

tion of the States which had formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and report whether they, or any of them, are entitled to be represented in either House of Congress." On the 30th of April, 1866, the committee reported amendments to the Constitution, and two bills constituting their plan of reconstruction. One of the bills recited the amendment proposed, and enacted that on the ratification by any of the States lately in insurrection, &c., the Senators and representatives of such State, if found duly elected and qualified, &c., might be admitted into Congress as such. The second bill declared certain persons in those States ineligible to office under the government of the United States. This report of the committee failed of adoption by Congress.

Finally, on the 13th of June, 1866, the Joint Resolution aforesaid, now before the committee, passed Congress, and on the 16th of June, was filed in the State Department, and transmitted to the Governor of this State, to be laid before the Legislature for ratification.

The proposed amendment is substantially the same as that reported by the committee on the 30th of April, and was subsequently reported by the committee, as they say, "in another form."

The report of the committee accompanying the proposed amendment, with the documents, testimony, &c., is contained in a volume of nearly eight hundred pages, printed in small type. The testimony was *ex parte*, and from witnesses selected by the sub-committees, and summoned from all the Southern States and elsewhere. The subject of their inquiries was, they say, "in a word, the fitness of those States to take an active part in the administration of national affairs." They describe their condition at the close of the war to have been one "of utter exhaustion." Having protracted their struggle against Federal authority, until all hope of successful resistance had ceased, and laid down their arms only because there was no longer any power to use them, the people of those States were left bankrupt in their public finances, and shorn of the private wealth which had before given them power and influence." "After a long, bloody and wasting war, they were compelled by utter exhaustion to lay down their arms; and this they did, not willingly, but declaring that they yielded because they could no longer resist, affording no evidence whatever of repentance for their crime, and expressing no regret, except that they had no longer the power to continue the desperate struggle." The committee then conclude "that the war thus waged, was a civil war of the greatest magnitude," and that by the law of nations, "one of the consequences was, that within the limits prescribed by humanity, the conquered rebels were at the mercy of the conquerors." They say "the testimony is conclusive that after the collapse of the Confederacy, the feeling of the