Mr. Hale. No, sir; let it take the usual course.

Mr. SUMNER. The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolution will lie over under the rule.

THE CONGRESSIONAL GLOBE.

Mr. SUMNER. I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish to the Senate copies of the charges, testimony, and finding of the recent court of inquiry, in the case of Colonel Dixon H. Miles, of the United States Army.

Mr. COLLAMER. Let it lie over.

THE VICE PRESIDENT. Object being made, the resolution will not be voted on.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. COLLAMER. I move that the Senate do now proceed to the election of the standing committees for the present session.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. COLLAMER. Mr. President, the ordinary method of electing committees is, I believe, provided by the rule, that it shall be by ballot. I am not aware of any arrangement that has been made for the present, but I think it is a reasonable arrangement to make provision merely to fill the vacancies in the existing standing committees, which I desire to have as soon as possible, and I ask for the unanimous consent of the Senate to allow a vote on it without delay.

THE VICE PRESIDENT. The list presented by the Senator will be read for the information of the Senate.

THE SECRETARY.

Mr. CLARK. I will inquire of the Senator from Kentucky whether there is any doubt of his now being in the rebel army?

Mr. POWELL. I do not know whether there is any doubt that he is or not.

Mr. CLARK. Then, if he is with the rebel army, I hope we shall not receive any resignations from him.

Mr. POWELL. My only object was to announce the fact which, as I understand, Mr. Beck-

Mr. TRUMBULL. If the Senator from Kentucky will allow me, I should like to inquire if he could not produce some kind of evidence that Mr. Beck-

Mr. CLARK. I ask the Senator that this address maya resign his seat in the Senate for the musket.

Mr. TRUMBULL. Then I will ask the Senator if he has not information of the same charac-

Mr. POWELL. I have no information other than what I have given the Senator—

Mr. TRUMBULL. Is it not the common understand-

Mr. CLARK. I ask the Senator that he has not information of the same character as to his treason that he has in regard to his resignation?

Mr. POWELL. I have stated to the Senate that I so understood that he had been appointed a brigadier-general, but since then I have heard that he does not personally know the fact. I also understand that he has resigned his seat in the Senate, and his successor is elected, perhaps, by the time.

Mr. TRUMBULL. I suppose the fact that a man resigns his seat in one branch of the government, and I suppose that a man cannot resign his seat in both branches at once, but I suppose his resignation will not be a resignation. The Senator from Kentucky could not resign his seat in that way.

Mr. POWELL. I will say to the Senator, as far as this is concerned, I do not know that he has made any other resignation than this. I suppose he has joined the army, but that it is not a design of resignation, but it amounts to the same thing.

Mr. SUMNER. Mr. President, I desire to have the yeas and nays on the adoption of the resolution; and I will also suggest a substitute for it, if my friend from Michigan will accept it. I offer the resolution as it is, and if it should pass, I ask for the yeas and nays on the adoption of the resolution as modified.

The Secretary read the substitute, as follows:

Whereas John C. Beckwourth, a member of this body from the State of Kentucky, has joined the enemies of his country, and is now in the field, I do hereby declare that he has abjured his allegiance to the Constitution, and that he has deserted his country.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Does the Senator from Michigan accept the substitute for his own proposition?

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Then the question is on the new substitute, and on that question the yeas and nays are demanded.
The years and nays were ordered, and being taken, and nays being entered, and yeas and nays being so ordered as to be rendered to the Senate.

MADAM—Anthony, Burrows, Cotting, Chandler, Clark, Colman, Conner, Shoon, Dooley, Fessenden, Foot, Freeman, Harding, Hoar, Long, Love, King, Lane of Indiana, Lane of Kansas, Lloyd, McDougal, Metcalf, Murray, Pingree, Sherburne, Strong, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Thompston, Thurston, Wade, Wilson, Winfield, and Wilson—N.Y.

So the resolution was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Fostet, Speaker, for a bill (H. R. No. 10) tendering the thanks of Congress to Captain Wilkes, of the United States Navy, in which the concurrence of the Senate was requested.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Mr. Fostet, in pursuance of previous notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill (S. No. 13) supplementary to the act entitled "An act to provide for the preservation and protection of the people of the United States who may discover deposits of gold," approved August 18, 1856; which was read the first time, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

NEGLIGENCE IN THE DISTRICT JAIL.

Mr. Wilson. Mr. President, I desire to submit a resolution, and I will state the reason why I introduce it. I should like action on it at this time if it can be done without objection, and certainly ought not to be delayed.

