

ported amendments to the Constitution, and two bills constituting their plan of Reconstruction, one of the bills recited the amendments proposed, and enacted that on the ratification by any of the States lately in insurrection, &c., the Senators and Representatives of such States, 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.

Report of the
Committee.

Finally, on the thirteenth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, the Joint Resolution aforesaid, now before the Committee, passed Congress, and on the sixteenth 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 thirtieth 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 exparte, 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 finances, and shorn of their private wealth which had before given them power and influence. After a long, bloody and wasteful 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