

concurrent in by the House, and let us all adjourn and go home together. I dislike this mode of getting around the constitutional provision. I would rather, myself, go for a joint resolution to adjourn over.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I trust we shall not adjourn over. I begin to feel now that there is hope for the country. We have seen the hearts of patriots of adverse parties moved in this Senate Chamber, and, after the speech that we have heard, and the tone of feeling that I find, I think we had better keep in session. I know we do not feel like going abroad and enjoying a holiday. I trust there may be something done to restore peace to the country. This is a good time to do it, and I hope we shall remain in session.

Mr. CAMERON. I am very sorry to see the Constitution brought in upon all occasions and on every question, even on a question of adjourning over. My God! cannot we take a recess for two or three days without being told that the country is in danger? I do not see the danger. This body was never in a better humor with itself than it is now, and I am satisfied that after a few days' absence we shall come back liking each other a great deal better. No harm can come from it, and I think a great deal of good.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, I should be rejoiced to see the Constitution not only brought in, but obeyed, in all instances. I think if we would pay a little more regard to observing it with fidelity, there would be more peace and a better feeling in the country. I did not desire, by my remarks, to stir up any unkind feeling. I believe this country is in danger. I believe there must be conciliation and concession, or civil war. I have approached this question not as a partisan, but, I trust, as a patriot, prepared to exhaust every effort for conciliation before I would contemplate, for an instant, revolution, violence, and bloodshed. I hope that I shall not be under the necessity of even defending myself or the party with whom I have acted, from the unjust aspersions that have been thrown upon it. I would rather throw away partisan feeling. I am willing to meet this question in a spirit free from all committals of the past. I am ready to meet it as if I had never been in the body, had never given a vote or made a speech that would embarrass me in my action in the future. I hope, therefore, that we may be permitted to congratulate the Senate upon the good feeling that was pervading it, without the intimation, the taunt, that the Constitution was in danger, as if it was not our duty to save our country rather than run off for the holidays.

Mr. MASON. I must confess, Mr. President, that my personal feelings would be very much in favor of an adjournment for the holidays; and yet I am not at liberty to vote for it. I hope we shall adjourn over to Monday; but I must, with every reluctance, vote against any further adjournment; not that I concur with the Senator from Illinois, that anything can be done here or in the other branch of Congress to save the Union from dissolution; but I know that events are in progress which, in my judgment, would make it unwise for Congress to be in vacation just now. Do not let me be misunderstood. I am not for a dissolution of this Union as long as the safety and the honor of some of the States of this Union can be preserved in it; but, I repeat again, the Union cannot be preserved by anything to be done in either House of Congress. It must be done in the States, and in the States alone. I thought it right to say thus much, lest, after hearing the views of the Senator, and not taking a part in the discussion, and voting with him against the adjournment, my opinions might be misunderstood in my own State or elsewhere. I believe there are events in progress which would make it unwise that Congress should be in vacation.

Mr. CAMERON. I desire to say a word in reply to the Senator from Illinois. I hardly know how to reply, for I was not certain whether his remarks applied to me or not. If he meant to apply them to me, or the State which I represent, and if he talks about not being willing to make concessions, I say to him that I, and everybody representing my State, will go as far as make concessions, so far as those concessions are honorable, as anybody will; but I do not believe that this is the time or the occasion to talk about what we are going to do to save this Union. I do not

fear its dissolution. I have too much faith in the good sense and virtue and intelligence and the patriotism of the whole of this country, to believe that it is going to be ruined at the bidding of a few politicians, or a few madmen who are not politicians, in any portion of the country. I believe in the overruling power of Providence which has this great country in its charge; and I believe in the good sense of the people; and I therefore do not fear the perpetuity of this great country. It is too great, and it is too valuable, to be huckstered about or to be destroyed by politicians of any grade. [Applause in the galleries.]

Mr. DOOLITTLE. As to the remark which I made in reference to the adjournment over from this time until next Monday, and then over again until Thursday, and then again until Monday, I desired, if we should take such a recess, that we should adjourn by joint resolution and meet the question fairly, so that if the House should concur with us, those who desire to go home may have an opportunity to do so. It does not consult my personal convenience. For myself, I shall remain here during the whole of this period if the Senate does adjourn; and I would just as soon be in session every day as to have an adjournment at all. My objection was to the mode of adjournment. I desire that a joint resolution shall pass this body, so that it may be concurred in by the House of Representatives, if we can determine to adjourn for that length of time.

Mr. POWELL. I hope, sir, that we may not adjourn for the holidays, either by joint resolution or otherwise. I regret that I cannot concur with the honorable Senator from Pennsylvania, who says that this body was never in a better humor with itself. I trust the remark of the gentleman is true; but really, sir, the events that have transpired in this Hall cause me to differ widely from that sentiment. He says he thinks it would be better for us to go home and consult our constituents. If the Senator should be right in his remark, that we are on good terms with ourselves, I think we should find that our constituents would not be on very good terms with us if we adjourned and left the country in its present imperiled and embarrassed condition. I think it is our duty to stay here, to stand firmly to our posts, and do everything in our power to save this distracted country, now upon the verge of ruin.

The gentleman says he has no fears. I regret that I cannot concur in that. I have often feared, sir. I believe this Union, this country, this Government, is upon the crest of a volcano that may erupt any day and engulf us all in ruin. It is our duty, as patriots, to stand here and do all we can to save the country; and unless we do it, in my judgment, we shall not act in such a manner as to meet the just expectations of the patriot people of this country. I hope that there will be no adjournment, but that we shall come up and do what we can to save the country, and exhaust every means in our power and acquit ourselves in such a manner as to meet the approval of our constituents, of liberty-loving men throughout the world, and, I believe, of God, who has the destinies of nations in His hands.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise simply to ask whether this debate is in order, in accordance with the understanding that was had this morning? I believe it was conceded upon the part of the Senate that we should take up a certain bill after the speech of the honorable Senator from Ohio. The debate now seems to be going off into a wider field, utterly disregarding what I conceive to be the understanding, to consider a bill of very great moment. I should like to take a vote on it, because I am extremely anxious to have it considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The propositions to adjourn over were in order, and the Chair was obliged to entertain them.

Mr. GRIMES. I am satisfied that three fourths of the members of this body are opposed to an adjournment over, and if the Senator from Maryland will let us have a vote, we will so decide.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask for a vote on the question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the amendment offered by the Senator from Pennsylvania to the motion of the Senator from Maryland.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. PEARCE. Now, sir, I withdraw the other

motion. I wanted to do so before, but could not get an opportunity.

#### STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President—

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland will allow the Chair to announce the special committee directed to be raised to consider that portion of the President's message which relates to the disturbances of the country, and, with the leave of the Senate, he will make a single remark. The Chair has found a great deal of difficulty in framing the committee, but has tried to compose it in the spirit which he believes actuated the Senate in ordering its appointment. It will be observed that upon this committee are two Senators from one State. This was unavoidable. Of course the author of the resolutions becomes the chairman of the committee; and I am sure the Senate will, for many reasons, recognize the fact that it was proper that the eminent senior Senator from Kentucky should also be a member of that committee. The Secretary will read it.

The Secretary read the committee, as follows: Mr. POWELL, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CRITTENDEN, Mr. SEWARD, Mr. TOOMBS, Mr. DOUGLAS, Mr. COLLAMER, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. WADE, Mr. BIGLER, Mr. RICE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. GRIMES.

Mr. DAVIS. I merely wish to say, before the Senate adjourns, that I wish to be excused from service on that committee. The position which I am known to occupy, and the position in which the State I represent now stands, renders it altogether impossible for me to serve upon that committee with any prospect of advantage.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the bill now before the Senate—

Mr. DAVIS. I asked to be excused. I ask that that motion be put to the Senate, in order that I may be excused.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair understood the Senator to say that, after the Senator from Maryland had finished his speech, before the Senate adjourned, he would ask to be excused.

Mr. DAVIS. No, sir; I merely asked to be excused on the moment, without going into any reasons.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Mississippi asks to be excused from service on this special committee.

The question being put, Mr. DAVIS was excused.

#### RAILROAD CONNECTION AT WASHINGTON.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the bill now before the Senate—

Mr. FESSENDEN. I wish to inquire whether there is any bill before the Senate? Has it been taken up?

Mr. KENNEDY. I understood there was. I understood it was read. I was absent.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I think not.

Mr. KENNEDY. If not, I move to take up the bill (S. No. 377) to authorize the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to extend the Washington branch of their road to the Potomac river, and across the same, by the extension of the present structure known as the Long Bridge, for the purpose of connecting with the Virginia railroads at that point. I came in the Chamber a few moments since, and understood that the bill was taken up.

Mr. POWELL. I understood it was taken up on the motion of the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. KENNEDY. So I understood when I came in.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair has not been in his seat for several hours, but he understands this bill was made a special order for one o'clock to-day; and that by an understanding of the Senate, it was to be called up after the Senator from Ohio had concluded his speech. It is, therefore, before the Senate, unless some motion be made.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I merely wished to know, in order that I might make a suggestion to the Senator from Maryland.

Mr. NICHOLSON. I made the motion to take up the bill myself.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Did it pass the Senate?

Mr. NICHOLSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. FESSENDEN. Do I understand that the bill is now before the Senate?