



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE is quite lengthy and we have as yet had no time to examine it, and hence are not prepared to give an opinion concerning its merits. We shall give it a careful reading, and should we find anything therein peculiarly worthy of note, will give our readers next week the benefit of our lucubrations. We will at all events furnish our readers with a synopsis of the leading features of the message so that they can judge for themselves of the correctness of the President's position on national affairs.

The Plot Thickens.

It is now pretty well understood that southern members of Congress are not to be admitted to seats in that body until the States they represent shall have not only passed the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery and placing the freedmen under the direct supervision of Congress, but shall also admit them to the exercise of the elective franchise and permit them to testify in all the courts under precisely the same rules, and on the same terms applicable to white men. That Congress has any constitutional right to impose terms upon a State regulating the qualifications of electors or witnesses, no intelligent honest man pretends. Even Gov. Morton in his late message admits as much relative to the control of elections in the several States, and surely the general Government has no right to assume the regulation of the practice in State courts. To assume such right is no more nor less than a dangerous usurpation by Congress which ought to be met on the threshold with a firm and determined opposition by all who have a just sense of the liberties of the citizen, or the rights of a State. We are aware that the doctrine of "State's Rights" as contended for by the south in the recent rebellion, has been by the force of arms permanently settled, and the country will cheerfully abide the result, but it by no means follows that the States are deprived of all rights. That which has not been delegated to the general Government by express grant in the Constitution, is by the explicit statement of that document, "reserved to the States, or to the people," and the people of the States should see that it remains where it belongs, at least till such time as the States or the people shall surrender to Congress the rights reserved to themselves. This can only be done by amending the Constitution of the United States as provided in the Constitution itself.

The radicals just now seem to have adopted the line of tactics pursued by a dutchman of whom we once heard. His son having committed some real or imaginary offence, he gave him a sound thrashing which the young hopeful received with becoming acquiescence. The old man seeing him thus quiet, exclaimed, "not you tinks?" "Nothing." "Yes you do; I know you tinks, you tinks d—n it, and I vips you for dat." The south having acquiesced with as good grace as possible in the result of the war, and having abolished slavery with less opposition than was to have been expected, the radicals insist that they nevertheless think d—n it, and have determined to punish them still further, not for what they do or leave undone, but because they fear the people of the south do not think as northern radicals would have them think. Even if the southern people should accede with alacrity to all the demands made upon them, (and they have done thus far,) still the radical puritanical element of New England and its lick-spittes in the west would as strenuously oppose the re-admission of the southern States as they now do. Why? Because the States once more in harmony and peace, there would be an end to much of the government patronage at present existing, by means of which hundreds of thousands of the elect are and have been amassing princely fortunes. These sleek-faced Amazons have no notion of being just yet deprived of the golden (greenback) opportunity of bearing "brown stone fronts" and of providing themselves with those concomitants of wealth enjoyed only by aristocrats and shoddy nabobs.

One day last week a woman and two children, one a little boy apparently five or six years old, the other perhaps seven or eight months old, got on a train of cars between Indianapolis and La Fayette, and when the train arrived at the Battle ground, she and the oldest child got off, leaving the "baby" to the tender care of the conductor. Whether she left the little one by accident or design no one of course knew.

Happening to be at Indianapolis a few days since, we took occasion to drop into the Senate Chamber for an hour or two, and were pleased with the manifest intention on the part of the Senators to promptly attend to business as it came up in its regular order. We had the pleasure of hearing several of the members speak on the *habeas corpus* bill, among whom were

THE PLYMOUTH WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

XXXIX. CONGRESS.

Prompt Organization of the House.

Numerous Bills Introduced in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.

Senate.

After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gray, the following Senators were present: Messrs. Anthony, Brown, Buckalew, Chandler, Clark, Coaness, Cowan, Creswell, Dixon, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foote, Foster, Games, Gathrie, Hawes, Howard, Howe, Johnson, Lane of Ind., McDougal, Morgan, Merrill, Nesmith, Nye, Pomeroy, Ramsey, Ridder, Sillibury, Sherman, Sprague, Stewart, Summer, Trumbull, Van Winkle, Wade, Wiley, Williams, Wilson and Wright.

Mr. FOOTE presented the credentials of Mr. Luke N. Pollard to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Collamer, of Vermont. The credentials were read and Mr. P. took the prescribed oath of allegiance.

Mr. WRIGHT presented the credentials of Mr. Stockton as Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. COWAN presented a protest against the reception of Mr. Stockton, signed by members of the New Jersey legislature, alleging that Mr. Stockton did not receive a constitutional majority of the votes which was necessary to his election as senator. The protest was ordered to be laid upon the table for the present, and Mr. Stockton was duly sworn into office.

Mr. WADE presented a bill to regulate the elective franchise in the District of Columbia. The bill provides that from and after its passage, every male citizen of twenty one years of age, who is a citizen of the United States, a resident of the District for six months, and never convicted of an infamous crime, shall have the right of suffrage in the District.

Section 2 imposes a penalty for interruption or interference with the right granted above.