I hold in my hand the report of Mr. Allen, an officer, in regard to persons confined in the jail of this city. Most of them are persons who have been brought by our officers into the city, having run away from a loyal and large part of the population of this city, who have arrested them, and of the men that we call justices of the peace who have committed them, and a summary of the whole case presented to the present manful of this city, which I have in my hand; it is not in this city, I went there yesterday; I have been there to-day with several other persons, and such a crowd of people that it was impossible to find any person there who had never witnessed there. There were persons almost entirely naked, some of them without a shirt upon them, some of them without a shirt upon them, and so forth. One of them, a free boy from Pennsylvania, came here with the fifth Pennsylvania regiment, was formed on the street and sent there. Another boy, working on the railroad, was taken up and put there. One old woman was sent by the wife of a former Senator from Ohio.

She is owned by Richmond, by a disloyal person, and she was sent to this jail to be kept until the war is over. The whole history is here. I have not time to read it, but I wish to refer to you the fact of it. I submit this resolution to disassociate these persons from this jail and to authorize the marshal to provide for the necessary means of support until they can take care of themselves, which all of them can do in a short time. I present the resolution, and hope there will be no objection to it.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolution will be read for information.

The resolution (S. No. 13) to provide for the release of certain persons confined in the county jail for the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, was read a first and second time, as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it be conclusively presumed that the persons arrested and held in the jail of the District of Columbia, at the time of the passage of the said resolution, are entitled to the protection of the United States and the City of Washington, District of Columbia, and that the District of Columbia is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of said resolution, as in his opinion may need assistance, supplies of provisions and necessaries until they can find employment or otherwise provided.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT. To what committee does the Senator propose to refer his resolution?

Mr. Wilson. There is no committee to which it can be referred; it is not to be made into a bill, but to have its effect so far as it may be consistent with the Constitution of the United States.

(having their status declared by the proper authorities, will be arrested; and as the same persons have been arrested twice, for such disposition as they may think proper to make of them.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant.

E. J. AYER.

Mr. Clark. Mr. President, I hereby concur in the object of the bill submitted by Senator from Massachusetts, and I hope the reform at that jail will be carried much further, for I have no knowledge of anything else of the kind. I should suggest to him that in his resolution he ought to put the names of the persons that are to be discharged. The resolution is a general one—that is all the names should be put into the resolution, for the protection of the jailor. He may hold them under a further condition, which would be known to be discharged. It may be that some of those persons may be apprehended against the next name that persons who arrested them before, who are responsible for the conduct of those persons who had the North had to do with slavery? I think when the North finds out that they are supporting here in jail the slaves of negroes who are now free and equal citizens, and that the public expense their slaves for them, until the war is over—we shall have a tendency to engage in this or any business that would be of advantage to that question. I shall go for the resolution, and for everything that tends to carry it out.

But while I am up, sir, I want to go a step further, and to ask for time for saying what I want to say upon the subject. The difficulty lies in the administration of justice in this city. The question I have to say, and put what little reputation I have at stake on it, that on God Almighty's earth is there not a community, calling itself civilized, that has a worse administration of justice than this District, and that from that I except no tribunal from the Supreme Court up, or down, as you choose to take it. There is a lot to be said before magistrates courts in this District, and I will tell you that history, so that you can get a little idea of what has been administered here.

In the first place you do not have the machinery of a criminal process here, but that it costs somewhere in the neighborhood of $75, the public Twelfth Amendment holds that you have filled your District with magistrates who are anxious to get up prosecutions. Since I have been a member of this body, one of my colleagues in the other House was arrested on the oath of a crazy man, charging him with stealing a railroad.

[Laughter.] Mr. Bodisco, the Russian minister, [Calderon, the Spanish minister, Mr. Tremearne, and almost all the characters of that description in this city were summoned as witnesses. My name was arrested, and notwithstanding it was as policy and because a man said Mr. Bodisco was a crank. I have had to come into the Senate and summon me and my colleagues have been ordered to get himself freed from the thraldom of imprisonment on the charge of a crazy man for stealing a railroad, and stealing it in New Hampshire too.

It astonished me beyond measure, when I came to inquire into the subject, to find that Uncle Sam's circular letter was merely a mere form; for the public Treasury was to pay the costs. I went there as a witness. I had occasion once afterwards to appear for a friend who was in custody at 5 o'clock in the morning. I had to wait until 10 o'clock that afternoon before I could get him out of jail. I asked to see the process by which he was held. There was a man asked by what authority he was held there, and the magistrate said that one of the magistrates, whom he named, had told him that the Speaker said the Speaker had the authority from the President. I was sitting under heaven that the magistrate had before him,