

into power; and of the firm, intelligent and patriotic adherence to those principles, which has so eminently distinguished the present Executive of our proud Republic.

But amid the congratulations which I could not repress as to the prosperous condition of our beloved country, I cannot consider my duty as wholly performed, if I were to omit an allusion to the threatening aspect of the clouds now lowering over our Southern horizon, enveloping in darkness the future destiny of our glorious confederacy. The omens are portentous that a systematic and incendiary assault upon the peculiar institutions of the South will soon be made, with a determination and strength which can no longer be regarded with contempt. A party is arrayed at the North as the "free-soil" party, formidable for its numbers and the ability of its leaders. The objects and designs of this party are boldly avowed, and will doubtless be prosecuted with zealous industry. I have no fears that when the issue is distinctly presented, the South will be united in its resistance to this wanton aggression on its rights; and that all the differences of opinion, upon questions of less vital importance, will be merged in its determination not to submit to an outrage, (which, from the nature of our relations, as co-equal members of the same great family of States,) is as insulting as it was unprovoked. But the time is, perhaps, at hand, when it becomes us, as a State, deeply interested in the preservation of the rights of the slaveholder, to announce our opinions and feelings upon this momentous subject.

The adoption by Congress of the so called "Wilmot proviso," as a general rule for all newly acquired territory, and the submission to it by the Southern States, would reduce us to a condition of political inequality with the Northern States, wholly inconsistent with the objects of the Federal Union, as well as with our rights as one of the sovereign parties to that compact. Inequality of political rights implies inferiority, and can never be submitted to as long as we retain the power to be free, and that rightful appreciation of liberty, which is "the richest jewel in our heritage as Americans."

To preserve the Union, so dear to us, the South has hitherto submitted to much; and, I doubt not, is ready to submit to much more, when the sacrifice involves anything short of national degradation. But every American, who appreciates as he ought his privileges and duties as such, cherishes in the deepest recesses of his heart, an undying devotion to something dearer to him even than the Union, which he so much loves.

I shall have no opportunity of again addressing, thus formally, the representatives of the people of Florida, before my retirement into private life, upon the expiration of the term for which I was elected. I therefore embrace this occasion, to renew my grateful acknowledgments to my fellow-citizens, for that confidence which called me to the Executive Chair, and for the uniform and generous support which has sustained me in the arduous and responsible duties of my office.

I am conscious of many imperfections, but want of integrity of purpose, and of a sincere and ardent devotion to the best interests of

the people of Florida, are not among them. To the extent of my humble abilities, I have labored to promote their welfare; and I am devoutly grateful that the indications of general prosperity which I see around me, and the obviously improved condition of the State for the last four years, prove that our efforts have not been altogether in vain.

I shall return to the walks of private life with renewed devotion to my adopted State, and with fervent prayers, that the liberties and blessings, which a kind Providence has so lavishly bestowed upon us, may be perpetual.

W. D. MOSELEY.

Executive Department, November 24, 1848.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson,

Ordered, That 250 copies of the Governor's message, and accompanying documents be printed for the use of the Senate.

The following was received and read, and, on motion of Mr. Lorimer, ordered, to be spread upon the Journal:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, }

Tallahassee, 28th November, 1848. }

To the Honorable President

and Senators of Florida:

GENTLEMEN: The Pastor and Session of this Church inform your honorable body that their House will be open for public worship on Thanksgiving day, and on Sunday mornings and evenings through the winter, with ample accommodation for strangers, and respectfully invite you to unite with them.

JNO. H. RICE, Pastor.

J. G. GAMBLE, }

J. J. MAXWELL, }

B. F. WHITNER, } Session.

J. B. BULL, }

D. C. WILSON, }

Mr. Forward gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An Act to provide for the election of a keeper of Public Archives in the cities of St. Augustine and Pensacola, and to prescribe their duties, &c.

Mr. Aldrich gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled, An Act to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on State Lands.

On motion of Mr. Floyd, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, November 29, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Rev. Mr. Choice officiated as Chaplain. A quorum being present, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

Mr. Charles A. Tweed, Senator from the Second District, presented his certificate, and was duly sworn by Nathaniel A. Jameson, Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Sanderson moved that the Comptroller be requested to furnish a statement of the amount paid each witness summoned in behalf of the State for mileage and attendance each, the number of days, and the term of the Court each attended, together with the name of each witness, in the respective Counties of the State, during the past fiscal year.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Avery moved that the Senate now go into the election of a Printer, at a compensation to be fixed on afterwards by the Senate.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Crawford nominated Joseph Clisby.

