

ated and endearing. Whatever institution of state of society we may think proper to establish or permit, is by no other State to be disturbed. We enter not into the inquiry, whether such institution be deemed by another State just or expedient. It is sufficient that we think proper to allow it. To protect us from attempts to disturb what we allow, and they approve, would be to support our institutions, but their own opinions, to exercise a supervising power over our legislation, and to insult us with a claim of superiority in the very offer to discharge the duty which our relations authorize us to require. As our right is indisputable, to regulate exclusively, according to our own notions, the internal relations of our own people, the duty of preventing every attempt to disturb what we have established, results from the simple fact that we have established it. And the propriety and propriety in the view of others, of such regulations as we have pleased to make, can never either enhance or lessen the duty of such protection.

We do full justice to the general sentiment and feelings of our fellow citizens in other States, and are fully aware that the attempt to injure us is made by a small minority—composed, probably, of many misguided and some wicked men; and that these attempts meet with no favor, but on the other hand with marked disapprobation, from the large majority of the communities in which they are made. Still it must be recollected, that from the nature of the means employed, the danger to us is the same, whether these means are put into activity by a contemptible minority, or are sanctioned and adopted by the whole body of the people. An incendiary pamphlet performs its office of mischief as effectually when issued under the patronage of twenty, as of twenty thousand persons. Its efficacy depends upon its circulation, not the weight of authority which supports it.

[Here ought to come in the last paragraph on the preceding page.]

But it is unnecessary further to set forth the justice of our claims on our brethren of the north and east, and their capability, if they were desirous, of complying with our just demands. We believe that our property, the lives of our fellow citizens, and the peace and harmony of our country, are threatened by the measures of these misguided, wicked men; and though we feel the greatest attachment for the Union, and would do all in our power to strengthen and perpetuate it, yet we are not ready to surrender those very rights and blessings which that Union was formed to protect. And should the means now adopted, prove ineffectual in stopping the progress of these attacks on our peace and happiness, we would invoke the aid of the other slave holding States, that there may be a concerted action in taking such steps as the occasion may demand.

THOS. G. POLK,
Chairman of the Committee of 26.

Resolved, That we are ready and willing to make a common cause of this subject with the rest of our sister slave holding States, and hereby invite their co-operation in passing such laws and resolutions as may be necessary to suppress and prevent the circulation of any such publications within any of said slave holding States.

Resolved, That though the constitution seems to Congress the exclusive jurisdiction over the States, yet we should deprecate any action of the part of Congress, towards liberating the States of the District, without consent of the States, as a breach of faith towards those States, by which the territory was ceded; and will regard such an interference as the first step towards legislative action with regard to our own property.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor of this State be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Executive of each of the States of this Union.

Mr. Polk, also from the same committee, at the request of the minority of the said committee, submitted the following resolutions, which were also laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

1. **Resolved**, That North Carolina alone has the right to legislate over the Slaves in her territory, and any attempt to change their condition, whether made by Congress, the Legislature, or the people of other States, will be regarded as an invasion of our just rights.

2. **Resolved**, That we are ready and willing to make, on this subject, a common cause with the rest of our sister slave holding States, and hereby invite their co-operation in passing such laws and resolutions as may be necessary to suppress and prevent the circulation of any incendiary publications within any of the slave holding States.

3. **Resolved**, That the thanks of this State are due, and the kindest feelings of the citizens thereof are cherished towards their brethren of the North, who have magnanimously sustained the principles of our Federal Government, and recognized and maintained our rights against the transgressions of those States.

4. **Resolved**, That our sister, non-slaveholding States are respectfully requested to enact penal laws prohibiting the printing within their respective limits, all such publications as have a tendency to make our slaves discontented with their present condition, or incite them to insurrection.

5. **Resolved**, That although by the Constitution, all legislative power over the District of Columbia is vested in the Congress of the United States, yet we would deprecate any legislative action on the part of that body towards liberating the slaves of that District, as a breach of faith towards those States, by whom the territory was originally ceded, and will regard such interference as the first step towards a general emancipation of the slaves of the South.

