

SECOND EDITION.

THE LATEST NEWS BY MAIL FROM WASHINGTON.

Debate on the Special Message.

ALL PROVISIONAL GOVERNORS TO BE WITHDRAWN.

AN IMPORTANT RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

It is very Stringent in its Provisions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. There is much comment and speculation on the brief and spicy debate in the senate today on the reception of the special message of the president, accompanied by reports from Lieut. Gen. Grant and ex-Major-General Carl Schurz, on the condition of affairs in the south. In reply to the reading of General Schurz's report that the message was like the white-washing done by Franklin Pierce with regard to the atrocities in Kansas, Senator Johnson expressed his astonishment at such words from the senator from Massachusetts. He declared that there was no clear statement of the facts called for by the senator from Massachusetts would withdraw or qualify his remarks about the president's message being a white-washing document. Mr. Sumner said: "I have nothing to modify, nothing to qualify, nothing to retract."

In former days there was but one Kansas to suffer under illegal power, now there are eleven Kansases suffering as only one suffered. Therefore, sir, as eleven are more than one, so is the enormity of the present time more than the enormity of the days of Franklin Pierce.

Mr. Dixon thought the sufferings of Kansas or the southern states had nothing to do with the grave charge made by Senator Sumner. But the president. He (Mr. D.) supported the president's policy, not because it was the president's, but because it was right. Senator Sumner, however, explained that he did not mean to apply the truth of the president, his remark applying more to the Schurz document, it was understood. The debate ended by the adoption of the motion to print the papers.

The bill regulating commerce between the several states, which was rushed through the house today under the operations of the previous question, was opposed earnestly by representatives Jno. L. Thomas, of Maryland, and A. J. Rogers, of New Jersey. Both of these gentlemen insisted that the interests which their respective states had in this measure should be heard in the house. The bill, however, passed without debate or amendment. The effect of the bill, it is said, will be the prevention of a per capita tax being levied by any railroad or corporation in any state on the passengers or travel of any other state, should it become a law.

It is given out from an excellent quarter that in all of the southern states where regular governors have been elected, the provisional governments will be immediately withdrawn, and their successors duly inaugurated, as in the case of Alabama.

To an experienced observer the appearance of things on the republican side indicates what Jack Falstaff denominated a state of general "dissolution and thaw," looking to a division on the main question, unless the radicals abate their haughty pretensions.

Mr. Raymond took notes to reply to old Thad's speech, the views of which have over and over been voted down in the house when presented in the form of resolutions, during the war. Old Thad looks the master more than ever, and is constantly run to by his adherents. Mr. Raymond is very closely observed, and appears to be very determined. It is much consulted. Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, does not appear to be in the leading strings of Mr. Stevens. One of the joint committee in the case of the southern states, who was radical last session, is decidedly conservative now.

The Republican breaks ground this evening against General Grant. It has also, by indirection in the nature of special pleading, done so to the administration.

The postmaster general will cause the remains of Mr. Corwin to be transmitted directly to Ohio, accompanied by some of his old intimate confidants. The Ohio delegation, with other congressmen, and others who were friends of the deceased, had a meeting to-day at the capitol concerning the subject of his demise, and funeral speeches were made by Chief Justice Chase, Senator Sherman, Davis, of Kentucky, Whipple, Secretary Seward, Johnson, of Maryland. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the funeral.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The bill introduced into the house by Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, to reconstruct the southern states, is more stringent in its provisions than any for a similar object heretofore presented. It provides, among other things, for the appointment of provisional governors, with marshals and district attorneys, for the temporary discharge of civil duties.

The inhabitants of each state, irrespective of race or color, are to be enrolled, and if a majority take the oath to support the constitution of the United States, the governor shall, by proclamation, invite the loyal people to elect delegates to a convention to re-establish a state government.

The delegates are required to take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, and no person can serve or vote who has held or exercised any civil or military office under the rebel usurpation, or voluntarily borne arms against the United States. Both the oath to support the constitution of the United States and the oath of allegiance are to be administered to voters.

The constitution formed must be republican, and not repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the declaration of independence; and it must provide that involuntary servitude is forever prohibited; that no confederate state or municipal debt shall ever be recognized or paid; that perfect toleration of religion shall be secured; and that no inhabitant shall ever be molested in person or property on account of his race or hereditary religious worship, and that no person shall enter upon any office within the gift of the people until he shall have first taken the oath to support the constitution of the United States, and an oath to maintain the perpetual union of the states. This covenant is to be perpetual.

