The Senators assembled in the Senate Chamber at twelve o'clock noon, in pursuance of the proclamation of the President convening the Senate in special session.

PRAYER.

REV. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D.D., Chaplain of the Senate, offered prayer, as follows:

We praise Thee, O Lord of hosts, and land and magnify Thy name, for that Thou art our keeper and our helper in our persons, in our families, in our estates, and in our nation. In every day of darkness our fathers trusted in Thee and were not confounded. Our history is full of Thy presence, to admonish and chasten, to correct and deliver. We thank Thee for the heritage of civil and religious liberty, for the strength of government, for the freedom of enterprise, for the light of intelligence, for the scope of prosperity, and for all the monuments of Christian civilization. We thank Thee for our laws and institutions, so often imperiled, and yet so often preserved. We thank Thee for the spirit, the endurance, and the hope of the people.

We thank Thee for the past and we trust Thee for the future. Establish Thine word in all hearts and Thine ordinances in all our borders; fill the people with pure knowledge and religious faith. Make us one and all Americans worthy of the name. Across the firmament of our destiny write in letters of living light, "Patriotism and philanthropy," to shine forever. Bless, we humbly entreat Thee, the nations near and far who are here present this day by Thy grace and by Thy providence.

The Secretary, Senator from Maine offers a resolution and asks for its present consideration. It will be reported by the Chief Clerk.

The Chief Clerk read the following names:

Henry B. Anthony, of Rhode Island.
James B. Beek, of Kentucky.
James G. Blaine, of Maine.
George F. Hear, of Massachusetts.
David Davis, of Illinois.
Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia.
La Fayette Grover, of Oregon.
Samuel J. Kirkwood, of Iowa.
John R. McPherson, of New Jersey.
Fresten B. Pimb, of Kansas.
Edward H. Rollins, of New Hampshire.
Eli Sackburie, of Delaware.
Alvin Saunders, of Nebraska.
Henry M. Tellier, of Colorado.
William Windom, of Minnesota.
Richard Coke, of Texas.
A. H. Garland, of Arkansas.
Isham G. Harris, of Tennessee.
Benjamin H. Hill, of Georgia.
John W. Johnston, of Virginia.
Matt W. Ransom, of North Carolina.
As their names were called the respective Senators-elect came forward and the oaths prescribed by law were administered to them, with the exception of Mr. Grover, who was not present.

CONTESTED SEATS.

The Chief Clerk called William Pitt Kellogg, of Louisiana, who advanced to the desk.
Mr. BOGY. Mr. President, I make an objection to the oath being administered to Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania. The action of the Senate in accepting the oath of the Senator from the State of Alabama, and its consequent seating him in the Senate, would serve to nullify the resolutions of the Senate of both States of Alabama and Mississippi, and I therefore file my objection against the oath being administered to the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Kellogg.

Mr. ANTHONY. Mr. President, I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the credentials of Senators-elect in all disputed or contested cases lie upon the table until to-morrow.

Mr. THURMAN. Mr. President, I should like to know whose seats are the disputed seats, whose seats are contested, before I vote for or against sweeping a resolution as that. I do not know what objections are to be made. We have one here. Let these credentials lie on the table until to-morrow. When an objection is made again, if there is any foundation for it at all, let the credentials to which objection is then made take the same course; but to pass a resolution that would enable any Senator, by merely rising and objecting to a claimant, to prevent him from being sworn in, when there might be no ground whatever for the objection, when his credentials were perfectly regular and made a perfect prima facie case, is it seems to me a rather dangerous experiment. I think each case had better stand on its own merits; and I suggest to my friend from Rhode Island that, instead of offering that sweeping resolution, he move that the credentials of Mr. Kellogg lie on the table until to-morrow.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania. Mr. President, it strikes me that the resolution of the Senate from Rhode Island is eminently proper. There will be several cases, I understand, about which there will be no dispute, and, therefore, that the resolution of the Senator from Rhode Island is proper. We cannot investigate to-day the right to a seat of a single member, and certainly not of five, and there may be that many contested cases. Therefore I trust we shall pass the resolution of the Senator from Rhode Island, and to-morrow or next day, or any other day take on a more direct and positive method of admitting these persons whose right is to be contested. I hope we come here claiming rights but who may have possibly no right. I think the better way is to just take this resolution at once.