6. **Resolved**, That the Governor be, and he is hereby requested to forward a copy of this preamble and resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Executive of each of the States of the Union, with a request that the same be submitted to their respective legislatures.

Frederick J. Hill,
Jesse Wilson,
A. Little,
T. G. Polk,
John B. Muse,
R. M. G. Moore,
Thomas L. Clingman,
Daniel S. Saunders,
John B. Beasley.

Dec. 10. Mr. Hill submitted a resolution in favor of increasing the capital of the State Bank \$200,000, to enable the Trustees of the University and Literary Fund to subscribe. Read the first time and laid on the table.

Dec. 11. was principally consumed in debating the resolutions relating to the public lands.

Dec. 12. The Judiciary committee reported against the bill to give exclusive jurisdiction to the superior courts in jury cases.

Dec. 14. The bill to suppress duelling passed its second reading after sundry amendments.

Dec. 14. The bill more effectually to suppress the vice of gambling in this State, was read the second time, amended, on the several motions of Messrs. Wyche, Bryan, Welborn, and Marsteller, passed and ordered to be engrossed.

The land resolutions were then taken up, and the debate on them continued till the Senate adjourned.

Dec. 15. The same subject was again taken up, when a motion which had been

made by Mr. Little, to strike out all after the word *resolved* and insert resolutions similar to those adopted by the House of Commons, was lost by a vote of 27 to 35. Mr. Little introduced an amendment, declaring that Congress has the Constitutional right to distribute the proceeds of the public lands among the States; which was negatived 34 to 27.

Dec. 15. The Land resolutions were again taken up and the 1st resolution which declares against the right of Congress to give the public lands to the States in which they are situated, and the first part of the second resolution, declaring that the whole revenue ought never to exceed the amount of expenditures necessary to an economical administration of the General Government, were unanimously adopted. The second part, which declares that the proceeds of the lands ought to be cast into the Treasury with other revenues, and that Congress ought to reduce the revenue to a sum, which, when added to the land sales, will not exceed the wants of the Government; but until that can be done without disturbing the tariff compromise, that any surplus which may remain after defraying the expenditures of the General Government, ought to be distributed by Congress among the States, was passed by a vote of 36 to 27. [We regard this as tantamount to surrendering all the claims of the States to the Public Domain.]

The third Resolution, which declares that Congress cannot distribute the land or proceeds thereof in any manner so as to give preference to the new States, without violating the rights of, and injuring all the States, passed by a vote of two to one. The fourth resolution, which deprecates the giving to national questions, in respect to our public lands, a party character, passed by a vote of 36 to 27. The last resolution, requesting the Governor to transmit them to our members of Congress, passed 35 to 25; and the resolutions were ordered to be engrossed.

Dec. 17. The resolutions on the subject of incendiary publications, were taken up for consideration. Mr. Polk moved to amend the same, by striking out all after the word *Resolved*, and inserting a substitute; but before the question was taken the Senate adjourned.

Dec. 18. The engrossed bill to regulate the practice of hawking and peddling in this State, the engrossed bill making an appropriation of \$75,000 for carrying on and completing the capitol of the State; and various other bills of less importance, passed their last reading, and were ordered to be engrossed.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the resolutions on the subject of incendiary publications—the question still pending on Mr. Polk's amendment. A division of the question having been called for by Mr. Wilson, the motion to strike out all except the word *resolved*, was decided in the affirmative, 44 to 17.

The question then recurring on inserting the substitute, a division of the question was called for by Mr. Wilson, the motion to strike out all except the word *resolved*, was decided in the affirmative, 44 to 17.

The question then recurring on inserting the substitute, a division of the question was called for by Mr. Wilson, the first branch of the resolutions was adopted by a unanimous vote; and the second by a vote of 45 to 16. The question on the third branch of the resolutions has been decided unanimously in the affirmative, 55 to 7.