If the constitution shall come up to these and other requirements, copies shall be sent to the president of the United States, who, after obtaining the consent of congress, shall by proclamation recognize the government as established. This act is not to operate as a recognition of a

state government in the state of Tennessee till the conditions aforesaid are complied with; and all that these provisions and all the states recently in rebellion, shall be subjected to this law.

Funeral of Ex-Governor Corwin. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. The funeral of the late ex-governor Corwin took place this afternoon. Among the pall-bearers were Chief Justice Chase, Lieutenant General Grant, Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Reverend Johnson, Thaddeus Stevens, and other prominent and distinguished individuals.

COMMERCIAL.

New York Market.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour has declined six, with sales of 6,500 bbls. State at \$7 8 1/2; Ohio \$8 40 a 9 85, and Southern \$8 16 a 15.

GRAIN.—Wheat is dull; sales of 30,000 bushels, Chicago spring at \$1 08 a 1 12; Milwaukee club \$1 70 a 1 85; and another Milwaukee \$1 75 a 1 85. Corn dull; sales of 31,000 bushels, mixed at 66 a 65 1/2.

PROVISIONS.—Pork heavy, at \$23 50 for mess, beefs at \$19 25 a 22 75. Lard \$12 1/2 a 13. WHISKEY.—Dull at \$2 31 a 2 32. COFFEE is firm, sugar \$100 bales at 60.

STARCH.—Dull, sales of 2,500 bags Rio on private terms. PETROLEUM.—Quiet, sales of 3,500 bbls at 41 a 41 1/2 for crude, and 67 for refined. RICE.—Dull. GOLD.—145 1/2.

COTTON.—Firm at 60 a 61. BREADSTUFFS.—Flour heavy, 6,000 bbls sold at \$7 8 1/2 for Ohio, \$8 40 a 9 45 for Ohio, \$7 8 1/2 for Western, \$8 56 a 15 for Southern, and \$10 1/2 a 11 for Canada. GRAIN.—Wheat quiet. Corn dull, sales unimportant.

PROVISIONS.—Beef steady. Pork heavy at \$23 a 23 1/2 for mess. Lard dull. WHISKEY is dull.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Court Martial.

The trial of six colored soldiers, whose names appear below in the specification, for mutiny at camp Hilton, last September, was held to-day, before the general court martial now in session here. Several witnesses were called, but the whole testimony given is entirely too voluminous for publication here, and we shall merely therefore present to our readers the facts elicited on the examination of Maj. Philip Windman, who was in command of the regiment at the time that the mutiny occurred. The statements of Maj. Windman, as a general thing, cover the whole ground of the testimony elicited from the other witnesses. We quote from the trial as follows:—

CHARGE.—MUTINY. Specification: In this that Manuel Davis, Samuel Alderman, James Fisher, George Smallwood, Anthony Eagles, Thomas Gorse, privates Co. D, 37th U. S. C. T., did leave the ranks of their company and take part in a mutiny, resulting in the shooting to death of 1st Lt. James M. Mellon, Co. G, 37th U. S. C. T. This at camp Hilton, N. C., on the 23d day of September, 1865.

To which charge and specification the accused pleaded as follows: To specification, Not guilty. To charge, Not guilty.

Maj. Windman, a witness for the prosecution, being duly sworn, testified as follows: Question by Judge Advocate.—What is your name, rank, and official designation? A. Philip Windman, Major 37th U. S. C. T.

Q. Do you know the prisoners? A. Yes sir, I know their countenances. Q. Where were you on the 23d September last? A. At camp Hilton, near Wilmington.

Q. What duty were you performing? A. Commanding 37th U. S. C. T. Q. Please state to the court all you know of a mutiny that occurred in the camp of the 37th U. S. C. T., on the afternoon of the 23d September last? A. On the afternoon of the 23d September, 1865, an enlisted man of Co. D, discharged his gun in the company's streets, which being against orders, myself and the officer of the day, Lieut. James Mellon proceeded to the spot for the purpose of arresting the offender. After sending to the quarters of the company we found the gun which had just been discharged in one of the tents. The men outside, about half dozen at the time, refused to give any information on the matter. I then ordered the whole company in line, and the man whose gun I had found to step to the front, but with no result. I then gave the command to the company to present arms, and ordered them to remain in that position until further orders. I then went to my quarters and was shortly recalled by Lieut. Mellon, who informed me that the company had broken ranks. I proceeded to the company's street and ordered the men once more to fall in ranks, but instead of obeying my orders they loaded their guns, and one man replied, "if we have to die, we might as well die now." After this I ordered Co. A to load their pieces, and took command of them myself, and marched them to the spot for the purpose of arresting the mutineers. At that time private Ben. McLeod of Co. E, back to Co. D, I met the men of Co. D., and on seeing me they brought up their guns and fired a volley at me and Lieut. Mellon, killing the latter, and an enlisted man of Co. A.

