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that "we have nothing to do with slavery in the States, but we will be careful not to give it any sanction;" with Mr. Madison, we hold that "it would be wrong to admit that there can be property in man;" and with the signers of the Declaration of American Independence, we hold that it is a "self-evident truth, that all men are created equal." We believe our rights to enjoy these doctrines unmolested by this Government are as clear and indisputable as are the rights of the slave States to deny them in theory and in practice. We claim no superiority of privileges under the compact. We admit them, under the Constitution, to enjoy their slavery unmolested by Congress or by the free States. Its blessings and its curses; its horrors and its disgrace, are theirs. We neither claim the one, nor will we share in the other. We will have no participation in its guilt. "It is the object of our perfect hate." Southern gentlemen may continue to misrepresent us, by saying that we seek to interfere with that institution in the States; but, thank God, we have at last obtained access to the public ear. The people of the free States now understand that all our efforts, politically, are based upon the constitutional right of being exempt from its support. For years I have made it a practice, in almost every speech I have made in this Hall, to guard against misrepresentation, by avowing my doctrines. I am aware of the efforts now making by northern presses, letter-writers from this city, and editors who pander to the slave power, to misrepresent my views, and assail my motives. Sir, let me say to those men before Heaven: If they will come up to the work, unite their influence, and separate this Government from the support of slavery and the slave trade, and leave that institution where the Constitution placed it—with the States in which it exists—with gratitude to God, and with love and good will to all my fellow-men, I will retire from these halls to the obscurity of private life.

Sir, I may, on the present occasion, disabuse myself of the imputation that I wish to embarrass the friends of the incoming Administration. Those who have done me the honor to observe my course in this Hall for the last ten years, must do me the justice to say, that my efforts here have been against no party. I desire to see every member of every party lend his influence to support the Constitution of my country and the rights of humanity. Sir, I war upon no party. My assaults have ever been upon existing evils. I wish to see the people of the free States purified from the support, the crimes, the contagion of slavery. I would oppose any member or any party who seeks to uphold the slave trade or slavery by Congressional laws, or lends his influence to continue within this District, or on the high seas, a commerce in human flesh. I know that the sympathies, the consciences, and the judgment of the people are with me. Recent events have demonstrated the power of truth. Its omnipotence is irresistible. It is rolling onward. No political paltering, no party evasions, no deceptions, no dodging of responsibility, will satisfy the people. No; gentlemen must come up to the work; they must take their position upon the line of the Constitution, and maintain the rights of the free as well as of the slave States, or they will be overwhelmed by the indignation of a free and virtuous people. Gen. Taylor and his friends will have an opportunity of gaining immortal honors, and of deserving and receiving the gratitude of the American people. Let them at once abolish slavery and the slave trade in this District, and upon the high seas; let this Government cease to oppress and degrade our race; let us cease to legislate for slavery; let the powers and influence of Government be exerted to promote human liberty, to elevate mankind in his moral and physical being; and honors of men, and the blessings of Heaven, and the gratitude of this and of coming generations, shall be theirs.

The hour being expired—

The SPEAKER gave the floor—for which there were several competitors—to

Mr. HILLIARD, who was understood to say, that he had not risen for the purpose of replying to the speech of the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr.

GIDDINGS.] The question had already been fully discussed. He did not think that the House could be benefited by further debate upon it. He was not unwilling to risk the issue of the case upon the speech which had been this day made.

He had risen for the purpose of doing that which he believed it was well to do in most of these cases: instead of discussing general principles connected with existing topics, it would be better for the House, if it could, to proceed to vote at once. The object of all discussion should be to spread light on a subject that might come up, so that the House might arrive at an enlightened conclusion. When that light had been given, it was their duty to vote. He would therefore move the previous question. If the House desired to sustain the motion, it could do so; if not, if gentlemen desired to speak and the House desired to hear them, the motion would not be sustained.

The question on the demand for the previous question was then taken, and decided in the affirmative.

*So there was a second.

And the House decided that the main question should be now taken, (which main question was on the motion of Mr. GIDDINGS to reconsider the vote by which the bill had been ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.)

Mr. GIDDINGS now rose and said, that to save the time of the House, he would withdraw the motion to reconsider.

The SPEAKER. The motion to reconsider is withdrawn. The question before the House is, "Shall this bill pass?"

Mr. DICKEY asked the yeas and nays on that question; which were ordered.

And the question, "Shall this bill pass?" was then taken.

And the SPEAKER declared the result to be—in the affirmative 90, in the negative 89.

[The twelfth rule of the House provides, "that in all cases of election by the House, the SPEAKER shall vote; in other cases he shall not vote, unless the House be equally divided, or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division equal; and in case of such equal division, the question shall be lost."]

The SPEAKER proceeded to discharge the duty imposed by this rule. His remarks were taken under great disadvantage of position, but are believed to be as follows:

The SPEAKER. A case has occurred in which, under the rule of the House, it is the duty of the SPEAKER to vote. The SPEAKER regrets that in this, as in many other cases, he has been deprived of the opportunity of listening to the full discussion of the question, having heard no speech except that which has been made this morning, the debate having taken place mainly in Committee of the Whole on the private calendar.

The SPEAKER also has had little opportunity, if any, to turn his attention to the principles or the facts involved in this case. He cannot shrink, however, from giving his vote. But it is a well admitted Parliamentary principle, laid down in the books, that where the SPEAKER has any doubt in relation to a question, his vote shall be given in such a way as not finally to conclude it. It shall be given in such a way that the consideration of the question may be again open to the House, if the House, under any circumstances, shall choose to reconsider it.

The SPEAKER takes the opportunity to say, that he does not concur in full with either of the principles which have been maintained on both sides of the House. So far as the circumstances of the case have come to his knowledge, he doubts exceedingly whether the question of property in slaves is involved. And it has been to him a matter of great doubt from such part of the arguments as he has heard—

At this point of his remarks, the Speaker was interrupted by the Clerk, who showed him a paper containing the state of the vote.

The SPEAKER said the Clerk was mistaken in the vote. The vote stands—ninety-one in the affirmative, eighty-nine in the negative.

The announcement was received with varying expressions of amusement, applause, or gratification.

So the bill was passed by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Barrow, Birdsall, Bocoek, Bowlin, Boyd, Boyden, Brady, Bridges, Brodhead, William G. Brown, Charles Brown, Albert G. Brown, Burt, Butler, Cabell, Chapin, Chase, Clapp, Franklin Clark, Beverly L. Clarke, Clingman, Williamson R. W. Cobb, Cocke, Crisfield, Crozier, Daniel, Donnell, Garnett Duncan, Dunn, Featherston, Ficklin, Flournoy, French, Fulton, Gaines, Gayle, Goggin, Green, Hammons, Harmanson, Harris, Hill, Hilliard, Isaac E. Holmes, George S. Houston, John W. Houston, Inge, Iverson, Jameson, Andrew Johnson, Robert W. Johnson, George W. Jones, Kaufman, La Sere, Leffler, Levin, Ligon, Lumpkin, McDowell, McKay, McLane, Job Mann, Meade, Morehead, Morse, Outlaw, Peyton, Phelps, Preston, Richardson, Richey, Rose, Shepperd, Stanton, Stephens, Taylor, Thibodeaux, Thomas, James Thompson, Jacob Thompson, Richard W. Thompson, John B. Thompson, Tompkins, Toombs, Venable, Wallace, Wiley, Williams, and Woodward.

NAYS—Messrs. Abbott, Bache, Bingham, Blackmar, Cabby, Cathcart, Cullamer, Collins, Conger, Cranston, Crowell, Darling, Dickey, Dixon, Duer, Eckert, Edwards, Embree, Nathan Evans, Faran, Fisher, Freedley, Fries, Giddings, Gott, Greeley, Gregory, Grinnell, N. K. Hall, Jas. G. Hampton, Moses Hampton, Henley, Henry, Elias B. Holmes, Hubbard, Hudson, Jenkins, James H. Johnson, Kellogg, Kennon, Daniel P. King, Lamm, William T. Lawrence, Sidney Lawrence, Lincoln, Lord, McCliland, Melvaine, Horace Mann, Marsh, Marvin, Miller, Morris, Mullin, Nelson, Nes, Newell, Palfrey, Peaslee, Peck, Petrie, Pettit, Pollock, Putnam, Robinson, Rockhill, Julius Rockwell, John A. Rockwell, Root, Rumsey, St. John, Sawyer, Sherrill, Silvester, Smart, Caleb B. Smith, Truman Smith, Starkweather, Charles E. Stuart, Sirobin, William Thompson, Thurston, Tuck, Van Dyke, Vinton, Warren, Wentworth, White, and Wilson.

[The reporter does not attach the numbers to the negative and affirmative votes as given in this list, because it will be seen, by reference to a subsequent part of the day's proceedings, that the result is still in dispute.]

Mr. BURT now rose, and said that he had risen, not for the purpose of re-arguing this question, but of moving a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill had been passed; and he moved to lay that motion on the table.

And, continued Mr. B., before that question is taken, I move that there be a call of the House.

Mr. PALFREY rose and asked the attention of the gentleman from South Carolina, [Mr. BURT.]

The SPEAKER. This motion for a call of the House is not debatable.

Mr. PALFREY. Under the extraordinary circumstances under which that bill has been passed—

Mr. BURT. I do not yield the floor.

Mr. PALFREY. I ask the gentleman—

Mr. BURT. I trust the gentleman will not interrupt—

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion that there be a call of the House.

Mr. LINCOLN, (addressing the Chair.) I have had information brought to me in relation to the record of my vote on the bill which has just been passed. I desire to be informed by the Clerk how my vote is recorded.

The CLERK. The vote is recorded in the negative.

Mr. LINCOLN. That is right.

Mr. WENTWORTH said, as the question before the House was one of some importance, he would ask the yeas and nays on the motion for a call of the House.

And the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question was then taken on the motion that there be a call of the House, and decided in the negative—yeas 78, nays 105.

So a call of the House was refused.

The question then recurred on the motion to lay on the table the motion to reconsider.

Mr. BURT rose and said, that at the suggestion of many of his friends about him, with a view to save the time of the House, and as a call of the House had been refused, he would withdraw the motion to reconsider.

So the motion to reconsider was withdrawn.

Mr. COCKE rose, and renewed the motion to reconsider, and moved that that motion be laid upon the table.

Mr. PALFREY said, he renewed the motion that there be a call of the House.