Mr. CHANDLER. I will then renew my motion, that the unfinished business be postponed until to-morrow at two o'clock.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The motion of the Senator from Illinois is that the present and all prior orders be postponed, and that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the resolution from the House of Representatives proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States. That is now the motion before the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the joint resolution (H. R. No. 127) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the pending question being on the amendment offered by Mr. JOHNSON to strike out the third section, in the following words:

SEC. 3. Until the 4th day of July, in the year 1870, all persons who voluntarily adhered to the late insurrection, giving it aid and comfort, shall be excluded from the right to vote for Representatives in Congress and for electors for President and Vice President of the United States.

Mr. HOWARD. I hope the vote will be taken on that motion.

Mr. JOHNSON. Is there anything proposed as a substitute for that section?

Mr. CLARK. Your motion precludes that now. You move to strike out, simply.

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask for the yeas and nays upon the amendment.

The yeas and nays were ordered; and being taken, resulted—yeas 43, nays 0; as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Buckalew, Chandler, Clark, Conness, Cowan, Cragin, Creswell, Davis, Doolittle, Edmunds, Fessenden, Foster, Grimes, Guthrie, Harris, Henderson, Hendricks, Howard, Howe, Johnson, Kirkwood, Lane of Indiana, Lane of Kansas, Morgan, Morrill, Nesmith, Norton, Nye, Poland, Pomeroy, Ramsey, Riddle, Saulsbury, Sherman, Stewart, Sumner, Trumbull, Van Winkle, Wade, Willey, Williams, and Wilson—43.

NAYS—0.

ABSENT—Messrs. Brown, Dixon, McDougall, Sprague, Wright, and Yates—6.

So the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. HOWARD. I now offer a series of amendments to the joint resolution under consideration, which I will send to the Chair.

Mr. FESSENDEN. Take them one section at a time.

Mr. HOWARD. I will state very briefly what they are. I propose to amend section one of the article by adding after the words "section one" the following words, which will of course constitute a part of section one:

All persons born in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the States wherein they reside.

The second amendment——

Mr. FESSENDEN. Let us take a vote on the first one.

Mr. TRUMBULL. The Senator had better state all the amendments.

Mr. JOHNSON. I hope we shall hear them all.

Mr. HOWARD. The second amendment is to amend the second section by striking out the word "citizens," in the twentieth line, where it occurs, and inserting after the word "male" the words "inhabitants, being citizens of the United States;" and by inserting at the end of that section the words "any such State."

The third section has already been stricken out. Instead of that section, or rather in its place, I offer the following:

SEC. 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or an elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; but Congress may, by a vote of two thirds of each House, remove such disability.

The following is to come in as section four:

The obligations of the United States incurred in suppressing insurrection, or in defense of the Union, or for payment of bounties or pensions incident thereto, shall remain inviolate.

Section four, as it now stands, will be changed to section five, and I propose to amend that section as follows: strike out the word "already," in line thirty-four, and also the words "or which may hereafter be incurred," in line thirty-five, and also the words "or of war" in lines thirty-five and thirty-six, and insert the word "rebellion" in lieu thereof; and also strike out the words "loss of involuntary service or labor" in line thirty-seven, and insert "the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be forever held illegal and void."

After consultation with some of the friends of this measure it has been thought that these amendments will be acceptable to both Houses of Congress and to the country, and I now submit them to the consideration of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The first question in order is the amendment proposed to the joint resolution by the Senator from Ohio, [Mr. WADE.]