Mr. PRESIDENT. I move to amend the resolution by striking out all after the word "resolved," and inserting:

That the credentials of William Pitt Kellogg lie on the table until to-morrow.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania. I trust we shall not adopt the amendment.

Mr. CONKLING. Mr. President, concurring as I do in the criticism of the honorable Senator from Ohio upon this resolution, for I think there is some force in it although I do not believe that in the Senate a cautious objection would be made, I suggest to him that, the Senate sit for five or seven days upon this, his credentials to be perfectly regular for any purpose of business, it is not desirable that we should be detained by repeated divisions, as may occur. As no Senator whose credentials may be objectionable will propose a resolution respecting the credit of admission, nor will any other interest, because until to-morrow may be postponed his taking of the oath, in view of the nature of this occasion and the very brief postponement proposed, I suggest to the honorable Senator from Ohio to let the resolution be disposed of under the general resolution, knowing as he does that, before the Senate proceeds to any business, the question will be entertained. In one case, and, then, with time, the Senate can do what should be done in respect of each case. If we are to pass upon this amendment now, it will lead to subsequent votes and consume time. And I submit to the honorable Senator from Ohio it saves no point which would not be saved practically by the adoption of the resolution proposed by the honorable Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. THURMAN. Mr. President, when I first rose, I suggested that the objections that are to be made be specified now, so that we might know to whom they applied, and not vote in the dark on this resolution; but on the suggestion of the Senator from New York, which I think is well founded, that no mere objections will be made to the swearing of a Senator whose credentials are perfectly regular, I withdraw the amendment that I offered.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the resolution of the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. BOGY. I suggest before we take the vote on the resolution of the Senator from Rhode Island, that the names of the persons whose seats will be contested be called, so that we may know to whom the resolution will apply. As we now stand we do not know the names of the persons whose right is to be contested. I ask that the names be read by the clerk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the resolution submitted by the Senator from Rhode Island.

The resolution was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair is advised that there are two sets of credentials from the State of South Carolina and but one vacancy.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania. Let that case lie over.

Mr. GORDON. I move that that case lie on the table.

Mr. PATTERSON. The resolution carries all the cases.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The credentials will lie on the table under the resolution.

Mr. CONKLING. A mere objection, I submit, carries those credentials to the table under the resolution.

So the Chair understands. The Chair understood the motion of the Senator from Georgia to be in the nature of an objection.

Mr. GORDON. I object to the credentials of one of the claimants from South Carolina.

Mr. SPENCER. I object to the oath being administered to the Senator, pending to be called from the States of Alabama and Mississippi, and I base this objection upon grounds now before the late committee on Privileges and Elections.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection being made to those two cases, the credentials of the Senator will lie on the table. This completes the list of Senators-elect to be sworn.

SENATORS PRESENT.

The Senators-elect having been sworn and taken their seats in the Senate, the following Senators were present:

FROM THE STATE OF:

Maine—James G. Blaine and Hannibal Hamlin.
New Hampshire—Edward H. Rollins and Bainbridge Waldridge.
Vermont—Justin S. Morrill.
Massachusetts—Henry L. Dawes and George F. Hoar.
Rhode Island—Henry B. Anthony and Ambrose E. Burnside.
New York—Rescue Connor and Francis Kernan.
New Jersey—Joseph B. Haldeman and John F. Collin.
Pennsylvania—Simon Cameron and William A. Wallace.
Delaware—Thomas P. Brough and Benjamin F. Wade.
Maryland—George R. Dennis and William Pinkney Whyte.
Virginia—John W. Johnston and Robert E. Withers.
North Carolina—Matt W. Ransom and Charles J. Grant.
South Carolina—John J. Patterson.
Georgia—John B. Gordon and Benjamin H. Hill.
Florida—Simon B. Groomer and Charles W. Jones.
Alabama—George E. Spencer and Benjamin Franklin Dozier.
Mississippi—Blanche K. Bruce.
Texas—Richard Coke and Samuel B. Maxey.
Arkansas—Stephen H. Key and A. H. Garland.
Missouri—Lewis V. Bogy and Francis M. Cockrell.
Tennessee—James E. Bailey and Isham G. Harris.
Kentucky—James B. Beck and Thomas C. McCready.
West Virginia—Henry G. Davis and Frank Hereford.
Ohio—John Sherman and Allen G. Thurman.
Indiana—Joseph E. McDonald and Oliver P. Morton.
Michigan—Isaac P. Christiancy and Thomas W. Ferry.
Wisconsin—Angus Cameron and Timothy O. Howe.
Iowa—William B. Allison and Samuel J. Kirkwood.
Kansas—John J. Laggard and Preston B. Plum.
Nebraska—Arlon P. Day and Alvin Saunders.
Nevada—Charles M. Peck and William Sharon.
South Dakota—Newton B. Goodell and Aaron A. Sargent.
North Dakota—John H. Mitchell.
Colorado—Jerome B. Chaffe and Henry M. Teller.

SWARING IN OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is the Vice-President of the United States ready to take the prescribed oath of office?

The Vice-President-elect (Hon. William A. Wheeler, of New York) entered the Chamber accompanied by Mr. McCreezy, of the committee of arrangements, and was conducted to the chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I have great pleasure in presenting the Vice-President of the United States elect.

The VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT. Senators, official station ever brings with it corresponding duty and responsibility. Service in analogous parliamentary spheres has taught me how delicate and at times difficult and complex are the duties which the oath I am about to take will impose upon me. As President of the Senate it is my sincere purpose to lift myself entirely above the realms of partisanship; to administer its rules in their true spirit, with courteous firmness, and by all means to facilitate the fulfillment of its deliberations. In doing this, I shall need your aid, your generous forbearance, and oftentimes your lenient judgment, upon all of which I know I may confidently rely when you consider the require of my intentions. I trust that the relation about to be established between us may prove mutually pleasant and productive of good to the best interests of our National Government.

Mr. President, I am now ready to take the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore administered the oath and said:

Mr. Vice-President, I surrender the chair to which you have been duly elected.

INAUGURATION CEREMONIES.

The persons entitled to admission on the floor of the Senate Chamber having been admitted to the places reserved for them, the Presi—
dent. Hon. Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, entered the Senate Chamber on the late President, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, and Mr. Morrill, Mr. Howe, and Mr. McCreey, members of the committee of arrangements, and was accompanied to a seat in front of the President and the Secretary of the Senate, and the members of the committee were seated on his right and left.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Sergeant-at-Arms will now execute the order of the Senate relative to the inaugural ceremonies of the President of the United States.

Those in the Senate Chamber proceeded to the platform on the central portico of the Capitol in the following order:

The members of the Senate.
Ex-Presidents and Ex-Vice-Presidents.
The Supreme Court of the United States.
The Cabinet.
The President of the Senate.
The committee of arrangements.
The President of the United States and the late President.
The Secretary of the Senate.
The members of the Senate.
The Diplomatic Corps.
Heads of Departments.
Ex-members of the House of Representatives and members-elect of the Forty-fifth Congress.
Governors of States.
And other persons admitted to the floor of the Senate Chamber and to the reserved seats at the left of the Diplomatic Gallery.

The President-elect delivered the following

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: We have assembled to repeat the public ceremony, begun by Washington, observing that party spirit, and now a time-honored custom, which marks the commencement of a new term of the presidential office. Called to the duties of this great trust, in compliance with a tenure that merits admittance, to carry out the principles of the leading principles, on the subjects that now chiefly engage the public attention, by which it is my desire to be guided in the discharge of these duties. I shall not attempt to embody the oecably principles or measures of administration, but rather to speak of the motives which should animate us, and to suggest certain principles, not fully enjoyed. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the cause of these questions which then appeared to demand the consideration of the country. Following the example, and in part adapting the language, of one of my predecessors, I wish now, when every motive for misrepresentation has passed away, to repeat what was said before the election, trusting that my countrymen will candidly weigh and understand it, and that they will feel assured that the sentiments declared in accepting the nomination for the Presidency will be the standard of my conduct in the path before me, charged, as I now am, with the grave and difficult task of carrying them out in the practical administration of the Government as far as depends, under the Constitution and laws, on the Chief Executive of the nation.

The condition and position of the country upon such principles and by such measures as will secure the complete protection of all its citizens in the free enjoyment of all their constitutional rights is now the paramount public affair. The thought and patriotism of the country should a be the standard of my conduct in the path before me, charged, as I now am, with the grave and difficult task of carrying them out in the practical administration of the Government as far as depends, under the Constitution and laws, on the Chief Executive of the nation.

