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TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 1856.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1856.

The Committee appointed under the resolutions adopted by the House, to prevent Kansas, was authorized by Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, Mr. Howard, of Michigan, and Mr. Oliver, of Missouri. Mr. Campbell, however, declined this morning, and his successor has not yet been named.

As the resolutions adopted by the House were offered by Mr. Dunham as a substitute for the resolutions of the Committee, he was, by parliamentary usage and courtesy, entitled to stand in his place, as the head of the Committee, but having committed this unparalleled act of refusing to vote for Mr. Banks after a certain time, Mr. B. has seized the first opportunity in his power to revenge himself upon him; but in doing so he has been compelled to commit a breach of courtesy, and to show that his feeling of private pique is stronger than his sense of justice or his respect for that law by which he should be governed. The blow will injure more in the rebound than it will the object at whom it was aimed.

Another extraordinary circumstance about the appointment of the Committee is, that the two anti-Administration men standing at the head of the Committee of Ways and Means, the most important Committee in the House, should be placed on this itinerant Committee, leaving Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; as if there were no other members in the House competent to serve on the Kansas Committee! The matter has given occasion to much comment, and I have yet to hear the first person express his approval of the Speaker's doings. Mr. Campbell, however, having declined serving on the Kansas Committee, remains chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.

The House, yesterday, after spending the whole day upon the subject, adopted the following joint resolutions:

Resolved, That the members of the Thirty-fourth Congress, who have not already received them, shall be entitled to same books, or others of equal value, as were directed to be furnished to members of the Thirty-third Congress.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House procure said books for the members of their respective Houses entitled therein: *Provided*, That in lieu of such works as may be out of print, not readily obtained, or which may be deemed of no value to the members to whom they are due, such members shall have the right to select any other works which in their judgment may be more useful; not, however, to exceed the original cost of those to which they may be substituted: *And provided further*, That not more than one copy of any work shall be received under this resolution; nor shall the Statutes at Large be included in the distribution to members of the House of Representatives, the same having been already voted to them.

These resolutions are a departure from the old practice of members voting themselves books, and inasmuch—that is the word now used for *cement*, or *adopt*, a new practice, to-wit, that of the member selecting and purchasing for himself such books as he shall prefer. Or, in other words, of taking no books, but *money*; for, say what they will, this will be, and is intended by some to be, the practical working of this resolution.—Now suppose I am a young lawyer, who have obtained a seat in Congress; I want a law library; not the books Congress has been in the habit of distributing or *semine*, heretofore, and these resolutions enable me to get law books in the place of them, provided they do not cost more. For my self, I look upon this voting of books, or money, for members have been in the habit of selling their books for money here—to themselves by members as a piece of dishonesty, very like peculation; an honest sort of stealing; and I think that the members who have taken advantage of this matter has had a strong tendency to make all sorts of public stealing and peculation respectable; or, at least, to take away from it the disgrace and odium which ought to follow it everywhere.

The first books ever distributed by Congress to its members, I think, "the Madison Papers," and the reason given for such a distribution was that they were useful to members, as they contained political information and throw much light on the Constitution of the United States. These books may have cost from ten to twenty dollars a set. The cost of the books now distributed to members is said to be 1,500 each, having doubled in two or three Congresses. Such is "the progress and increase of evil" where it is to stop, the Lord knows. "Books" is but a flimsy veil now spread over the transaction, and this will be soon thrown aside as useless and ridiculous: the word *money* will then be substituted as more honest and truthful. So we go.

The public printing, too, increasing in an equal ratio with the cost of the "books" distributed. The Deficiency bill being before the Senate yesterday, it was proposed to insert appropriations for printing, as follows:

"To supply the deficiency for printing and paper ordered at the first session of the 33d Congress, $67,172."

And further:

"To supply the deficiency for printing of the first session of the 34th Congress arising under the joint resolution approved 27th February, 1855, $244,199 96."

Here is an amount of $300,000 called for, in addition to the large sums already appropriated for that purpose.

The whole amount appropriated or the printing of both houses a few years ago, did not exceed $300,000; yet Congress is now called upon to make an extra appropriation to this amount. There surely must be some mismanagement in this matter.

The debate which grew out of this proposition occupied all the rest of the day yesterday and nearly the whole of to-day, and effected remarks which, it is to be hoped, will not have been made without effect. There are grave abuses somewhere, and the fact that some folks get suddenly and mysteriously rich, and they those who do the printing, for those whose duty it is to see that no wrong is done. If the sentinel is faithless, who is secure? One thing is certain; the more money there is in the treasury and the larger the appropriations, the more corruption and peculation there will be among those who turn the funds. It is already said that the Clerk of the House will make a large sum; but how he can do so honestly is more than a plain unsophisticated "poor boy from the country" can see. But I suppose (uncle Sam, or the people, may say "he that is robbed, has no cause for crowding what he has lost, is not robbed at all."

The bill reported by the Committee on the District of Columbia, amending the law regulating elections, and fixing the qualifications of voters, was under consideration in the House to-day, and occupied the whole day. The object of the bill is to facilitate the voting of foreigners here, and it of course occasioned a warm debate. If it shall pass without amendment, the Administration can easily carry this city at the next municipal election; and this is the purpose of the bill. It will enable them to make up about a thousand or fifteen hundred foreigners to the polls, who will of course vote as they will be required, against the American party. The subject is still pending.

MAISON ROUGE.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1856.

SENATE.—Mr. Mason gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill amending the act for modifying the Diplomatic and Consular system.

On motion of Mr. Brodhead, of Pa., the committee on Military Affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing one or more national foundries in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of War, in his annual report submitted in December, 1853.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the Deficiency bill.

A long discussion took place on amendment appropriating $350,000 for printing, for arrears due for printing and for maps. The amendment was finally adopted.

The Senate, without transacting any other business of importance, adjourned.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Walker, of Alabama, the committee on the Judiciary were instructed to inquire into and ascertain whether the Kansas Investigating Committee have power to coerce the attendance of witnesses and to punish for contempt.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, was excused, at his own request, from serving on the Kansas Investigating Committee. The Speaker appointed Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, in his place.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, introduced a bill authorizing the President to cause the Southern boundary line of Kansas to be defined and marked. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

The Naturalization question came up, and occasioned a lively discussion.

Pending the consideration of a bill defining the qualifications of Voters in Washington, and without coming to any decision, the House adjourned.

The Southern (Iberville) *Sentinel* says:

A few days since Mr. Duerneme, (engaged in the establishment of Hart, Austin & Co.,) while at the residence of Mr. Eugene Landry, near this place, was suddenly and unexpectedly assaulted by three negroes, and left in three or four different places. Mr. Duerneme still survives, and will, in all probability, recover. The cause which general report assigns for this attempt to take life, is a delicate character, which it is needless to repeat here.

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