

Indiana and persons of color of mixed blood.

Mr. McAden was called to the chair. In section 17 which proposes to repeal certain laws and parts of laws in relation to slaves and free negroes, Mr. Cameron proposed to amend by inserting in the 5th line after the words "Free Negroes," the words "except sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 66."

[These are sections of the 107th Chapter of the Revised Code, which prohibit slaves and free negroes from bearing arms, and the immigration of free negroes to this State. The bill proposes their repeal among others, and Mr. Cameron's object was their retention.]

The amendment was adopted. Mr. Smith of Hertford moved to amend by substituting the following for the 6th, 7th and 8th sections:

Where persons of color have undertaken to intermarry under any form or ceremony whatever, and shall actually have lived together as man and wife until the first day of June A. D. 1856, they shall be deemed to have been lawfully married; provided, nevertheless, that where a marriage between either of the parties and another person of color shall have taken place subsequent to the 26th day of April A. D. 1865, according to the forms prescribed in the Revised Code, Chapter sixty-eight, such subsequent marriage shall be deemed the lawful marriage; and provided, further that all persons of color who shall have heretofore lived together as man and wife and shall continue to so live together after the passage of this act, until the first day of April A. D. 1866 shall be deemed to be lawfully married.

Where persons of color have heretofore lived together as man and wife and are desirous of being married according to the provisions of the Revised Code, Chapter sixty-eight, the clerk for any county upon demand shall issue a license, and no tax shall be due, or fee shall be allowed therefor.

On motion of Mr. Phillips, this last paragraph was stricken out. The question recurring on the amendment as amended, Mr. Wilson moved to amend the amendment by substituting the following:

Be it further enacted, That all persons of color, who have voluntarily cohabited together in the relation of husband and wife, and who still cohabit together in that relation up to the ratification of this act, shall be deemed to have been lawfully married, although they may not have been married in due form of law. Rejected.

The question recurring on Mr. Smith's amendment, Mr. Faircloth, of Wayne, moved to amend it by substituting as follows:

Sec. 8th. That all men and women who are persons of color, now voluntarily cohabiting together in the relation of husband and wife, shall be deemed lawfully married as man and wife, although they may not have been married in due form of law, and their former issue shall be deemed legitimate for all purposes; provided, that nothing herein contained shall affect the rights or relations of free persons of color heretofore legally married. And all persons whose cohabitation is hereby ratified into a state of marriage, shall go before the clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the county in which they reside, and acknowledge the fact of such cohabitation and the time of its commencement, and the clerk shall enter the same in a book kept for that purpose.

Sec. 9. That if any of such persons shall fail to go before the Clerk of the County Court and have their marriages recorded before the first of May, 1866, they shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished at the discretion of the Court, and their failure for each month thereafter shall constitute a separate and distinct offence.

This amendment was amended, on motion of Mr. Phillips, by striking out, in the section numbered 6, from its commencement to the word "deemed" inclusive, and inserting "That in all cases where men and women, both or one of whom were lately slaves, and are now emancipated, now cohabit together in the relation of husband and wife, the parties shall be deemed," etc.

The proviso in the same section was also stricken out, on motion of Mr. Phillips, and the following was added at the close of the section: "and such entries shall be deemed prima facie evidence of the allegations therein contained.

Mr. Faircloth's amendment was further amended, on motion of Mr. Phillips by adding at its close the following words: "Excepting however from the operation of this provision all cases where a marriage shall have taken place subsequently by the 26th day of April, A. D. 1865, according to the forms of law; and provided further, that all such persons shall have heretofore lived together."

This amended, Mr. Faircloth's amendment was adopted as a substitute for the one offered by Mr. Smith of Hertford, and then was substituted for the 6th and 7th sections of the bills.

On motion of Mr. Cameron the fifth section of the bill was amended—by providing that where the former masters are suitable persons, the courts, in binding out colored apprentices, shall give them the preference over others.