The bill was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill to preserve the right of trial by jury, which provides that grand juries shall consist one-half of persons of African descent in sections where one-sixth of the population are Africans, and the same proportion in petit juries, where the matter relates to any injuries inflicted by a person of African descent upon a person not of such descent, or vice versa, and prejudice against such African race is made a ground of challenge and exclusion from such juries. The bill was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill prescribing an oath to maintain the republican form of government in the States in rebellion, as follows:

"I do hereby swear that I will at all times hereafter use my best endeavors to maintain the Republican form of Government in the State of which I am an inhabitant, and the Union of the United States; that I will at all times recognize the indissoluble unity of the Republic, and will always disown and resent any endeavor to break away, or secede from the Union; that I will give my influence and vote at all times to sustain the national credit; that I will always disown and resist any attempt, directly or indirectly, to repudiate or postpone, either partially or in any way, the debt which was

incurred by the United States in subduing the rebellion or the obligations assumed to Union soldiers; that I will always disown and resist any law making any distinction of color or race, and always will strive to maintain a State Government completely loyal to the Union where all men shall enjoy equal protection, and equal rights." Such oath shall be preserved, and if falsely taken such person shall be guilty of perjury, and in addition to the present penalty for that crime shall forfeit his right to hold office. This was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER offered a bill to enforce the Constitutional Amendment by punishing any attempt to control the services of any person, contrary to this provision, by law for the publication of the delinquent tax list. The price paid for its publication is too small, it hardly pays the expense of labor and time consumed in setting the type. Even before the war the price was thought to be very low, yet the price for its publication is the same now as then, with an advance of 100 per cent in the price of printing materials. We think the legislature should fix the price to correspond with the rise in printing materials.

The Official Vote of Alabama. The following is the official vote of Alabama for Governor:

R. M. Patton.....21,422
M. J. Bulger.....15,234
W. R. Smith.....8,194

Patton's majority over Bulger.....6,188

Mr. Patton was a Douglas Democrat in 1860.

Reminiscence of the Witz Trial.

"One of the witnesses for the prosecution in the case of Witz, the Andersonville jailor, was a person who called himself the Marquis de la Beume, who claimed to be a grand nephew of La Fayette. The witness testified to the individual killing of murder committed by Witz. During the progress of the trial the Marquis, it is said, obtained the recommendations of members of the military commission for his appointment to a clerkship in the Interior Department, and was afterward appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Yesterday he was dismissed from his position as clerk upon the representation, as we are informed, of the officers and soldiers of the Seventh New York (Steuben) Regiment, to which Beume formerly belonged, and from which, it is alleged, he deserted. It is said the real name of this person is Felix Osser.—*N. Y. Times* (Republican).

Beume was one of the witnesses who helped swear away the life of Witz, and was rewarded thereby by a clerkship.—We now see what kind of a rascal he was.

Mr. FOOTE moved the adoption of an order that the Senate meet every day at 12 o'clock; which was carried.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to maintain the freedom of the inhabitants of the States declared to be in insurrection, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a joint resolution proposing to amend the Constitution so as to make voters instead of population the basis of representation in Congress.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a concurrent resolution declaratory of the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a series of resolutions declaratory of the duty of Congress, especially in respect to the loyal citizens of the States lately in rebellion.

Mr. BROWN gave notice of a bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis; also, a bill to reimburse the State of Missouri for expenses in calling out and equipping militia, &c.

Mr. HARRIS introduced a bill to regulate the judiciary system of the United States.

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At 12 o'clock the Senate took a recess until 1 o'clock, when it reassembled, and directed the Secretary to inform the House of its organization.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The galleries of the House are densely crowded.

At noon Mr. McPherson, the Clerk, proceeded to call, as required by law, the roll of the members elect. While it was being called, Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, wanted to suggest something, but the Clerk refused to be interrupted. After the call was completed, Mr. Maynard again

rose to speak, but the Clerk again ruled him out of order. One hundred and seventy-five members answered to their names.

Mr. JAMES BROOKS, of New York, made a speech characterizing the omission of the members from Tennessee from the roll as unprecedented, unjust and totally uncalled for. "It," he said, "Mr. Maynard was not a loyal man from a Union and loyal State, then the President of the United States was not a loyal man, but an alien and a stranger." He charged that the adoption of the resolution, excluding the Southern members from this House by the Republican caucus, was designed as antagonistic to the President's forthcoming message.

The House took no action on the subject, but, under the operation of the previous question, proceeded to the election of a speaker. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, and Hon. James Brooks, of New York, were put in nomination.

The House then proceeded to vote, with the following result: For Mr. Colfax, 129; for Mr. Brooks, 35. Mr. Colfax was declared elected, and, amid applause, was conducted to the chair by Messrs. Merrill and Brooks.

The Speaker took the oath of office and afterward administered it to the members, who were called up by the delegation.

A resolution was then adopted declaring Mr. McPherson, Clerk; Mr. Ordway, Sergeant at Arms; Mr. Goodenow, Door-keeper, and Mr. Givens, Postmaster, until their successors shall be duly qualified.

The yeas and nays were ordered on the resolution with the following result: Yeas, 123; nays, 35. The officers of the House were then sworn in.

Mr. COWAN presented a protest against the reception of Mr. Stockton, signed by members of the New Jersey legislature, alleging that Mr. Stockton did not receive a constitutional majority of the votes which was necessary to his election as senator. The protest was ordered to be laid upon the table for the present, and Mr. Stockton was duly sworn into office.

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The DELINQUENT TAX LIST.—We have waited with some anxiety since the extra session of the legislature was called, to hear some suggestions from the press of the State relative to the price fixed by law for the publication of the delinquent tax list. The price paid for its publication is too small, it hardly pays the expense of labor and time consumed in setting the type.

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