Mr. Fox moved to amend the amendment in the 5th branch, so as to convey the idea, as we understood it, that Congress has the right to emancipate the slaves in the District of Columbia, with the consent of the owners; which was not agreed to—only eleven voting in its favor and 51 against it.

Ayes—Messrs. Edwards, Exum, Fox, Gambill, Hussey, Kerr, Patterson, Rabun, Staley, Stephens, Waugh.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Dec. 8. Mr. Graham from the Judiciary committee reported unfavorably on the bill to authorize Lawyers from other States to practice in the courts of N. Carolina, on the ground that the power of allowing such persons to practice is vested in the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Dec. 8. The bill to incorporate the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road was read the second time.

Mr. Jacobs moved an amendment the object of which was to allow any future company to connect another road with this at any point.

His aim he said has to give the planter who might use this road to transport his produce the option, when it arrived at Gaston or Wilkins' ferry, of going on with it to Petersburg or diverting it to Norfolk if he preferred.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. Graham, Foreman, Hawkins, King, Williamson, Clingman and Manly, on the ground that it would be giving others who bore no part of the expense of constructing the road, the right of using it, and therefore the road would never be constructed; for no one would invest his capital in it on such terms.

The motion was advocated by Messrs. Jacobs, Dudley, Collins and M'Pherson, on the ground that it would give the planter a choice of markets, and prevent the Petersburg merchants from taking the advantage of him. To this, it was answered that the planter had no right to such advantage at the cost of the private individuals who might be stockholders in the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road company; and that if they or the Norfolk merchants wished any advantage of this kind, they might construct a road of their own parallel with the other, or buy of the company the right to use theirs. The motion was lost.

A motion was then made by Mr. Gary to limit the duration of the charter to a term of 60 years. This was opposed by Mr. Graham, because the stock would not, like bank stock, be capable of division among the owners; and it would be unjust to deprive them of it by dissolving the company. The motion was lost, and the bill passed its second reading.

Dec. 9. The bill to regulate the prac-

tice of peddling was amended so as to require bookellers not resident, before peddling in books, to procure licence from the county court, and subject their stock to examination. The object of the amendment is to guard against the danger of circulating incendiary publications. The bill passed its last reading and was sent to the Senate.

Dec. 10. A petition from citizens of Virginia was presented asking the incorporation of a company to construct a rail road from Evansham by Danville to some point on the Roanoke, which was referred to a joint select committee. A bill was also introduced to incorporate the Milton and Salisbury Rail Road Company.

Dec. 12. The bill to incorporate the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road Company, passed its third reading and was sent to the Senate.

The bill to reward the taking up a runaway slave in the non-slaveholding States, was rejected.

The engrossed bill amendatory of an act passed in 1822, for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, was read the third time and ordered to be enrolled. It is therefore a law. [Provides that where a Jury is empanelled to try an allegation of fraud against an individual applying to take the oath, either party may take an appeal from the verdict.]

Mr. Waddell, from the committee to whom the petition from Virginia had been referred, reported a bill to incorporate the Danville, Roanoke and Junction Rail Road Company, and to re-enact the act of 1833, to incorporate the Roanoke and Yadkin Rail Road Company, with amendments. Passed the first reading and printed.

The bill to incorporate the Raleigh and Fayetteville Rail Road Company passed its second reading.

Dec. 15. A bill was reported to divide Rowan County, and postponed indefinitely.

Dec. 16. Mr. Graham, from the Judiciary Committee, reported against the expediency of amending the revenue laws of the State, so far as regards Store Tax—concluded in.

Mr. King, from the select Committee on the subject, reported a bill to regulate the times of holding the Superior Courts in the 4th and 6th Judicial circuits, which passed its first reading.

