for the House to have them printed.

Mr. Marsh was opposed to having these resolutions printed. Many counties had already held meetings, and others doubtless would, giving expression to their sentiments on the subjects now agitating the public mind. If we continue in this way we will not do much else than give orders to print; and took occasion to say that if the printing was not done with more dispatch than that which the House had already ordered, the public business would be greatly retarded. He was opposed to it, too, upon the score of economy. If members wanted to preserve these resolutions, he would suggest that they procure a copy of some paper containing them.

Mr. Cheek said that the resolutions were upon an important subject; other resolutions had been printed, and he thought he would have those from his county printed also. But as objection had been raised, and if gentlemen did not wish to know the sentiments of the people, he would withdraw his motion.

Mr. Green, of Franklin, presented a memorial from Ellen Ransom, a free woman of color, asking to be allowed to go into voluntary slavery.

A message was received from the Governor in response to a resolution of inquiry relative to arms belonging to the State.

Mr. Person, from the committee, reported back to the House the following bills:

A bill exempting from execution certain property—recommending that it do not pass.

A bill fixing the time for opening the polls in the town Salisbury—recommending its pass