Mr. Ghent nominated S. S. Sibley.

Mr. Moseley nominated W. Bartlett.

The vote was as follows:

For Clisby—Mr. President, Messrs. Avery, Burritt, Crawford, Lorimer, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, Tweed, Watts, White—10.

For Sibley—Messrs. Aldrich, Brown, Ghent—3.

For Bartlett—Messrs. Austin, Floyd, Forward, Moseley—4.

Mr. Clisby was declared duly elected.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson, the vote had yesterday upon the question of printing 250 copies of the documents accompanying the Governor's message, was reconsidered; and, upon the reconsideration thereof, Mr. Sanderson moved that 250 copies of the Governor's message and accompanying documents, excepting the document having reference to the draining of the Everglades, be printed for the use of the Senate.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Forward gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled "An act to incorporate St. Johns Lodge No. 12, in the city of St. Augustine."

Mr. Crawford moved that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to purchase stationery for the Senate, not to exceed the sum of \$20.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Ghent gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled "An act to remove the County Site of Walton County."

Mr. Forward moved that the rules be waived, and he allowed to introduce a bill.

Which motion was lost.

On motion, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Sanderson, Forward, and Crawford, were appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House, relative to the number of documents, &c., to be printed for the use of the General Assembly.

Mr. Avery moved that the printing of the Senate, during its present session, be executed by Joseph Clisby upon the following terms,

to wit: That he furnish 500 copies of the Journals of the Senate at \$2 per page, counting one copy; and daily slips of the proceedings at 25 cents per page of 550 words. That he shall execute the miscellaneous printing of the Senate, such as bills, reports, &c., at $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per 100 words, counting 75 copies.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Sanderson moved that the Sergeant-at-Arms be authorized and directed to procure paper curtains for the windows of the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Floyd moved to amend by adding, "and that he provide seats for ladies."

On which, the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Forward and Floyd, and were as follows:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, Tweed, Watts—14.

Nays—Messrs. Austin, Avery, Moseley, White—4.

The amendment prevailed.

The question being then put on the original motion, the yeas and nays were called for by Messrs. Austin and Forward, and were as follows:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Aldrich, Brown, Burritt, Costin, Crawford, Floyd, Forward, Ghent, Lorimer, Sanderson, D. J. Smith, Tweed, Watts—14.

Nays—Messrs. Austin, Avery, Moseley, White—4.

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Forward offered the following:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be requested to furnish the Senate, at an early day as possible, with a tabular statement of the sum paid annually by the State to the Clerks of the Circuit Courts in the respective Counties.

Which was carried.

Mr. Sanderson offered the following:

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be requested to furnish the Senate with a certified copy of the bill amending the Constitution, passed at the last session of the General Assembly; also, to certify whether or not said amendments have been published in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Which was carried.

Mr. Avery, from a Select Committee, made the following report, which was concurred in:

The committee appointed to report rules for the government of the Senate, beg leave to report:

That they have examined the rules of the Senate for the last session of the General Assembly, and believing them sufficient, recommend that they be adopted by the Senate for its government during the present session.

On motion, the rule was waived, and Mr. Lorimer allowed to move that 75 copies of the rules of the Senate be printed.

Which motion prevailed.

RULES OF THE SENATE.

RULE 1. The President shall take the Chair every day at the hour to which the Senate shall have adjourned; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Journal of the preceding day to be read.

2. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order, in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Senate by any two members; on which appeal, no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Senate.

3. He shall rise to put the question, but may state it sitting.

4. No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt the business of the Senate, while the journals or public papers are being read, or pass between the President and another member who is addressing the Senate.

5. Every member, when he speaks, shall address the Chair, standing in his place; and when he has finished, shall sit down.

6. No member shall speak more than twice, in any one debate, on the same subject, without leave of the Senate.

7. When two or more members shall rise at the same time, the President shall name the person entitled to proceed.

8. When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the President shall determine whether he is in order or not; and every question of order shall be decided by the President without debate, but subject to an appeal to the Senate.