Many of the calamitous effects of the tremendous revolution which has passed over the Southern States still remain. The immeasurable benefits which will surely follow, sooner or later, the hearty and generous acceptance of the legitimate results of that revolution, have not yet been realized. Difficult and embarrassing questions meet us at the threshold of this subject. The people of those States are still impoverished, and the inestimable blessing of wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government is not fully enjoyed. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the cause of this condition of things, the fact is clear, that, in the progress of events, the time has come when such government is the imperative necessity required by all the varied interests, public and private, of those States. But it must not be forgotten that only a local government which recognizes and maintains inviolate the rights of all is a true self-government.

With reference to the two distinct races whose peculiar relations to each other have brought upon us the deplorable complications and perplexities which exist in those States, it must be a government which recognizes the interests of both equally, and must be a government which submits loyally and heartily to the Constitution and the laws—the laws of the nation and the laws of the States—accepting and obeying faithfully the whole Constitution as it is.

Rusting upon this sure and substantial foundation, the superstructur of self-government can be built up, and not otherwise. In furtherance of such obedience to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution, and in behalf of all that its attainment implies, all sects and classes have their essential importance, and party lines may well be permitted to fade into insignificance. The question we have to consider for the immediate welfare of those States of the
which we have suffered during the past three years. The depression in all our varied commercial and manufacturing interests throughout the country, which began in September, 1873, still continues. It is very gratifying, however, to be able to say that there are indications all around us of an approaching change to prosperous times. Upon the currency question, intimately connected as it is with this topic, I may be permitted to repeat here the statement made in my message of December 14th, that in my judgment the feeling of uncertainty inseparable from an irredeemable paper currency, with its fluctuation of values, is one of the greatest obstacles to a return to prosperous times. The only safe paper currency is one which rests upon a coin basis, and is at all times and promptly convertible into coin.

I adhere to the views heretofore expressed by me in favor of congressional legislation in behalf of an early resumption of specie payment, and I am satisfied not only that this is wise, but that the interests as well as the public sentiment of the country imperatively demand it.

Passing from these remarks upon the condition of our own country to consider our relations with other lands, we are reminded, by the international complications abroad, threatening the peace of Europe, that our traditional rule of non-interference in the affairs of foreign nations has proved of great value in past times, and ought to be strictly observed.

The policy inaugurated by my honored predecessor, President Grant, of submitting to arbitration grave questions in dispute between ourselves and foreign powers, points to a new and incomparable process of the preservation of peace, and will, as I believe, become a beneficent example of the course to be pursued in similar circumstances in other relations. If, unhappily, questions of difference should, at any time during the period of my administration, arise between the United States and any foreign power, it will certainly be my disposition and every disposition to aid in their settlement in the same peaceful and honorable way, thus securing to our country the great blessings of peace and mutual good opinion with all the nations of the world.

Fellow-citizens, we have reached the close of a political contest, marked by the excitement which usually attends the contests between great political parties whose members espouse and advocate to aid in their settlement in the same peaceful and honorable way.

The fact that two great political parties have in this way settled a dispute, in regard to which good men differ as to the facts and the law no less as to the proper course to be pursued in solving the question in controversy, is an occasion for general rejoicing.

Upon one point there is entire unanimity in public sentiment, that conflicting claims to the Presidency must be amicably and peaceably adjusted, and that when so adjusted the general acquiescence of the nation ought surely to follow.

It has been reserved for a government of the people, where the right of suffrage is universal, to give to the world the first example in history of a great nation, in the midst of a struggle of opposing parties for power, hushing its party tumults, to yield the issue of the conflict to public sentiment.

Looking for the guidance of that Divine Hand by which the destinies of nations and individuals are shaped, I call upon you, Senators and Representatives, judges, followers and friends throughout the country, to unite with me in an earnest effort to secure to our country, the blessings, not only of material prosperity, but of justice, peace, and universal concord—blessings, not only of terming change, but of permanent change, that in my judgment and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

The oath of office was then administered to the President by the Chief-Justice of the United States.

The Senate returned to their Chamber, and the Vice-President took the chair at twenty-five minutes past one o'clock p.m.