The committee then rose, and reported progress. On motion of Mr. Waugh the bill and amendments were referred to the committee on the judiciary and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hoke introduced by leave "a bill to authorize the banks of the State to close their business."

The committee on the judiciary, to whom was referred the bill further suspending the operation of the statutes of limitation, reported back the same, with an amendment, and recommended its passage.

The committee to whom was referred the resolution providing for a retial of the Governor's mansion, reported back the same, recommending its adoption.

Mr. Blythe, from the committee on finance, to whom was referred the resolution to ascertain what debts, derived upon the State during the late rebellion, are void, submitted a report, specifying such debts as, in the opinion of the committee, should be liquidated. The resolution and report ordered to be printed.

A message was received from the House concurring in the adoption of a resolution instructing the Secretary of State to furnish copies of the Revised Code, &c., to County Court Clerks, for the use of their respective counties.

A message was received from the House proposing to go into an election of one trustee for the University; which was laid on the table.

Mr. Gash introduced a resolution to change the title of the office of Auditor of Public Accounts was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Howard, the bill to repeal the 12th section of the 10th chapter of Acts of the Assembly, passed at the extra session of 1861, regarding the jurisdiction of courts in cases of creditors and debtors, was taken up. A warm and protracted debate ensued; when, on motion of Mr. Morehead, the bill was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Cowles, from the committee on claims, to whom was referred resolution in favor of A. W. Fraps and Jacob Siler, reported back the same, recommending the adoption of the former and asking to be discharged from a further consideration of the latter.

Mr. McCleese presented two additional names for Justices of the Peace for Hyde county. Senate adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

SENATE. MONDAY, Feb. 12, 1866.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Atkinson. Mr. Howard, from the judiciary committee, to whom was referred the bill further suspending the operation of the statutes of limitation, reported back the same, with an amendment, and recommended its passage.

The committee to whom was referred the resolution providing for a retial of the Governor's mansion, reported back the same, recommending its adoption.

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SENATE. MONDAY, Feb. 12, 1866.

The House was called to order at ten o'clock A. M. Prayer by Rev. J. M. Atkinson. The journal of Saturday was read and approved.

Mr. Dickey introduced "a bill to renew the charter of the Howassee Turnpike."

Mr. Farrow, "a bill to appoint a board of Commissioners of Navigation." Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rule.

ON CALENDAR. "A bill to authorize the construction of a Toll Bridge over the Catawba River, near Rock Island Factory" passed second reading.

"A bill to incorporate the Bladen Land Company;" a bill to amend the charter of the town of Graham; a bill to incorporate the Radcliff Gold Mining Company and an engrossed resolution to furnish clerks, not heretofore supplied, with copies of the Revised Code, passed their final readings.

On motion of Mr. Thigpen, a message was sent to the Senate proposing that the two Houses proceed forthwith to the election of one Trustee of the University.

Mr. Merrill (by leave) introduced "a bill to amend the charter of the town of Jacksonville, Onslow County. The rules were suspended. The bill was amended on its second reading, on motion of Mr. Everett, by providing that in the election for commissioners of said town, the commissioner who received the highest number of votes, shall be the Mayor of the town. The bill as amended passed its second and third readings.

Messages were received from the Senate refusing to concur in House amendments to the "bill to furnish Clerks not heretofore supplied with copies of the Revised Code, and asking the appointment of a committee of Conference; also refusing concurrence in the proposition to proceed forthwith to elect one Trustee for the University.

An engrossed bill to prohibit the sale of Spirituous Liquors in the town of Salem, had its first reading.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to the bill to amend the charter of the Tuckasee and Keowee Turnpike Company; and took also in the proposition (above) to raise a committee of Conference.

Mr. Allison presented the resignation of Messrs. A. D. McLean, A. H. Davis, R. W. Allison, W. W. Wheeler, Directors of the Insane Asylum. The letter of resignation was transmitted to the Senate.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Gash. A message was received from the House transmitting the following engrossed bills and resolutions:

A bill to incorporate Leaksville Male Academy; passed first reading.