9. If any member shall be called to order for words spoken, the exceptionable words shall be immediately taken down in writing, that the President may be better enabled to judge of the matter.

10. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Senate, without leave of the Senate; and in case a less number than a quorum shall convene, they are hereby authorized to send the Sergeant-at-arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any or all absent members, as the majority of such members shall agree, at the expense of such absent members respectively, unless such excuse for non-attendance shall be made as the Senate when a quorum is convened, shall judge sufficient.

11. No motion shall be debated until it be seconded.

12. When a motion shall be made and seconded, it shall be reduced to writing, if desired by the President, or any member, delivered in at the table and read, before the same shall be debated.

13. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged; and the motion to adjourn shall always be in order unless when a member shall be engaged in addressing the Senate; or when the Senate shall be engaged in taking a vote; and the motions to adjourn and to lie on the table, shall be decided without debate.

14. If the question in debate shall contain several points, any member may have the same divided.

15. In filling up blanks, the largest sum and the longest time shall be first put.

16. When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Senate, without debate.

17. When the yeas and nays shall be called for, by two of the members present, every member within the bar of the Senate, at the time the question was put by the President, shall (unless, for special reasons, he be excused by the Senate,) declare, openly and without debate, his assent or dissent to the ques-

tion. In taking the yeas and nays, and upon the call of the Senate, the names of the members shall be taken alphabetically.

18. On a motion made and seconded, to shut the doors of the Senate, in the discussion of any business which may, in the opinion of any member, require secrecy, the President shall direct the gallery to be cleared; and during the discussion of such motion, the doors shall remain shut; and no motion shall be deemed in order to admit any person or persons whatever.

19. The following order shall be observed, in taking up the business of the Senate, to wit: 1st, motions; 2d, petitions, memorials, and other papers, addressed either to the Senate, or to the President thereof; 3d, resolutions; 4th, reports of standing committees; 5th, reports of select committees; 6th, messages from the House of Representatives; and, lastly, orders of the day.

20. When a question has been once made and decided, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move the reconsideration thereof; but no motion for the reconsideration of any vote, shall be in order after a bill, resolution, message, report, or amendment, upon which the vote was taken, shall have gone out of the possession of the Senate, announcing its decision; nor shall any motion for reconsideration be in order, unless the same shall be made within the two next days of actual session thereafter.

21. The President shall have the right to name a member of the Senate to perform the duties of the Chair; but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment.

22. Before any petition, or memorial, addressed to the Senate, shall be received and read, whether the same be introduced by the President or a member, a brief statement of the contents of the petition or memorial, shall verbally be made by the introducer; after which, it may be referred to a committee.

23. One day's notice, at least, shall be given of an intended motion for leave to bring in a bill.

24. Every bill, resolution of a public nature, or resolution for the appropriation of the public money, shall receive three readings previously to its being passed, and the President shall give notice at each, whether it be the first, second, or third, which readings shall be on three different days; unless in cases of emergency four-fifths of the Senate may deem it expedient to dispense with the rules.

25. The first reading of a bill or resolution of a public nature, or for the appropriation of the public money, shall be for the information of the Senate; at which reading, the introducer shall have the right to state the general principles of the bill or resolution, as the case may be, and the causes for introducing it; and if opposition be made to it, the question shall be, "shall the bill or resolution be rejected?" upon which question there shall be no debate. If no opposition be made, or if the question to reject be negatived, the bill or resolution shall go to a second reading without a question.

26. No bill or resolution of a public nature, requiring the appropriation of public money, shall be committed or amended, until it shall have been twice read, after which, it may be committed or amended.

27. When a bill or resolution of a public nature for the appropriation of public money shall have been read the second time, and before both sides of the question shall have been put to the Senate upon its passage, it shall be in order for any member to move its commitment to a committee of the whole house—that it lie on the table—for its indefinite postponement—for its postponement to a day certain—for its commitment to a standing committee—to a select committee—or to amend; which motions shall have precedence in the order above stated. After a bill or resolution shall have been amended, it shall again be read as amended, for the information of the Senate, before the question shall be put upon its passage.

28. The final question upon the second reading of every bill or resolution,

requiring three readings previously to being passed, shall be, "whether it shall be engrossed, and read a third time."