Dec. 17. Mr. Hybart, from the select Committee on the subject reported the bill to incorporate the Planter's and Mechanic's Bank of Fayetteville, with an amendment. The bill was read, and on motion of Mr. George Smith, was postponed indefinitely.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Congress. First Session.

SENATE—DEC. 10.

A message was received from the President relating to the dispute between Ohio and Michigan, with accompanying documents. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Benton presented papers purporting to be credentials of John Norvell and Lucius Lyon, Senators elected by the State of Michigan, for six years from the 4th of March last, and moved that out of courtesy, seats be assigned them on the floor of the Senate. The motion was laid on the table.

On Monday, the 14th, the Senate did nothing but pass the usual resolutions in consequence of the death of Mr. Kane, and Mr. Wildman of the House of Representatives.

Dec. 15. Walter Lowrie was unanimously re-elected Secretary, having received every vote given. A motion to ballot for a committee on the subject of the Michigan claims was made, and postponed till day after tomorrow. Mr. Benton called up his motion of courtesy to the Michigan Senators, which was again laid on the table at the instance of Mr. Clayton.

On the 16th and 17th December the Senate, by ballot, chose the following standing committees, the first named member of each being Chairman:

Foreign Relations—Messrs. Clay, King of Georgia, Tallmadge, Mangum, Porter.

Finance—Messrs. Webster, Cuthbert, Wright, Mangum, and Tyler.

Commerce—Messrs. Davis, Goldsborough, Tomlinson, McKean, and Linn.

Manufactures—Messrs. Knight, Ruggles, Morris, Prentiss, and Hendricks.

On Agriculture—Messrs. Brown, Kent, King of Alabama, Morris, Wright.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Benton, Wall, Preston, Goldsborough, Tipton.

On the Militia—Messrs. Robinson, Hendricks, McKean, Swift, and Well.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Southard, Tallmadge, Black, Robbins, and Cuthbert.

On the Public Lands—Messrs. Ewing, Moore, Prentiss, Crittenden, and McKean.

On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Black, Linn, Ruggles, Porter, and King of Ga.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs. White, Tipton, Goldsborough, Swift, and Brown.

On Claims—Messrs. Naudain, Tipton, Shepley, Swift, and Brown.

On the Territories—Messrs. Patton, Potts, Brown, Fowler, Fickens, Sprague, Pearce, of Maryland, Borden and Montgomery.

On Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Ward, well, Lea, of Tennessee, Lay, Jones, Storor, Morgan, Klingensmith, Bond and Fry.

On Invalid Pensions—Messrs. Miller, of Pennsylvania, Beale, Evans, of Maine, Schenk, Taylor, of New York, Harrison, of Pennsylvania, Doubleday, Hoar and Howell.

On Roads and Canals—Messrs. Mercer, Vinton, Rencher, Lucas, Reynolds, of Illinois, Hannagan, Steele, Jackson, of Massachusetts, and Calhoun, of Kentucky.

On Revised and Unfinished Business—Messrs. Huntington, Mann, of Pennsylvania, Mason, of Ohio; Harlan and Farlan.

On Accounts—Messrs. Lee, of N. J. Darlington, Hall, of Maine; Johnson, of Virginia, and Turner.

On Expenditures in the Department of State—Messrs. A. H. Shepperd, Calhoun, of Massachusetts, Hunt, of New York, Morris and Sickles.

On Expenditures in the Treasury Department—Messrs. Allen, of Vermont, Harper, Spangles, Russell and Barton.

On Expenditures in the Department of War—Messrs. Jones, of Ohio; Roove, Johnson, of Va. Tove and Hubley.

On Expenditures in the Navy Department—Messrs. Hall, of Maine, Sloane, Seymour, Pettigrow and Mason, of New York.

On Expenditures in the Post Office Department—Messrs. Hawes, Barnes, Childs, Bailey, of Maine, and Reynolds, of New York.

On Elections—Messrs. Claiborne, Griffin, Hawkins, Hard, Burns, Kilgore, Buchanan, Manly and Boyd.

