EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mr. COLLAMER. I now renew my motion for an executive session.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business; and after some time spent therein, the doors were reopened, and the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

IN SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, *March* 27, 1861.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Dr. GURLEY.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Several messages in writing were received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. G. NICOLAY, his Secretary.

DISPATCHES OF MAJOR ANDERSON.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Chair will present a communication from the President of the United States, in answer to a resolution of the Senate.

The message was read, as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I have received a copy of a resolution of the Senate, passed on the 25th instant, requesting me, if in my opinion not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate the dispatches of Major Robert Anderson to the War Department, during the time he has been in command at Fort Sumter.

On examining the correspondence thus called for, I have, with the highest respect to the Senate, come to the conclusion that, at the present moment, the publication of it would be inexpedient.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, 26th *March*, 1861.

TROOPS IN THE SECEDED STATES.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. I would inquire of the Chair what would be regularly the first business in order this morning?

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Chair will state that the first business regularly in order is a resolution of the Senator from Virginia, [Mr. MASON.]

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. My only object was to know whether the resolution which I offered yesterday was first before the Senate. As it is not, I move to take it up.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I should like to know what it is.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senator from Kentucky moves to take up a resolution, which will be read for information.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate recommend and advise the removal of the United States troops from the limits of the confederate States.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. I do not intend to discuss it. I made all the observations yesterday I desired on the subject. I desire simply to take the sense of the Senate as to whether it is the purpose of this body to express any opinion on that general subject before its adjournment. I suppose that the vote on taking up the resolution will be a test vote, as the Senate will probably not be in session longer than to-day; and on the question of taking it up, I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. FESSENDEN. The Senator will observe that there is nothing like a quorum here, and I suggest whether it is not best to defer it.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. If I have a general understanding that Senators will give me a vote on the motion to take it up when a quorum comes in, I shall not object.

Mr. FESSENDEN. I suppose there will be no objection.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Chair will take that to be the sense of the Senate. The resolution will be regarded as before the Senate, and will be laid aside for the time being.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mr. HALE. I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business; and after some time spent therein, the doors were reopened.

RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore* laid before the Senate a report of the Secretary of the Treasury in answer to a resolution of the Senate calling for reports of James W. Taylor, in relation to the operations of the reciprocity treaty; which was ordered to lie on the table.

REGISTER OF DEBATES.

Mr. DIXON. I move to take up the resolution reported by me on Monday last, from the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, in reference to the Annals and Register of Debates of Congress. I have a fact or two to state in regard to it.

Mr. POWELL. I ask the Senator to withdraw his motion for a moment.

Mr. DIXON. I cannot. It will take but a very short time to dispose of it.

Mr. BINGHAM. I hope that resolution will not be taken up now. The Senate is very thin.

Mr. DIXON. I wish to make a very brief statement in regard to it

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The Senator from Connecticut moves to take up the following resolution:

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate procure from the publishers, for the library of the Senate, twenty copies of the Annals and Register of Debates of Congress, and pay for the same out of the contingent fund of the Senate, at a price not exceeding that heretofore paid for the same.

Mr. CLINGMAN. If the motion is debatable, I wish to renew my objection to the resolution. I do not think we ought to spend $6,000 in this way. I take it, and I may as well say it, that this is proposed, I suppose, for the benefit of the publishers.

Mr. DIXON. If the Senator will allow me, I wish to make a statement in regard to it. The Senator from New York [Mr. KING] yesterday inquired as to the number of these books already on hand, subject to the demand and control of the Senate. I was not then fully informed; but I have since inquired about it. I stated there were about six sets. I have since learned that there are three full sets and two imperfect sets, and that that is the whole number of these books which are now at the command of the Senate. It seems to me it is a work that ought to be subject to our control, and that this number of sets, twenty numbers, is not unreasonable. That is all I have to say.

Mr. KING. Are there not some of those books in the Interior Department?

Mr. DIXON. There may be; I cannot tell. I cannot tell how many are in print. There are none there under our control.

Mr. COLLAMER. I wish to inquire whether this resolution was ever referred to any committee?

Mr. DIXON. It was referred to, and reported from, the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate.

Mr. COLLAMER. Has it been reported upon?

Mr. DIXON. I reported it myself.

Mr. BINGHAM. I hope the Senate will not take up this resolution for the present.

Mr. DIXON. I understand it is taken up.

Mr. BINGHAM. No, sir; it is not. We are to have a vote on taking it up.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The question is on taking up the resolution.

Mr. DIXON. That may be considered a test vote, I suppose.

Mr. BINGHAM. I have no objection to that. The Senator from Maine, the chairman of the Committee on Finance, [Mr. FESSENDEN,] is not here. The Senate is very thin. The new Senator from Ohio, [Mr. SHERMAN,] who was for many years chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, who was present yesterday and objected to this resolution, is not now present.

Mr. DIXON. The Senator from Ohio stated there was a sufficient supply already. That was his objection; and I have now stated that there are only three full sets.

Mr. BINGHAM. Well, Mr. President, the Senator from Ohio [Mr. SHERMAN] told me yesterday that there were lying rotting in the Interior Department a large number of volumes of these books, and that there was no necessity for this increased number.

Mr. DIXON. Those are imperfect sets; broken sets.

Mr. BINGHAM. They were bought by this Government, and there is no use for them.

Mr. DIXON. They are not subject to our control.

Mr. BINGHAM. This resolution is only another plunder scheme to give $6,000 to the publishers of these books. I object to it.

Mr. CLINGMAN. The Senator from Connecticut says that a great many of them are broken sets. If he had investigated the matter, and had let us know what volumes were needed, there might be some reason for completing them; but I take it for granted it is like all these other book jobs. The publishers want some more money out of the Treasury, and they think this a convenient time to get these $6,000. I hope the resolution will not be taken up.

Mr. BRIGHT. We have not time to examine the sets and ascertain whether we can make whole sets out of imperfect sets. This resolution has passed the ordeal of the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, of which the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. JOHNSON] was chairman, who examines all these things very minutely; and I apprehend we can all very safely agree to any report that committee may make. They report twenty sets as being necessary to make perfect this chain of reports. I think we had better take up the resolution.

Mr. CLINGMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays upon it.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. COLLAMER. I will inquire whether we have not a law against the purchasing of books except by an act of Congress?

Mr. DIXON. If the Senator will permit me, I will state in reference to that law, that it provides that books shall not be purchased for the use of individual Senators. These books are to be purchased for the library of the Senate.

Mr. CLINGMAN. I understood the Senator yesterday to say, (and he will correct me if I am wrong,) that he wanted these twenty sets so that Senators could take each a copy to their rooms. It is, therefore, merely evading the law. If we needed a few in the Library, I would not object to it, if he had specified a smaller number; but, as we have several copies there, it will amount to the very thing that that law was passed to prevent.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. President, I did state that there ought to be, in the library of the Senate, a sufficient number of a work of this kind to permit Senators to take them for reference to their lodgings, as they take the Statutes at Large, to be returned.

Mr. CLINGMAN. I will ask the honorable Senator whether there has not been, in fact, already distributed gratuitously to each Senator, a copy of this work?

Mr. POLK. There has not been.

Mr. DIXON. That, I believe, is not the case. It has been some years since that was done; and besides, those are not here in the city of Washington. They have been taken to the homes of the Senators who received them.

The question being taken by yeas and nays, resulted—yeas 16, nays 18; as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Bayard, Breckinridge, Bright, Dixon, Douglas, Foot, Foster, Hale, Johnson, Mitchel, Nesmith, Powell, Rice, Simmons, and Ten Eyck—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Bingham, Chandler, Clark, Clingman, Collamer, Cowan, Doolittle, Harlan, Howe, King, Lane, Morrill, Nicholson, Polk, Sherman, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilkinson—18.

So the Senate refused to take up the resolution.

TROOPS IN THE SECEDED STATES.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. I move to take up the resolution which I offered yesterday morning; and upon that motion I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The resolution will be read for the information of the Senate.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate recommend and advise the removal of the United States troops from the limits of the confederate States.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE. I desire to state that, if this motion shall prevail, I will then accept the substitute offered by the Senator from North Carolina, [Mr. CLINGMAN,] which is familiar to the Senate. I consider the vote upon the motion to take up as a test vote. If the sense of the Senate be that they will express no opinion at all in regard to the present condition of public affairs, I take it for granted the vote will be against taking up this resolution. If they intend to express any opinion, or give any advice to the Executive, I take it for granted the vote will be in the affirmative. Hence I have asked for the yeas and nays on this motion, which I consider a test one.

Mr. RICE. Mr. President, I was in favor of the resolution as offered by the Senator from Kentucky; but I think the resolution offered by the