29. Before a bill or resolution requiring three readings, shall be read the third time in the Senate, it shall be carefully engrossed, (without interlineation or erasure,) under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate, and upon this reading of the bill or resolution, it shall not be committed or amended, without the unanimous consent of the Senate.

30. It shall not be in order to amend the title of a bill or resolution, until it shall have passed its second reading.

31. The titles of bills, and such parts thereof only, as shall be affected by proposed amendments, shall be inserted in the Journals.

32. The President of the Senate shall appoint the following Standing Committees, which shall thus be denominated:

1. Committee on the Judiciary.
2. Committee on the State of the Commonwealth.
3. Committee on Corporations.
4. Committee on Schools and Colleges.
5. Committee on Propositions and Grievances.
6. Committee on Internal Improvements.
7. Committee on Elections.
8. Committee on Claims and Accounts.
9. Committee on Enrolled Bills.
10. Committee on Amendments and Revision of the Constitution.
11. Committee on the Executive Department.
12. Committee on the Militia.
13. Committee on Taxation and Revenue.
14. Committee on Federal Relations.

33. All confidential communications made by the Governor to the Senate, shall be, by the members thereof, kept secret, until the Senate, by their resolution, take off the injunction of secrecy.

34. All information or remarks touching or concerning the character or qualifications of any person nominated by the Governor to office, shall be kept secret.

35. When acting on confidential or Executive business, the Senate shall be cleared of all persons, except the Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms and Messenger.

36. The proceedings of the Senate, when not acting in Committee of the Whole, shall be entered on the journals as concisely as possible, care being taken to detail an accurate and true account of the proceedings.

37. Messages shall be transmitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary; upon each of which shall previously be endorsed by the Secretary, the final determination of the Senate thereon.

38. Messengers may be introduced in any stage of the business, except while a question is being put, or while the yeas and nays are being called.

39. The Governor of the State, former Governors of the Territory, Senators and Representatives from this State in the Congress of the United States, State House Officers, members of the Representative branch of the General Assembly, and Judges of the Chancery and Circuit Courts of this State, shall be admitted to a seat within the bar of the Senate chamber, and any other person upon the invitation of a member of the Senate.

40. The Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant-at-Arms and Messenger, shall be severally sworn by the President, well and faithfully to discharge their respective duties, and to keep secret the proceedings of the Senate, when sitting with closed doors.

41. No member who was without the bar of the Senate when the question was put by the Chair, shall be permitted to vote on the question then before the Senate, without the unanimous consent of the Senate.

42. No rule herein adopted for the government of the Senate, shall be amended or suspended, without the consent of four-fifths of the Senate.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until Friday, 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, December 1, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Rev. Mr. Choice officiated as Chaplain. A quorum being present, on motion of Mr. Avery, the reading of Wednesday's proceedings was dispensed with.

Mr. Avery gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled "An act to provide for the sale of the Sixteenth Sections granted by Congress to the State for the support of Public Schools, and for consolidating the School Fund."

Pursuant to previous notice, Mr. Forward introduced a bill to be entitled "An act to incorporate St. John's Lodge No. 12, in the city of St. Augustine."

Which was read the first time, and ordered to a second reading tomorrow.

Mr. Avery moved that the Secretary of State be requested to make out and furnish to the Senate, (so far as the same can be done from returns filed in his office,) a statement of all the white children in each County between the ages of six and eighteen years; the number in each township; stating, also, the number who can read and write, the number that can read but cannot write, and the number that can neither read or write.

Also, a statement of the condition of the 16th sections and fractional sections in each county, how many are valuable, and what their value, under whose charge they have been placed, how many are under cultivation, and by whom cultivated, and in whose hands the fund derived from the 16th sections is placed.

Also, where imperfect returns have been made, such reasons as have been given by the Tax Assessors and Collectors for these imperfect returns.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Tweed gave notice that he would, at some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled "An act relating to capital punishment."

Also, a bill to be entitled "An act amendatory of the several acts of limitation now in force in this State."

On motion, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Avery, White, and Forward, was appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House to draft joint rules for the government of the two Houses during its present session.

Mr. Lorimer, from a select committee, presented the following report, which was concurred in: