

master's table." It is a generous gift from this magnanimous Congress of so much liberty and privilege to the people as it seems prudent and best. Is not this the plain, unvarnished theory of this measure and of the gentleman's speech? Ten of the States of this Union with 10,000,000 people of the United States have been conquered, and in virtue of its conquest the Federal Government is vested with all the rights and liberties of those States and people holding them as a conqueror to be reluctantly doled out according to its supreme will and pleasure by this charter of privileges. I say reluctantly, for over this has been delayed for almost two years. Have not the centuries been calling hard? Can we not almost see the pounds demanding of Congress *magis charta?*

Sir, the doctrine that this government can make conquest of any of the States of this Union is opposed to, is at war with, the fundamental idea of the government itself. It would destroy the harmony of the system of States and Union by allowing of antagonistic interests. It would offer to the general Government the allurement of power aggrandizement not in the interest and growth of the States and Union, but in its own separate interest. It would nullify all the provisions of the Constitution reserving powers of the States and the people. It would be equivalent to a bribe to the government to destroy the States and the liberties of the people by the exercise of dictatorial powers. But it is absurdly impossible that the United States Government, except by usurpation, should make "conquest" of one of the States of which it is composed. It has certain prerogative limited powers and jurisdiction with the means and capabilities of using and exercising any others. It had before the war, by the authority of the organic act of its creation, the power and jurisdiction, certain, defined and limited, to control, govern and preserve the States in the Union. Its jurisdiction is the same now the war is over; no greater, no less.

There is, there can be no such thing as this government being able to increase or enlarge its powers of jurisdiction over the States by "conquest." It can derive powers, but in one way, and that by Constitutional grant. No set of any other parties to the Constitution can take from or add to those granted thereby in any other way than by amendment according to the provisions of the Constitution itself. Under the Constitution as it is, the power is granted the general government to suppress insurrection, treason, invasions, and, upon application, protect the States from domestic violence. It is absurd that in successfully performing this duty it could by any possibility destroy the State, or the insurrection or all live together to destroy the State as such in the Union. And yet to such absurdities does the doctrine on which this bill is founded lead. Let insurrection arise in any State of the Union and the Government undertake to suppress it; if it shall assume proportions large enough to subdue the insurgents, according to the laws of war, to belligerent rights, the nation becomes divided into two parties, and the party that shall finally submit has forfeited all rights under the Constitution, and is subject to the will of the other as a conqueror under the law of nations.

If the Federal Government should be called on to protect the State from violence, and the disturbing party should be able in any manner, to possess itself of the State, so as to deprive the inhabitants for the time being of all civil government, and should magnify its powers and increase its numbers, so that under the human laws of modern warfare, the laws that govern public war should be recognized as applicable to its conduct, such a State and all the inhabitants thereof, when finally the Government should conquer, will have lost all their rights except only such as may be found in the law of nations as applicable when one nation conquers another. The bare statement of such a proposition shows it to be preposterous. The Constitution is the paramount and ever continuing law, "both in war and in peace." The army can only be used in aid of its enforcement. It is clear that no warrant for this measure can be found in the Constitution. The gentleman certainly has not claimed it. No one believing in the truth of the preamble of this bill will claim any Constitutional power for it under that section: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government." The bill goes upon the theory that they are not now States in the Union; indeed, that they are not States at all. The gentleman from Pennsylvania styles them as "States never severed from a state of conquest," "outlawed States," and says:

"Congress denies that any State lately in rebellion has any government or Constitution known to the Constitution of the United States, or which can be recognized as a part of the Union."

If, then, these are not States, or if not "States in this Union," that provision of the Constitution has no reference to them. It refers in express terms to States "in" the Union only. The government has no such power, and is under no such obligation to any other States. There is then no law, no constitutional power for this measure, and no rightful power for holding these States in a state of "conquest." The war long since finished its bloody, its devastating work of suppressing the insurrection and putting down the rebellion. All have submitted, combatants and people, and admit that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land in all emergencies for rulers and people. To hold these States as the gentleman says they are held, as "outlawed" states in a "state of conquest" is the usurpation and exercise of despotic and tyrannical power in its most odious form, and will assuredly end in the destruction of all constitutional government.