Q. What was the name of the man who said that if he had to die he might as well die at once? A. I cannot give his name; he is not among the prisoners on trial. Q. Do you recognize any of the prisoners on trial as being any of the mutineers? A. I recognize Samuel Alderman as being one of them.

Q. Do you recognize any of the prisoners as the ones that fired the volley? A. I do not. Q. What company do the prisoners belong to? A. Company D.

Q. How many men were in company D when they fell into line? A. I counted thirteen. Q. Are the prisoners present any of those who fell into line? Yes, sir.

Q. Do you recognize all of the prisoners present as among those that fell in? A. I do, except six sick men that took no part in the mutiny. Q. Were there any others who participated in the mutiny, from other companies except Ben. McLeod? A. I did not see any other.

Q. At what time in the day did this occur? A. Between four and five o'clock in the evening. Q. Did the prisoners remain in camp that night? I do not know; they were all present at evening roll call at nine o'clock.

Question by the Court.—Are you sure that the prisoners were with the party that fired on you and Lieut. Mellon? A. I cannot say that they were.

Question by Judge Advocate.—Do you recognize either of them as being among the party that fired on you? A. I do not; it has been too long since it took place.

Question by Court.—How many shots were fired in the first volley, when Lt. Mellon was killed? A. About six or eight.

Q. Look at the prisoners and see if you can recognize any one as having done any particular act of mutiny. A. Except breaking ranks, I do not recognize any one present.

Question by Judge Advocate.—Do you recognize the prisoners as being among the party that loaded their pieces? A. I would recognize one, but he is not present.

Question by Court.—Did all the men that were in line take part in the firing, except the six sick men? A. It is too long since the affair took place; I cannot recognize any one particular.

Q. State what was done after the volley was fired that killed Lt. Mellon? A. After Lt. Mellon fell, I left Co. D, and went up to Co. H, and

tried to bring them into line, to fire into Co. D. The men refused to obey orders. I then tried the same with Co. K, with no better effect.

Question by Judge Advocate.—Were there any further firing after the first volley? A. After leaving Co. D's street, the men fired five or six more times at me.

Q. Do you know the men that fired the shots? A. I do not. Question by Court.—Are you sure the men who fired belonged to Co. D? A. I am.

Q. Did the men who were sick participate at all in the mutiny? A. They broke ranks with the rest of them, but three or four of them fell into ranks afterwards.

Q. Do you know when these men were arrested? A. They were arrested next morning. Q. Did the sick men have guns? No sir; some of them were scarcely able to stand from the effects of fever.

Question by the Court.—The one man that you could recognize but who is not here, and the six sick men who took no part in the firing, were they all the men who fell into line? A. They were all the men in camp of company D, and all that fell into line.

Question by Judge Advocate.—Did you prefer the charges in this case? A. I did.

Q. Do you recollect of having preferred the charges against the men named in the specification? A. I do.

Q. Do you recollect that the men named in the specification took an active part in the mutiny? A. I do.

Question by Court.—Did you get the names of the men who fell into line in company D? A. I did not get the names at that time, but had the quarters of company D marched down to my quarters next morning, and got the names.

Question by Judge Advocate.—The men whose names you got next morning as having participated in the mutiny did you recognize them as being the same ones that fell into line? A. I recognized them all.

Q. Did you recognize any of the men next morning who were drawn up in front of your quarters as being the men that fired the volley when Lieut. Mellon was killed? A. I did not.

Questions by accused.—None.

A NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.—A money order office, in connection with the post office here now, will be established at this place on the first of the ensuing month and year. This new office, although comparatively an old institution among the northern states, is a new thing in the south, and, therefore, but little understood by the people. The object is to afford greater postal facilities for the transmission of small sums of money by mail, and while a new source of revenue is added to the department, funds can be transmitted at a very cheap commission, the rate never exceeding, in any instance, one per cent, which, at the before-the-war valuation of specie, was the average price of exchange at this place on New York. This arrangement will particularly benefit the different newspapers throughout the country, as small sums of money for advertising, &c., can be transmitted from one party to another with but a trifling expense, and in the most perfect security. The money orders is this: the party wishing to remit, can, upon application to the proper officer at the post office, purchase an order upon another office at the point to which the remittance is to be sent. This order can then be sent by mail, and the party in whose favor it is drawn can get it cashed at his own post office, without additional expense. It will require some time, however, for the perfection of this new arrangement in the south, as the postal facilities at this time are far from being complete. For the present it is proposed to establish but two of these money order offices in the state, and these two will be at Wilmington and at Newbern. The following are the rates of commission charged for these money orders:

An order not exceeding \$10.....10c. Over \$10 and not exceeding \$20.....15c. Over \$20 and up to \$30.....20c.

No single order issued for less than one dollar, or for more than thirty dollars. Parties desiring to remit larger sums must obtain additional money orders. National currency will be the only kind of funds received or paid.

ELECTION.—At a meeting of Co. A, temporary force, held yesterday at the court house, the following names were proposed by 1st Lt. J. H. Hill, commanding the company, and elected by acclamation to the non-commissioned offices of the company: James W. Lippitt 1st Sergt., W. H. Northrop 2d do.; C. D. Myers 3d do.; E. B. Dudley 4th do.; J. J. Whitehead 1st Corporal, A. D. Lippitt 2d do.; F. G. Robinson 3rd do.; D. Pigott 4th do.

THE CLOSING NIGHT.—To-night will be the last and closing night of the Festival at City Hall, and we would recommend those who have not yet called upon the ladies engaged there, to do so this evening. The fair will close by selling at auction, the remaining portions of the stock on hand, and those who are so fortunate as to have little stockings awaiting their filling on Christmas Eve night, had better attend, as we believe that gift articles, toys, &c., can be bought there very cheaply to-night.

MISS IDA VERNON.—This talented tragedienne left Wilmington Wednesday evening last, for Petersburg, to fulfill an engagement of two weeks at the Theatre in that city. She has our best wishes, and we doubt not, those of the community also, for a full and complete success.

UNCALLED FOR MESSAGES.—The following telegrams remain in the telegraph office at this place uncalled for: S. W. Vick, W. R. Howie, John Hardy, Mr. Leeds, Andrew G. Rosa.

LOST.—A lady lost last night, between the northern portion of the town and the City Hall, a gold chain and watch attached. The lock has two miniatures within it, one of a gentleman and one of a young boy. It is peculiarly valued on account of associations connected with it, and a liberal reward will be paid the finder, if left at the office, or with Rev. W. M. Young, pastor First Baptist Church.

BY MAIL. THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS. SENATE. TUESDAY, Dec. 19.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution calling upon the secretary of war for a detailed statement of the numerical strength of the regular army—the number of officers and men, where stationed, how employed, &c. Adopted.

Mr. Lane, from the committee on pensions, reported a bill to amend a bill of last session so as to include those who have served in the navy among those entitled to \$20 per month pension for the loss of both feet. Passed.

Mr. Anthony, from the committee on printing, reported a resolution to print 3,000 copies of the navy register for the use of the senate.

Mr. Grimes moved to amend, by striking out 3,000 and inserting 1,500. Amendment adopted and resolution passed.

Mr. Morrill introduced a bill to incorporate the Potomac navigation and transportation company, which was referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution calling upon the secretary of war for information as to the number of major generals and brigadier generals of volunteers now in the service, where stationed, how employed, &c. Passed.

Mr. Anthony called up the house resolution for the adjournment of congress from Wednesday next to the 9th of January, and moved to amend by inserting Thursday instead of Wednesday, and the 3d of January instead of the 9th. The amendment was adopted and the resolution passed.