Mr. WADE. I ask leave to withdraw that amendment.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. It is still in the power of the mover, and he can withdraw it if he pleases. The amendment is withdrawn. The question now is on the amendments proposed by the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. SAULSBURY. It is very well known that the majority of the members of this body who favor a proposition of this character have been in very serious deliberation for several days in reference to these amendments, and have held some four or five caucuses on the subject. Perhaps they have come to the conclusion among themselves that the amendments offered are proper to be made, but this is the first intimation that the minority of the body has had of the character of the proposed change in the constitutional amendment. Now, sir, it is nothing but fair, just, and proper that the minority of the Senate should have an opportunity to consider these amendments; and I rise for the purpose of moving that these amendments, together with the original proposition, be printed, so that we may see them before we are called upon to vote on them. Certainly there can be no graver question, no more serious business that can engage the attention of this Senate than a proposed change in the fundamental law.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I will say to the Senator that if any gentleman on that side of the Chamber desires that these amendments be laid upon the table and printed, there is no objection to that.

Mr. SAULSBURY. Then I will defer any further remarks, and make that motion.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. It is moved that the amendments be printed and that the further consideration of the joint resolution be postponed until to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SUMNER. I wish to give notice of an amendment which at the proper time I intend to offer to Senate bill No. 292, entitled "A bill to provide for restoring to the States lately in insurrection their full political rights." It is to strike out all after the enacting clause of the first section and to insert a section as a substitute which I ask to have printed.

Mr. JOHNSON and Mr. STEWART. Let it be read.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The proposed amendment will be read, if there be no objection.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause of the first section of the bill and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That when any State lately in rebellion shall have ratified the foregoing amendment and shall have modified its constitution and laws in conformity therewith, and shall have further provided that there shall be no denial of the elective franchise to citizens of the United States because of race or color, and that all persons shall be equal before the law, the Senators and Representatives from such State, if found duly elected and qualified, may, after having taken the required oaths of office, be admitted into Congress as such: *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be so construed as to require the disfranchisement of any loyal person who is now allowed to vote.

Mr. SUMNER. I simply wish to have that amendment printed.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The order to print will be entered.

Mr. SUMNER. I also ask the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce a bill of which no notice has been given, which I desire to have considered in connection with the other measure, as it belongs to this group of reconstruction measures.

There being no objection, leave was granted to introduce a bill (S. No. 345) to enforce the amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery by securing the elective franchise to colored citizens; which was read twice by its title.

Mr. SUMNER. I move that the bill be printed and laid upon the table.

The motion was agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. MCPHERSON, its Clerk, announced that the House of Representatives had agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. No. 459) granting a pension to Anna E. Ward.

The message further announced that the House of Representatives had passed the following bills of the Senate with amendments to each, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

A bill (S. No. 184) to define more clearly the jurisdiction and powers of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; and

A bill (S. No. 237) granting a pension to Mrs. Martha Stevens.

PRIVATE CLAIMS.

Mr. CLARK. I ask that the Senate give me a little time on Friday next for the purpose of disposing of certain private claims, if there be no objection.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I shall object to that unless the constitutional amendment is disposed of by that time.

Mr. CLARK. I will state that I will not antagonize them with the constitutional amendment, or a public necessity of that kind, but I should like to have an understanding that I may have an hour or so on Friday next for the consideration of private claims, if there is no other public business of pressing importance in the way.

APPROVAL OF BILLS.

A message from the President of the United States, by Mr. COOPER, his Secretary, announced that the President of the United States had approved and signed, on the 26th instant, the following act and joint resolutions:

An act (S. No. 318) to authorize the appointment of an additional Assistant Secretary of the Navy;

A joint resolution (S. R. No. 74) providing for the acceptance of a collection of plants tendered to the United States by Frederick Pech; and

A joint resolution (S. R. No. 97) to authorize certain medals to be distributed to veteran soldiers free of postage.

MARTHA STEVENS.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana. I move to take up Senate bill No. 237, granting a pension to Mrs. Martha Stevens, which has been returned from the House of Representatives with an amendment. The bill as it passed the Senate gave a pension of twenty dollars a month; the amendment of the House reduces it to seventeen dollars a month, the amount allowed in the case of a first lieutenant.

The amendment was concurred in.

DISTRICT SUPREME COURT.

On motion of Mr. WADE, the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. No. 184) to define more clearly the jurisdiction and powers of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, were