Sir, a fearful responsibility rests upon those who would continue this state of things. Let us not flatter ourselves that this appetite for dismantling and devouring States and converting them into territories will be satisfied with the ten States now claimed by conquest; the more it devours, the more it will demand. Already it has been declared by the leader of the majority here that the Constitution of Maryland and Kentucky, and even his own State of Pennsylvania, States as patriotic as any in the Union, ought to be reformed and made to accord with the Congressional idea of republican government. A few months more of rapid progress and advancement like that of the last two years, and Congress will provide Constitutions for all the States in accordance with its

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

J. G. OSBORNE & S. L. HARVEY, Editors.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 1867.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

We published last week a communication written by C. H. Reeve, Esq., of this place in favor of a National Democratic Convention. A number of our Democratic exchanges favor the calling of such a Convention some time in next May or June, at Louisville or Cincinnati. We have thus far refrained from expressing any opinion upon the propriety of holding the proposed convention, preferring to wait and be governed by the prevailing wish of the masses of the Democratic party. We have heard the question discussed pro and con amongst some of the most reliable Democrats in this locality, some advocating and others opposing the measure. The convention if held, most of necessity would be considerable extent under the control of Democratic leaders who have heretofore assumed the management of our party movements, and the question is whether their management in the past gives us any assurance that such a convention controlled by them would be of any real service. We do not know that they could under the circumstances have done better, but we are sure that things have gone on to very little profit to the party or the country for several years past. The condition of the country and of the Democratic party is now far from being satisfactory to the Democracy, and one is crying, "Lo! here; and another, Lo! there; one thicks that impartial suffrage is the panacea for all our troubles, and another wants a National Convention to declare anew the old time principles of the party and to devise ways and means for carrying them into practice.

We are opposed to enfranchising negroes, and have little hope that a National Convention would just now do any good. The principles of the party are and have been long known to all men, and seems to us that the time and money spent in attending the convention would be more judiciously employed in cultivating public sentiment and enlightening the minds of our political opponents on the great questions at issue between the political parties of the day. At the last fall elections wherever this was done we gained votes, or at least held our own, while in those places where this was neglected or but partially performed, we lost votes in large numbers. We confess that we cannot see what particular good will ensue from the mere passage by a convention of a set of resolutions, nevertheless we do not see any harm in doing so, provided that the resolution be soundly Democratic.

Two old Revolutionary soldiers, John Gray of Noble county, Ohio, aged one hundred and three years, and Daniel F. Blakeman, of Sandusky, New York, were last week voted a pension of five thousand dollars each.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—In the Senate to-day, an important bill was passed, to punish certain crimes in relation to the public securities of the United States.

The first section punishes the counterfeiting of United States notes or securities with 15 years' imprisonment, or \$10,000 fine, or both. The second and third sections are of importance to business men. They are in the following language:

Sec. 2. That it shall not be lawful to design, engrave, print, or in any manner make or execute, or to utter, issue, distribute, circulate or use any bond, certificate of indebtedness, certificate of deposit, United States note, treasury note, circulating note, fractional note, postage stamp, note or other obligation or security of the United States, or of any banking association organized or acting under the law thereof, which has been or may be issued under, or authorized by any act of Congress heretofore passed, or which may hereafter be passed; and any person or persons offending against the provisions of this section shall, on conviction, be fined \$1,000, to be recovered by an action of debt—one half to go to the United States and one half to the informer.

Sec. 3. That it shall not be lawful to

write, print, or otherwise impress on any bond, certificate of indebtedness, or other instrument specified in the last section, any business or professional card notice or advertisement of any goods, wares or merchandise, or of any drug or medicine, of any invention or patent, or of any other matter or thing whatever; and any person or persons offending against the provisions of this section shall be subject to a penalty of \$300, to be recovered by an action of debt—one half each to the United States and the informer.

The remaining sections prescribe the penalty for using or counterfeiting the dies or implements used in the manufacture of United States notes or bonds, or certificates of any invention or patent, or of any other matter or thing whatever; and any person or persons offending against the provisions of this section shall be subject to a penalty of \$300, to be recovered by an action of debt—one half each to the United States and the informer.

The Senate also passed a bill to amend the law of 1789, establishing the judicial Courts of the United States. It authorizes any Judge or Justice of the United States Courts to issue writs of habeas corpus, and regulate the course of proceeding under them.

Mr. Wade offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the President for information as to how often and for what purpose Gov. Cummings of Colorado, has visited Washington recently. The conduct of this officer in opposing the admission of Colorado, has excited Wade's indignation.

The Tariff bill came up at 1 o'clock, and was debated until the hour of adjournment, to very little purpose apparently, as nearly all the disputed amendments were voted down.

Mr. Fessenden again gave notice that he should press the bill to a final vote to-morrow night.

The House to-day had a very spirited debate on the impeachment movement.

On a motion made by Mr. Loam, of Missouri, to refer the whole matter to a special committee, in order that the investigation might be hastened.—Mr. LeBlond of Ohio said he challenged the Republicans to go on with the investigation, and dared them to repeat on impeachment.

Mr. Wentworth said it must go on, or those who ordered it would be put in the position of backing out of it in the most indecent manner.

That the negroes will, if enfranchised, vote with their old friends, their former masters we have never had a doubt, nevertheless we are not in favor of Sambo voting at all. He is not one of us; he cannot appreciate our system of free institutions, and of course would only be an instrument in the hands of others to carry elections.

Mr. Wilson of Iowa, chairman of the

SPEECH OF MR. ELDIDGE.

We surrender a considerable portion of our paper this week to the eloquent and logical argument of Hon. C. A. Eldridge, of Wisconsin, on the bill to restore equal political rights to the States recently in insurrection. The speech will be read by all candid thinking men with unusual interest, as it exposes the sophistries of Thad Stevens' interpretation of the Constitution and lays bare the treachery and treason of the radical Congress. We hope our Democratic friends will, after reading the speech themselves, hand the paper to their entering Republican neighbor.

VETO OF THE COLORADO BILL.

The President has returned to the Senate, with his objections, the bill for the admission of Colorado. He vetoes the bill on the ground that the population is only 28,000, as appears by the census, and which is less than that of any other State which has heretofore asked to be admitted; also on the grounds of the evident inconstancy of the legislation of the territory and that of Congress on the subject of the third section, namely: The condition precedent of admission, allowing votes, regardless of color or distinction; and third, as the legislature proposed carrying out the provisions of the bill the terms of half the members of the territorial legislature having expired on the 3d inst., the President asks that the question be submitted to Congress.

These are the principal reasons for the veto.

Advices from Montana Territory say the desperadoes in that territory have again become so bold as to call out from the old regulators a notice that the reorganization of the company has become necessary, and hereafter all offenders will be summarily dealt with.

At this remark Mr. Stevens jumped up in his seat and said, excitedly, to Bingham:

"I will not take your counsel, recognize your authority, nor believe one word you say."

The speaker promptly called Mr. Stevens to order. The recommitment of the bill, Mr. Stevens contended all along, was equivalent to its defeat. The vote was then taken, and the entire subject was sent to the committee on reconstruction, which its friends claim is its certain death. The vote on referring was 88 to 65. Most of the leading Republicans voted for the reference.

Jan. 29.—The President to day returned to the Senate, with his objections, the bill for the admission of Nebraska. He refers to the fundamental condition precedent, that suffrage shall be allowed without distinction of race or color. This condition is not mentioned in the original enabling act, and was not contemplated at the time of its passage; was not sought by the people themselves; has not been applied before the inhabitants of any State asking admission and is in direct conflict with the Constitution adopted by the people, and declared in the preamble to it, that the people have a right to form a government for themselves.

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Mr. Wilson of Iowa, chairman of the

judiciary committee, declined to say what they were doing, and contradicted "in toto" the statements made in the newspapers purporting to give details of the investigation. He virtually sustained the correctness of these dispatches, which have all along declared that not a witness had been summoned nor one examined. The question of ordering a special committee was laid over till Monday next, and then the subject was dropped.

The interest manifested in the reconstruction question was again evinced to day by a large attendance of spectators in the galleries, while the floor of the House was at one time so crowded that it was cleared of all persons except those privileged to be present. The debate, however, was not very exciting, most of the speeches being read from manuscript.

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