Mr. Trumbull gave notice of a bill to enlarge the power of the freedmen's bureau, so as to secure freedom to all persons within the United States, and protect every individual in the full enjoyment of the rights of person and property and furnish him the means of his vindication.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. Farnsworth offered a preamble, that—Whereas, in the month of May last, Benjamin G. Harris, a representative from the fifth congressional district of Maryland, was tried before a very respectable and intelligent court martial, and convicted on the charge and specification, to wit: a violation of the fifty-third article of war, to wit: with giving aid and comfort to the public enemy and inciting them to continue the war against the United States, declaring sympathy with the enemy and opposition to the government of the United States in its efforts to suppress the rebellion; all of which is inconsistent with the oath taken as a member of this house; and whereas, it was proved at such trial that said Harris expressed his regret that the assassination of President Lincoln came too late to be of any use to the rebels, and at the same time declared that Jefferson Davis was a great and good man; and whereas, the said court sentenced said Harris, among other things, to be forever disqualified from hereafter holding any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; and whereas, such sentence was approved by the president of the United States, therefore,

Resolved, That the committee of elections be instructed to inquire into the facts of the case, and report the same to the house, together with such action as they may recommend; and to aid such investigation they have power to send for persons and papers.

The resolution was passed—yeas 127, nays 21.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the committee on commerce, reported a bill declaring every railroad worked by steam shall have the right to carry passengers, mails, freight, and government supplies from one state to another and receive compensation therefor.

Mr. O'Neil, of Pennsylvania, wanted the bill referred to the committee on the judiciary, as it involved important legal questions, but after some debate the bill was passed.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, reported an amendment to the rules, providing for a new committee, namely: On mines and mining.

A message was received from the senate, announcing the passage of the house resolution, with an amendment, so as to adjourn over from Thursday next to the third of January.

The house non-concurred in the amendment, and asked a committee of conference.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported back the bill proposing an amendment to prohibit the payment of the rebel debt.

Mr. Rogers opposed so much of the bill as prohibited any state from paying debts, but agreed to that part which prohibited the United States from paying the rebel debt.

The amendment resolution was passed—149 yeas to 11 nays.

BY TELEGRAPH. CONGRESS.

A Bill Calling for Information in Regard to Jeff Davis. SENATE COMMITTEE ON RECONSTRUCTION.

A NEGRO PROTEST AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF THE TENNESSEE MEMBERS.

A Petition Asking for Suffrage for the Colored Citizens of the District of Columbia.

AN IMPORTANT RESOLUTION TOUCHING THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.

THE CONSERVATIVES VS. THE RADICALS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. In the senate Mr. Howard introduced a resolution calling on the president to inform the senate upon what charges Jefferson Davis is confined and why he is not brought to trial.

The following senate committee on reconstruction has been announced: Fessenden, Grimes, Harris, Howard, Johnson and Williams.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition from colored citizens of Tennessee, protesting against the recognition of the rights of the colored people of that state. Also a petition from white citizens of the District of Columbia asking an extension of the right of suffrage to the colored citizens.

In the house Mr. Hubbard of Connecticut offered a resolution asserting that the United States should never recognize any government imposed on any nation on this continent by the arms of any European power. Referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Mr. Fincke of Ohio made a speech against the radicals, denying the theory of Mr. Stevens, that the southern states were conquered territory. He condemned any scheme looking to an interference with the right of suffrage, which should be enjoyed by the south.

Mr. Raymond also took issue with Mr. Stevens, denying that the south was to be considered as having been a belligerent power. He declared himself opposed to confiscation acts, which he said were not only oppressive but unchristian, and was disposed to do everything that a patriot should do to restore peace and harmony between the two sections.

The secretary of state has addressed a similar letter to the governor and late provisional governor of South Carolina to those recently forwarded to Alabama and Mississippi.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The Status of the Southern States.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

South Carolina.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA, Dec. 9, 1865.

To His Excellency Governor Orr:

MY DEAR SIR: I received, two weeks since, a telegram from the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, in relation to the repudiation of our war debt, in the following words: "Upon reflection, South Carolina would not care to come again into the councils of the Union encumbered and charged with debts and obligations which had been assumed in her name in a vain attempt to subvert it. The president trusts she will lose no time in making an effective organic declaration, disavowing all debts and obligations made or assumed in her name or behalf, in aid of the rebellion. The president awaits further events in South Carolina with deep interest."

In reply to this dispatch, I stated that it was impracticable now to make any such organic declaration, as our state convention had been dissolved, by my advice, after having done all that the president had requested to be done, and that I was opposed to keeping a revolutionary body, like that of the convention, in existence longer than absolute necessity required it.

I further stated that our war debt was a very small one, and could not be separated from the ordinary expenses of the state; that South Carolina had been refunded by the Confederate States a large portion of her expenditures on account of the war, and that no one in this state had any right to complain of being taxed to pay this debt, as they were all guilty of incurring it; and stated, moreover, that the estates of widows and orphans had been invested in this debt, as the safest investment which could be made for them, and that it would now be great injustice to this innocent and helpless class to disavow the debt.

Yesterday I had the honor of receiving the following communication from Mr. Seward through the mail: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 1865.

To His Excellency E. F. Perry, Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina: Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 27th inst., informing me that as the convention had been dissolved it was impossible to adopt the president's suggestion to repudiate the insurgent debt, and to inform you that while the objections which you urge to the adoption of that proceeding are of a serious nature, the president cannot refrain from availing with interest an official expression upon that subject from the legislature.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant, WM. H. SEWARD, Provisional Governor of South Carolina.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1865. To His Excellency Lewis E. Parsons, Provisional Governor of the State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sir: The time has arrived when, in the judgment of the president of the United States, the care and conduct of the proper affairs of the state of Alabama may be committed to the constituted authorities chosen by the people thereof, without danger to the peace and safety of the United States.

By direction of the president, therefore, you are relieved from the trust which was heretofore reposed in you as provisional governor of the state of Alabama. Whenever the governor elect shall have accepted and becomes qualified to the discharge of the duties of the executive office, you will transfer the papers and property of the state now in your custody to his excellency the governor-elect. It gives me especial pleasure to convey to you the president's acknowledgment of the fidelity, the loyalty and the discretion which have marked your administration.

You will please give me a reply signifying the day on which the communication is received. I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient servant, WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1865. To His Excellency Lewis E. Parsons, Provisional Governor of the State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sir: By direction of the president, I have the honor herewith to transmit to you a copy of a communication which has been addressed to his excellency, Lewis E. Parsons, late provisional governor of Alabama, whereby he has been relieved of the trust heretofore reposed in him, and directed to deliver into your excellency's possession the papers and property relating to those trusts.

I have the honor to tender you the co-operation of the government of the United States, whenever it may be found necessary, in effecting the early restoration and the permanent prosperity of the state over which you have been called to preside.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant, WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

THE RADICAL PROGRAMME. NO ADMISSION OF SOUTHERN STATES WITHOUT ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF POPULATION.

MR. RAYMOND TO REPLY.

Secretary McCulloch's Contract Policy Endorsed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. The radical bill opened in the house of representatives this afternoon, in committee of the whole, on the usual reference of the president's message to the standing committees. Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, in a speech of nearly an hour's duration, laid down the most ultra programme, even out-Heroding his famous Lancaster speech made in September. He was listened to with marked attention by the crowded galleries and the members of the house, the latter crowding around the speaker, while a goodly proportion of the senators were also present.

Mr. Stevens read his carefully prepared manuscript. He started out with the broad declaration that the states lately at war with the government were not in the union, and that if they were admitted again they must come in as new states or conquered provinces after passing through territorial condition. He elaborated the argument that the so-called confederate states were belligerents, and that during the war, according to the decisions of the United States supreme court and international law, the respective parties "stood in the same relation" to each other as if they were separate nations. Having

conquered them as public enemies, he maintained that the government had the right to treat them as conquered provinces, and among the requirements which he advocated as precedent to the readmission of these states, was the amendment of the constitution so that there could be an election for president and a representation in congress on the basis of population. This, by recognizing the colored people of the south, would give the new states an increased representation in congress. If the present basis was not changed, he charged, the Democratic would soon lay hands on the White House and the halls of congress, and they would therefore repudiate the federal debt and assume the rebel one. In such an event he claimed "that if the southern states should then repudiate the constitution lately forced upon them; it would be right and just."

He proceeded to assume that congress should control the freedmen, for if left to take care of themselves their present condition would be worse than bondage or the horrors of Andersonville. He made light of the ratification of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, by the southern state legislatures, which he denounced as illegal and delusive, and declared that this was not a white man's government, and looked upon Chief Justice Taney's virtual declaration that it was, as the most infamous doctrine of all time! He added that it was fortunate that the whole question of restoration belonged with congress.

Mr. Raymond, of N. Y., took notes during the speech, and at its conclusion rose to reply, but a motion prevailed that the committee of the whole rise, and further debate was cut off.

Hon. B. G. Harris, of