

TUESDAY, December 19th, 1865.

The Senate met pursuant to a joirnement.

A quorum present.

Mr. White in the chair.

The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Finegan moved that Mr. White be appointed President *pro* *tem*;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that the Sergeant-at-arms be required to procure stationary, and other articles necessary for the use of the Senate;

Which was adopted.

The officers of the Senate were presented and sworn.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that the rules of the last Senate be adopted for the government of the present Senate, until new rules shall be adopted;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that a committee of three be appointed to contract for the Senate printing;

Adopted, and Messrs. Abercrombie, Pearce and Whitehurst were appointed said committee.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that a committee of three be appointed to inform the House that the Senate is now organized, and ready to proceed to business, and that the same committee shall act with a similar one from the House, to wait upon the Provisional Governor and inform him of their organization and readiness to receive any communication he may be pleased to make;

Adopted, and Messrs. Abercrombie, Gorrie and Brevard were appointed.

Mr. Crawford moved that a committee be appointed to select a Chaplain for the Senate;

Adopted, and Messrs. Crawford, Morrison and Roper were appointed.

Mr. Kenan moved that the Secretary be instructed to procure for the use of the Senate, fifty copies of the rules of the last Senate;

Which was adopted.

Mr. Brevard moved that the Senate take a recess until 12 o'clock, M.;

Which was adopted.

TWELVE O'CLOCK, M.

The Senate resumed its session.

The roll was called.

No quorum present.

On motion of Mr. Brevard, the Sergeant-at-Arms was ordered to summon absent members.

The roll being called again, a quorum was present.

The Senate resumed its session.

The Committee appointed on the part of the Senate to wait on his Excellency the Provisional Governor and inform him of the organization of the Senate and its readiness to proceed to business, reported that they had performed the duty assigned to them, and were requested by his Excellency the Provisional Governor to inform the Senate that he had no communication to make to the Senate at this time.

Mr. Kenan moved that the rules be waived, that he may introduce a resolution of a public nature, without having given previous notice.

Adopted.

The rules being waived, Mr. Kenan introduced preamble and resolution, asking the President of the United States to extend executive clemency to John H. Gee, of Florida.

The rules being waived, the Preamble and Resolutions were read a first and second time by their title, and on motion of Mr. Abercrombie, read the third time and put upon its passage.

The vote was as follows:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Abercrombie, Baker, Brevard, Crawford, Evans, Finegan, Gorrie, Kenan, Morrison, Pearce, Poe, Roper, Turner and Whitehurst—15.

Nays—none.

So the resolution was passed and ordered to be certified to the House.

Mr. Brevard asked that the rules be waived to enable him to introduce a motion.

Which was adopted.

Mr. Brevard moved that a Committee of three be appointed to prepare permanent rules for the government of the Senate;

Adopted, and the following Committee was appointed:

Messrs. Brevard, Finegan and Crawford.

A Committee from the House appeared at the bar and notified the Senate that the House was ready to unite in joint Convention with the Senate for the purpose of canvassing the votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

On motion the Senate proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives.

The Senate having returned to their Chamber,

Mr. Gorrie asked that the rules be waived to enable him to make a motion.

The Rules were waived and Mr. Gorrie offered the following motion.

Mr. Gorrie moved that a Committee of three be appointed to await upon the Lieut. Governor and enquire at what time he will be ready to be qualified;

Which was adopted,

And Messrs. Gorrie, Abercrombie and Poe appointed said Committee.

On motion the Senate took a recess until 4½ P. M.

#### HALF-PAST FOUR O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Senate resumed its session.

A quorum present.

Mr. Gorrie, from the Committee appointed to wait on the Lieutenant Governor elect and ascertain at what time it will suit his convenience to take the oath of office, reported that they had performed that duty, and that the Lieutenant Governor would be ready to take the oath of office at any time that the Senate should determine.

Mr. Gorrie asked to have the rules waived in order to enable him to introduce a motion.

The rules were waived, whereupon Mr. Gorrie introduced the following motion:

Mr. Gorrie moved that a Committee of three be appointed to act with a similar committee upon the part of the House of Representatives to make arrangements relative to the inauguration of the Governor elect;

Which was adopted.

And the following Committee appointed: Messrs. Gorrie, Baker and Evans.

The Senate having determined to receive the Lieutenant Governor at this time, he appeared and the oath of office was administered by Judge J. Wayles Baker.

Mr. Abercrombie moved that a Committee be appointed to conduct the Lieutenant Governor to the President's seat.

Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Finegan and Mr. Baker were appointed said Committee.

Upon assuming the chair, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the Senate as follows:

SENATORS—

In taking the chair to preside over your deliberations, I do so with feelings of gratitude and fear; grateful that the people of Florida have thought me worthy, and fearful that I may not so discharge the trust confided to me as may merit approval.

Floridians have made a record in the past of which we are justly proud. That they are soldiers, has been attested on many a hard fought battle field; and when history shall tell the story of their manly deeds, who can picture the feelings that will cluster around the hearts of those who will read their daring and heroic achievements?

The battle fields of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia, bear honorable testimony of the soldiery of Florida; whilst, within our own borders, Olustee and other points attest the brave and gallant conduct of those who are worthy to be trusted, and on whom a Government constituted by the people may confidently rely.

But amidst the glory which encircles the escutcheon of our State, there is not only cause for admiration, but sorrow—for whilst we admire, we must mourn our brave, our noble dead. The past, the bitter past, let us contemplate in silence.

That such a people have honored me with their confidence, is the highest compliment I could receive.

It is for that people you are to legislate. You have come together to build a superstructure on the foundation laid down by the Convention lately held in the other end of the Capitol. On your wisdom depends the future of Florida. I trust you will pardon me for saying, that in the discharge of your duties you ought not to look back, but consider the present with its all-important effects in the future. You may by your action organize a system that will open avenues that will lead to the prosperity and dignity of our State, or by unwise and hasty legislation you will throw around your constituents embarrassments much to be regretted.

I have ventured to say thus much, in view of the very important subjects which are to come before you; not, however, that I am better advised than yourselves, but that I feel a self-sacrificing spirit for good, which I hope to find manifested to that degree in the representatives of the people as will induce each and all of us to devote our energies and talent to promote the general weal.

The important subjects to which your attention will be called, will be laid before you by our most excellent and unanimously elected Governor. It is therefore no province of mine to mention them. My duty is to preside over your deliberations, and may I not hope to find in each one of you a spirit of frankness and aid that will enable me to make myself agreeable, while I strictly perform my duty? I shall often need your counsel; and let me here invite you individually to give it to me, to the end that harmony may prevail and the business of your meetings be conducted with dispatch and regularity.

On motion of Mr. White, the Senate adjourned until to morrow morning at 10 o'clock.