Resolution to alter the county line between the counties of Mitchell and Yancey; passed first reading.

A message was received from the House concurring in the Senate amendment to the House bill concerning the Tuckasee and Keowee Turnpike Road.

Senate bill to amend chapter 3d of the Revised Code, was laid on the table.

A bill to extend to widows time to enter dissent to the last will and testament of their husbands, passed second reading.

A message was received from the House asking acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Keener, from the board of Directors for the Lunatic Asylum. Resignation accepted.

Mr. McKay then addressed the Senate in touching words, on the death of Senator Isaac Newton Sanders; and offered a tribute of respect to the deceased, which was unanimously adopted. [The speech will be published here after.]

Mr. Morehead also spoke in brief but pathetic terms on the death of Mr. Sanders.

On motion of Mr. McKay, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow 10 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. TUESDAY, Feb. 13, 1866.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Rev. N. B. Cobb of the Baptist Church.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Webb presented a petition from sundry magistrates of Orange county, praying the enactment of a law allowing compensation to Justices of the Peace for their services. Referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Blythe introduced a resolution that, henceforth the House of Commons hold evening sessions commencing at 7 o'clock. Laid over one day under rule.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS. Mr. McNair introduced a bill for the relief of Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Guardians, and other persons acting in a fiduciary capacity.

Mr. Waugh, a bill for the relief of Wm. Haymore, Sheriff of Surry.

Mr. Fair, a bill to establish a Homestead Freehold.

Mr. Baxter presented the resignation of Joseph Keener, Esq., as a Director of the Asylum for the Insane. Sent to the Senate.

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, in response to an inquiry as to the usefulness of artificial arms, and the steps taken to supply artificial limbs to maimed soldiers under a resolution passed by this General Assembly. The message states that the Governor had corresponded with a number of manufacturers of artificial limbs, but had not received answers from all. From the information he had received, he was of opinion that the artificial arm was ornamental rather than useful. The message was accompanied by a letter from a North Carolina engineer in the manufacture of artificial legs in Washington City setting forth the merits of the "Jewett leg," and suggesting the advisability of purchasing the right of said patent for the State of North Carolina.

Another message from His Excellency, transmitted a communication from the Public Treasurer in relation to the custody of the public funds. These messages were sent to the Senate.

ON CALENDAR. A bill to authorize the transfer of registered bonds of the State to bearer. Passed second reading.

Mr. Murrill rose to discharge a painful duty, in announcing to the House the death of his colleague, Mr. Isaac N. Sanders, Senator from Onslow. He briefly sketched Mr. Sanders' political career and paid a feeling and appropriate tribute to his memory.

Mr. Manly said he had frequently visited Onslow county, and formed there many warm and lasting attachments. He had known the deceased well from youth. He had known his highly respectable family before him. He had been greatly shocked by the melancholy announcement this morning, and could only commend Mr. Sanders to the kindly recollection of his fellow members, as an intelligent, honest, amiable man—a man of sterling integrity and patriotic impulses. In respect to the memory of the deceased, he moved that the House adjourn until ten o'clock to-morrow. The House adjourned accordingly.

SENATE. WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14, 1866.

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Mr. Arendell, from the Committee on Corporations, to whom was referred the bill to incorporate the Planter's Loan Association, reported back the same recommending that it do not pass. Bill to incorporate the Rock Island Manufacturing Company, in Mecklenburg County, recommending an amendment and its passage. Bill to incorporate the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, recommending its passage.

Mr. Gash introduced a resolution on the subject of taxation, which was referred to the committee on Finance.

Message from the House transmitting their concurrence in additional names for Justices of the Peace for the County of Hyde.

Mr. Shober introduced a bill to amend the charter of the town of Salisbury.—Passed its first reading.

The bill to extend the time to widows to enter their dissent to the last will and testament of their husbands, came up on its third reading and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Macon county Turnpike Company came up, and on motion of Mr. Keener, the rules were suspended and it passed its final reading.

A message from the House transmitting the following bills, which was disposed of as follows, viz:

A bill to establish a board of commissioners of Navigation; bill to amend the incorporation of the town of Graham in Mecklenburg county; bill for the better regulation of the town of Jacksonville; and a bill to incorporate the Bladen Land Company, all of which, on motion of Mr. Leitch, were referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Leitch made an explanation in regard to the absence of Mr. Leitch of Davidson, owing to sickness in his family.

Mr. Cowles offered additional names for Justices of the Peace for Yadkin county, which was sent to the House for concurrence.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. Boyd, Senator from Moore and Montgomery, until Monday next.

Message from the House disagreeing to the additional names for magistrates for Yadkin county.

The bill to declare valid certain elections and acts since May 20th, 1861, came up, was read a second time and rejected.

The bill giving further security to widows for a year's provisions, came up, read a second time and rejected.

The resolution in favor of the Old Dominion Trading Company came up, and was discussed at some length, but in order to give the subject further consideration on motion of Mr. McKay, it was made the special order for to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Mr. McKay offered a resolution requesting the Speaker to issue a writ of election, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late I. N. Sanders, Senator elect for Onslow County, to be held on the 1st Thursday in March, being the 1st day of March 1866. Adopted.

Messrs. McKay and Latham were granted leave of absence until Tuesday next.

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

HOUSE OF COMMONS. WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14, 1866.

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Mr. Waugh, for the Joint Select Committee, reported back the bill to consolidate the acts in relation to the Courts, recommending that it do not pass.

Mr. Murphy introduced a resolution in relation to the relief of Administrators, Executors, Guardians and Trustees who received Confederate money or invested in Confederate bonds. Requests inquiry by the committee on the Judiciary. Adopted.

Mr. Ferrell, a resolution in favor of Charles Kuester and Brother. Referred.

BILLS INTRODUCED. Mr. Cowan introduced a bill to incorporate the inhabitants of the town of Wilmington.

Mr. Traill, a bill to authorize Calpepper Austin, Sheriff of Union county, to collect arrears of taxes.

Mr. Webb, a bill to incorporate the Trustees of "Little River Separate School," in the county of Orange.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. The resolution introduced by Mr. Blythe on yesterday, that the House of Commons hold Evening Sessions daily, meeting at 7 o'clock, P. M., was rejected.

ON CALENDAR. The bill to regulate Salaries and Fees, was put on its second reading. The bill as reported from the Joint Select Committee on salaries and fees, fixes the salaries of public officers as follows:

The Governor of the State, four thousand dollars; a Councillor of State, six dollars per day for every day he may attend on public business, and twenty cents for every mile he may travel to and from the capitol on public business; and the Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts, twenty-five hundred dollars, and for every extra term of the Superior Court which a Judge may hold, one hundred dollars, and that one week shall constitute a term; Public Treasurer, twenty-five hundred dollars; Chief Clerk of the Treasurer, fifteen hundred dollars; Secretary of State one thousand dollars and fees, and fees allowed in chapter 102 Revised Code. Private Secretary of the Governor, one thousand dollars, and double the fees allowed in chapter 105, Revised Code; Attorney General, one hundred dollars for his attendance on each regular term of the Supreme Court, and thirty dollars for each term of the Superior Court of any county he shall attend, and fifty per cent. in addition to fees allowed in chapter 102, Revised Code; each Solicitor of the State, thirty dollars for every term of the Superior Court he shall attend, and fifty per cent. in addition to fees allowed in chapter 102, Revised Code; Reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court, one thousand dollars, and fees allowed in 102, Revised Code; the Messenger in Governor's office, five hundred dollars.

Mr. McNair opposed the bill, deeming any increase of salaries of public officers, at the present time impolitic and unnecessary. It appeared to be intended merely, or mainly to benefit public officers resident in the city of Raleigh. The bill did not increase the pay of Clerks of Courts, and other officers who as much deserved such increase.

Mr. McAden defended the bill at length.

Mr. Henry opposed the bill as unequal in its provisions.

Mr. Blackmer moved to amend the bill by fixing the salary of Secretary of the Governor at \$1,800 per annum.

Mr. Baxter offered a substitute for the bill—fixing the Governor's salary at \$4,000, leaving the other salaries as at present.

Mr. Dargan addressed the House in favor of the bill.

The question recurring on the substitute proposed by Mr. Baxter, it was rejected.

The question then recurring upon the amendment proposed by Mr. Blackmer, increasing the salary of private Secretary to \$1,800.

Mr. Rayner opposed the bill. He was willing that the salaries of Judges of the Superior Courts should be increased to \$2,500 per annum, but thought the other salaries should remain as they are.

The amendment was rejected—yeas, 3; nays, 95.

Mr. Hoke moved to amend the bill by fixing the Governor's salary at \$3,000 instead of \$4,000.—Adopted—yeas, 70; nays, 32.

Mr. McAden moved to amend the bill by inserting a provision fixing the per diem of members of the Legislature at \$3 and their mileage at 10 cents a mile.

Mr. Blackmer moved to amend the amendment by substituting \$1 per diem for members of the Legislature instead of \$3. Rejected.

The question recurring on Mr. McAden's amendment, Mr. Dargan moved to amend by adding the following proviso: "Provided, that those members of the General Assembly who have overdrawn at these reduced rates shall have ninety days in which to refund."

Mr. Farrow moved an indefinite postponement of the bill. Not agreed to.

Mr. Dargan's amend to the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Murphy moved to amend the amendment by substituting \$5 per diem in lieu of \$3. Not agreed to. Mr. McAden's amendment was then rejected.

The following amendment offered by Mr. Smith of Hertford was adopted.—"The councillors of State shall receive the same compensation which is allowed to a member of the General Assembly for every day he may attend on public business, and for every thirty miles traveling to and from the city of Raleigh on public business."

Mr. Rayner moved to amend by striking out that provision of the bill which allows Judges of the Superior Courts \$100 extra compensation for holding extra terms of court. Adopted.

Mr. Hoke moved to amend by fixing the salary of Judges of the Superior Courts at \$2,250.

Mr. Caldwell moved to amend the amendment by fixing the salary of Judges of the Superior Courts at \$100 for each term they may hold, one week constituting a term. Rejected.

The question recurring on the amendment, it was rejected.

Mr. McNair moved to strike out \$2,500 as the salary of the Public Treasurer, and substitute \$2,000.

Adopted, yeas 52; nays 39.

Mr. Rayner moved to amend by substituting \$1,000 for \$1,500 as the salary of Chief Clerk of the Treasurer. Adopted.

Mr. Marler moved to amend by substituting \$1,500 for \$1,000 as salary of Secretary of State. Rejected.

Mr. Jenkins, of Warren, moved to amend by substituting \$500 instead of \$1,000 as salary of Private Secretary to the Governor. Adopted.

Mr. Rayner moved to amend the bill by striking out the provisions allowing the Governor's Private Secretary double fees. Adopted.

Mr. Hoke moved to amend the clause in relation to the Attorney General and Solicitors by striking out \$30 for each court they attend and substitute \$20.—Adopted.

Mr. Dickey moved to amend by striking out the proposed addition of "fifty per cent" to the fees of Attorney General and Solicitors.

Mr. Dickey withdrew his amendment and Mr. Marler renewed it. Adopted.

Mr. Rayner moved to strike out \$1,000 and insert \$600 as the salary of Supreme Court Reporter. Adopted.