On Ways and Means—Messrs. Cambreleng, McKim, Leavitt Corwin, Johnson of Tennessee, Smith, of Maine; Lawrence, of Massachusetts, Ingersoll and Owens.

On Claims—Messrs. Whittlesey, Forester, Banks, Blynum, Grennell, Davis, Taliaferro, P. C. Fuller, and Chambers, of Kentucky.

On Commerce—Messrs. Sutherland, Pinckney, Pearce, of Rhode Island, Gillet, Phillips, Johnson, of Louisiana, Ingham, of Connecticut, Cushman, and McKean.

On the Public Lands—Messrs. Boon, Slade, Williams, of N. Carolina, Lincoln, Casey, Kennon, Dunlap, Chapman, and Harrison, of Missouri.

On the Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs. Connor, Briggs, Laporte, Hall, of Vermont, Mann, of New York, Cleveland, French, Shields and Hopkins.

For the District of Columbia—Messrs. W. B. Shepard, Heister, Vanderpool, Bouldin, Washington, Lane, Rogers, Fairfield and Townes.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Beardsly, Thomas, Hardin, Pierce, of N. H.; Robertson, Peyton, Toucy, Jones, of Va. and Martin.

On Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Muhlenberg, Crane, Standefer, Turvill, Kinnard, Beaumont, Craig, Chasin, and Underwood.

On Public Expenditures—Messrs. Page, Clark, of Pennsylvania, McLane, Mason, of Maine, Doherty, Leonard, Haley, White and Weeks.

On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Carr, Galbraith, Patterson, Chambers, of Pennsylvania, May, Garland, of Virginia, Hammond, Huntman and Lawler.

On Manufactures—Messrs. J. Q. Adams, Denry, Dickinson, McCormac, Webster, Gideon Lee, Judson, Holson and Granger.

On Agriculture—Messrs. Bookce, Bean, Roane, Shinn, Doherty, Bailey, Logan, Phelps and Effner.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs. Bell, McCarty, Everett, Graham, Ashley, Haynes, Lyon, Hawes and Chaney.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Johnson, of Kentucky, Speight Ward, Thompson, of Ohio, Coffee, Burch, McKay, Anthony and Dromgoole.

On the Militia—Messrs. Glascock, Henderson, Wm K. Fuller, Wagoner, Calhoun, of Massachusetts, Joshua Lee, of New York, Carter, Coles, and Williams, of Kentucky.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Farley, Milligan, Lansing, Reed, Grayson, Parker, Wise, Ashe, and Grantland.

On Foreign Relations—Messrs. Mason, of Va. Howard, Campbell, Cramer, Hamer, Allen, of Kentucky, Parks, Cushing and Jackson of Georgia.

On the Territories—Messrs. Patton, Potts, Brown, Fowler, Fickens, Sprague, Pearce, of Maryland, Borden and Montgomery.

On Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Ward, well, Lea, of Tennessee, Lay, Jones, Storor, Morgan, Klingensmith, Bond and Fry.

On Invalid Pensions—Messrs. Miller, of Pennsylvania, Beale, Evans, of Maine, Schenk, Taylor, of New York, Harrison, of Pennsylvania, Doubleday, Hoar and Howell.

On Expenditures on the Public Buildings—Messrs. Darlington, Hazeltine, Pearce, of R. I. Galbraith, and Beale.

Dec. 15. Nothing was done but the election of sergeant at arms and door keepers.

Dec. 16. Mr. Fairfield presented a petition praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Mr. Slade moved to have it printed. Decided in the negative, Nays, 168; Yeas, 50.

The Speaker presented the petition of David Hewland, of North Carolina, contesting the election of James Graham. Referred to the committee on elections.

The Speaker presented a letter from Elijah E. Crary, transmitting his credentials, as a Representative from the State of Michigan. A motion was made to admit him to a seat on the floor, and to print his communication. But the House adjourned without deciding it.

Dec. 17. The House in committee of the whole, referred the different parts of the President's message to the appropriate committees.

Mr. Webster submitted the following: *Resolved*, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to report the number, extent and direction, of the several rail roads already built or commenced, and the most important of those which are projected or contemplated in the several States; and that they inquire into the expediency of aiding in any of those undertakings on the part of the Government of the U. S., either by making payment in advance, on contracts for carrying the mails on such road, or otherwise; and on the condition of transporting the property or troops of the U. S. by such roads, free of expense to the U. S., whether in peace or war.

Resolved, That so much of the President's message as respects the question, whether the U. S. cannot, without transcending their constitutional powers, secure to the Post Office Department the use of the several rail roads in the U. States, by an act of Congress, which shall provide within itself some equitable mode of adjusting the amount of compensation, be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to make a special report thereon.

Dec. 18. Mr. Jackson, of Massachusetts, presented a petition for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Mr. Hammond, of South Carolina, moved not to receive it. After some debate, it was moved to lay Mr. Hammond's motion on the table. This motion was afterwards withdrawn, and Mr. Beardsly, of N. York, moved that the petition be considered, which was decided in the affirmative without opposition. Mr. Beardsly then moved to lay the petition on the table, and Mr. Thomas of Maryland moved a reconsideration of the vote to consider the petition. On this motion a debate ensued which lasted till the House adjourned. No one seemed disposed to favor the petition or countenance the petitioners. The difference appeared rather to be as to what was the best way to discontinue them.

During the debate, Mr. Pierce, of N. H. spoke as follows: He was unwilling that any imputation should rest upon the North in consequence of the misguided and fanatical resentment of a few—comparatively very few—who, however honest might have been their purposes, he believed had done incalculable mischief, and whose movements he knew received no more sanction among the great mass of the people of the North than they did at the South.

For one, he (Mr. P.) while he would be the last to infringe upon any of the sacred reserved rights of the people, was prepared to stamp with disapprobation, in the most express and unqualified terms, the whole movement upon this subject.

Mr. P. said he would not resume his seat without tendering to the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Mason,) just and generous as he always was, his acknowledgements for the admission frankly made in the opening of his remarks. He had said that, during the period that he had occupied a seat in this House (as Mr. P. understood him,) he had never known six men seriously disposed to interfere with the rights of the slaveholders at the South. Gentlemen might be assured there was no such disposition as a general sentiment prevailing among the people—at least he felt confident in asserting, that among the people of the State which he had the honor in part to represent, there was not one in a hundred who did not entertain the most sacred regard for the rights of their Southern brethren—nay, not one in five hundred who would not have those rights protected at any and every hazard. There was not the slightest disposition to interfere with any rights secured by the constitution, which had been gathered, and which he humbly hoped ever would bind together, this great and glorious confederacy as one family.

Before the House adjourned it was incidentally mentioned that a petition of the same kind had that day been inadvertently referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia. Mr. Patton immediately moved to reconsider the vote for reference.

Dec. 21. After several bills from the Committee of Claims for the relief of individuals had been reported, Mr. Cambreleng, from the Committee of Ways and Means, presented a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing a letter from Samuel Swartwout, collector of the customs at New York, stating that owing to the destruction caused by the fire in that city, all business was suspended, and the bonds of the importing merchants could not be paid; but still that he was obliged, under the law, to hand them over to the District Attorney, as usual, and expressing a hope that Congress would at once "take some action on the subject of this heavy calamity." The letter of the Collector also stated that although the merchants' exchange in which the post office had been kept was destroyed by the fire, the effects of that office were saved, and he had caused temporary accommodations to be erected in the Inspector's rooms for that office.

Mr. Cambreleng, along with these papers, made from the committee the following report:

Deeply sympathizing with the immediate and several sufferers by a great national calamity, the Committee of Ways and Means lost no time in considering the communication of the Secretary of the Treasury. The disaster is of an unparalleled character, and its consequences must be felt by every interest and every quarter of the Union. An exercise of all the constitutional powers of the Federal Government is in this instance demanded, not only by the highest considerations of national policy and justice, but prompt measures are essentially necessary to the collection of the revenue in every part of the Union to the public interest in every branch of the national expenditure, and to arrest, or at least to diminish, the calamitous effects of the late conflagration on all interests, and in every section of the country.

In considering what measures were best calculated to moderate the shock upon the trade, revenue, and industry of the country, three propositions were suggested, viz: the extension of the credit on bonds due from those who have suffered by the late fire, three, four, or five years—placing the vast surplus revenue of the country where they may be more actively and usefully employed, in our cities, in extending relief to the embarrassed and impoverished debtors of Government, and remitting the duty on all merchandise destroyed in original packages. The committee submit a bill embracing the two first propositions. The first provision is in accordance with the practice of Government heretofore—the second, while it will most extensively relieve the immediate wants of trade, and aid in reviving the energies of the commercial capital of the Union, cannot diminish in any manner the security of Government, or embarrass the operations of the Treasury. The question of remitting duties on property destroyed was also considered by the committee, but appearing to require previous examination and more deliberation, and not wishing to delay the proposed measures of relief, it was not finally acted on.

This report was accompanied by a bill, the first section of which provides that the Collector of New York may cause to be extended (with the assent of the securities) the time of payment of all bonds heretofore given for duties in New York, and not due before the 17th of this month, for a time not exceeding an average of three, four and five years.

The second section authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer to such banks as he may select the surplus moneys of the Government, and permit the same to remain in such banks for twelve months.

The bill was read twice, and committed to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The House took up the petition on the subject of abolition in the District of Columbia. Mr. Owens, of Georgia, moved the following resolutions: *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this House, the question of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, ought not to be entertained by Congress.

And be it further resolved, That in case any petitions praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia be hereafter presented, it is the deliberate opinion of this House that they ought to be laid on the table without reading.

Mr. Wise proposed to amend the first resolution by adding, "because Congress has no power to legislate on it under the Constitution of the United States;" and to amend the second by striking out all after the word "Resolved," and inserting, "that this House will not receive any future memorials on that subject."

A motion to lay the petition and papers connected with it on the table prevailed by a vote of 140 to 76.

Dec. 23. The motion to reconsider the motion to refer a petition for abolition, &c. was taken up.

Mr. Slade spoke more than two hours against the motion and in favor of the immediate abolition of the slave trade, and the gradual abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Mr. Garland replied.

The previous question was moved, and carried—ayes 104, nays 19. The question of reconsideration was then decided in the affirmative, 174 to 61.

A motion was then made to lay the petition on the table, which prevailed, ayes 144, nays 67.

The House resumed the consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote by which the memorial presented by Mr. Briggs praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Granger and Mr. Robertson opposed the motion to reconsider, and Messrs. Ingersoll, Mann, Johnson, Wise, and Beardsly advocated it. The debate was not ended when the House agreed to adjourn. In the course of the debate Mr. Ingersoll gave notice of an intention, when it should be in order, to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the holding of slaves is a right, clearly recognized by the constitution of the United States, and is thereby secured to the citizens of those States whose policy does not forbid it, as the legitimate subject of individual property and source of political influence and power, and all attempts to interfere with or molest them, in its exercise or enjoyment, are impolitic, unconstitutional, and unjust.

Mr. Cambreleng, by leave of the House, offered an amended bill, for the relief of the sufferers by the Fire in New York, stating that "the Committee, after consultation, had determined upon some alterations, which they thought would render it more acceptable to the House."

The only amendment however, affecting the sense which we find in the bill, is an addition to the section which authorizes the President to transfer the Revenue to such Banks as he may select. The addition is in the following words:

"Provided that this section shall not interfere with any further regulation of Congress concerning the collection, distribution, or disbursement of the public moneys."