Mr. Rayner moved to strike out the last clause of the bill giving a salary of \$500 to the Governor's messenger.

Mr. Smith, of Hertford, moved to amend that part of the bill which relates to Solicitors, by providing "that in cases of acquittal by the jury, the fees which would have been respectively taxed on conviction against the defendant, shall be paid by the county to such Solicitor."

Pending a further consideration of the bill and amendments, the House adjourned until to-morrow 10 o'clock.

[The Reporter omitted inadvertently on yesterday to state, that Mr. Holderby introduced a resolution authorizing the Public Treasurer to pay the traveling expenses to and from Raleigh and their places of residence, of disabled soldiers applying for artificial limbs. The resolution was referred to the Finance committee.]

Mr. Dargan addressed the House in favor of the bill. The question recurring on the substitute proposed by Mr. Baxter, it was rejected. The question then recurring upon the amendment proposed by Mr. Blackmer, increasing the salary of private Secretary to \$1,800. Mr. Rayner opposed the bill. He was willing that the salaries of Judges of the Superior Courts should be increased to \$2,500 per annum, but thought the other salaries should remain as they are. The amendment was rejected—yeas, 3; nays, 95. Mr. Hoke moved to amend the bill by fixing the Governor's salary at \$3,000 instead of \$4,000.—Adopted—yeas, 70; nays, 32. Mr. McAden moved to amend the bill by inserting a provision fixing the per diem of members of the Legislature at \$3 and their mileage at 10 cents a mile. Mr. Blackmer moved to amend the amendment by substituting \$1 per diem for members of the Legislature instead of \$3. Rejected. The question recurring on Mr. McAden's amendment, Mr. Dargan moved to amend by adding the following proviso: "Provided, that those members of the General Assembly who have overdrawn at these reduced rates shall have ninety days in which to refund." Mr. Farrow moved an indefinite postponement of the bill. Not agreed to. Mr. Dargan's amend to the amendment was rejected. Mr. Murphy moved to amend the amendment by substituting \$5 per diem in lieu of \$3. Not agreed to. Mr. McAden's amendment was then rejected. The following amendment offered by Mr. Smith of Hertford was adopted.—"The councillors of State shall receive the same compensation which is allowed to a member of the General Assembly for every day he may attend on public business, and for every thirty miles traveling to and from the city of Raleigh on public business." Mr. Rayner moved to amend by striking out that provision of the bill which allows Judges of the Superior Courts \$100 extra compensation for holding extra terms of court. Adopted. Mr. Hoke moved to amend by fixing the salary of Judges of the Superior Courts at \$2,250. Mr. Caldwell moved to amend the amendment by fixing the salary of Judges of the Superior Courts at \$100 for each term they may hold, one week constituting a term. Rejected. The question recurring on the amendment, it was rejected. Mr. McNair moved to strike out \$2,500 as the salary of the Public Treasurer, and substitute \$2,000. Adopted, yeas 52; nays 39. Mr. Rayner moved to amend by substituting \$1,000 for \$1,500 as the salary of Chief Clerk of the Treasurer. Adopted. Mr. Marler moved to amend by substituting \$1,500 for \$1,000 as salary of Secretary of State. Rejected. Mr. Jenkins, of Warren, moved to amend by substituting \$500 instead of \$1,000 as salary of Private Secretary to the Governor. Adopted. Mr. Rayner moved to amend the bill by striking out the provisions allowing the Governor's Private Secretary double fees. Adopted. Mr. Hoke moved to amend the clause in relation to the Attorney General and Solicitors by striking out \$30 for each court they attend and substitute \$20.—Adopted. Mr. Dickey moved to amend by striking out the proposed addition of "fifty per cent" to the fees of Attorney General and Solicitors. Mr. Dickey withdrew his amendment and Mr. Marler renewed it. Adopted. Mr. Rayner moved to strike out \$1,000 and insert \$600 as the salary of Supreme Court Reporter. Adopted. Mr. Rayner moved to strike out the last clause of the bill giving a salary of \$500 to the Governor's messenger. Mr. Smith, of Hertford, moved to amend that part of the bill which relates to Solicitors, by providing "that in cases of acquittal by the jury, the fees which would have been respectively taxed on conviction against the defendant, shall be paid by the county to such Solicitor." Pending a further consideration of the bill and amendments, the House adjourned until to-morrow 10 o'clock. [The Reporter omitted inadvertently on yesterday to state, that Mr. Holderby introduced a resolution authorizing the Public Treasurer to pay the traveling expenses to and from Raleigh and their places of residence, of disabled soldiers applying for artificial limbs. The resolution was referred to the Finance committee.]

THE PRESIDENT REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: GENTLEMEN: It is no ordinary pleasure for me to meet you here on this occasion and to hear the sentiments you have announced. To receive so large and respectable a body of intelligent gentlemen from that remote region of the country from which you come is extremely gratifying to me. In response, sir, [addressing Mr. Pinney] to the eloquent manner in which you have expressed the sentiments and feelings of those you represent on this occasion, I might content myself with simply returning my thanks for your kind expressions. But you have made some allusions, to which, under the circumstances which surround us, I cannot be indifferent. You have alluded to the great principles of our government having been enunciated by me in a paper sent a short time since to the congress of the United States. The declaration by me of those principles, was not the result of impulse.—It was the result of a thorough and calm consideration of those great truths which lie at the foundation of all free governments. Those who understood those truths, and have laid them down as their guide, cannot fail to understand the doctrines enunciated in the message. It is not necessary to inquire whether they emanate from this man or that man. Those who understand and believe in those principles, no matter from what standpoint they look at them, will find themselves involuntarily, and imperceptibly it may be, but surely coming together in all great struggles that may take place in regard to them; while those who disclaim them; who are willing to repudiate them, and set them at naught, will be found integrating and traveling in a divergent direction. For this reason there may be many now coming together without any previous concert or arrangement, but imperceptibly, because they agree on the same great principles. I think, gentlemen, there is no one who can mistake the great cardinal principles that are laid down in that message.—They comprehend and embrace the principles upon which the government rests, and upon which to be successful, it must be administered. I care not by what name the party administering the government may be denominated—the union party, the republican party, the democratic party, or what not—no party can administer the government successfully unless it is administered upon the great principles laid down in that paper. You would meet with about the same success in attempting to carry on the government upon any other principles than those which are found in the constitution as you would if you should take hold of a piece of machinery that had been constructed and trained to run harmoniously in one direction, and attempt by reverse action to run it in the opposite direction. I say again that I think no one can mistake the doctrines of that message. It is very easy for persons to misrepresent it and to make assertions that this, that, or the other had taken place, or will take place; but I may be permitted to say to you on this occasion that taking all my antecedents, going back to my advent into political life, and continuing down to the present time, the great cardinal principles set forth in that paper have been my constant and unerring guide. After having gone so far it is impossible for me to turn and take a different direction. They will be my guide from this time onward, and those who understand them may know where I shall always be found when principle is involved. Here let me say to you, in order to disabuse the public mind as far as it is possible for an individual to do so, that my public career is well nigh done. The sand of my political glass has well nigh run out. If I were disposed to refer to myself, I might trace my career back to the log cabin, then an alderman and a mayor in a village, then throughout both branches of the state legislature, then for ten consecutive years in the national house of representatives, then through the gubernatorial chair of the Senate of the United States, then provisional governor, with a slight participation in military affairs, then vice-president, and now in this position I occupy before you; and now in this position, if I can be instrumental in restoring the government of the United States, in restoring to their true position in the Union those States whose relations to the national government have been for a time interrupted by one of the most gigantic rebellions that ever occurred in the world, so that we can proclaim once more that we are a united people, I shall feel that the measure of