

Christian citizen. As the representa-
tives of that Alliance, I stand here and
enter a protest against the opening
of the schools to the children of
foreigners which we have so deeply
regretted, and for which we are daily
risking all that we have in this
country. [Applause.]

The speaker then read from the
same periodical an extract asserting
that the Roman Catholic Church was
divinely ordained to govern kings, na-
tions, and every other temporal and
spiritual thing. It was appointed by
God to judge. [Laughter.] The Roman-
ists have acquired their power in
this State through the politicians,
and they are the men we must look
after. The Catholic World says that
their opponents trust to woman suf-
frage to swamp the vote the church
can influence. [Laughter.] For says
this periodical, too much delicacy
to think of going to the polls—on
much of the industry, which so be-
comes the tax, to be seen voting.
[Laughter.] Suddenly changing his
tone from bitter irony to earnest firm-
ness, the speaker said that the question
was a most solemn one. We must
prepare to work, and if a struggle
with a school not by any set enact-
ment, but by the voice of those who
have the matter in charge. Not that
any danger should be incurred, for we
believe that children should have im-
pressions from those great principles
which shall mold their lives to forms
of beauty and virtue. The Common
Schools prepare children to discharge
their future duties, without covering
them in more plastic material in the
hands of the potter's wheel. If the time
ever comes when we are pressed home
to a logical conclusion, I say, let the
people go, rather than let it endanger
the great Common School system of
this country. [Applause.] We have
our heritage. God give us grace to
enjoy and to worthily transmit it; and
rest that in coming ages our poster-
ity shall not have occasion to look
back on the opening scene of a
regimental epoch in American history
when the rights of men in different
hampers were arrayed against each
other, and war was declared to the
Asia, and the knife to the hip!

SPEECH OF J. P. THOMPSON, N. D.
MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:
Before we shall meet this evening
we must attend to the present business
of adjourning this resolution, by a
unanimous vote, that they may be re-
ferred to Albany and acquiesced in
by the Legislature with the full assent
of the New York convention assembled
and adopted a charter of their own—
a charter recognizing those principles
of civil and religious liberty upon which
this nation was founded, and by which
it should stand; a charter forever
forbidding the introduction of intoler-
ance, bigotry, and sectarianism into
political and civil life. The proposition
to commend itself to the common sense
and the common honesty of the
American people that when the truth
is seen there will be an unanimous vote
in favor of the repeal of this 10th section,
and a prohibition of any like legislation in
the future. This question is not all a
question of charity. The attempt
has been made through the press to
excite public sympathy in behalf of
the poor and destitute children of
New York who are said to be unable
to attend the common schools as now
conducted. Of lack of suitable
clothing. If there be such children,
to supply them with clothing, they should be
looked, but who should do it? If the
State undertakes the task it enters on
a regular process of demoralizing it-
self. Even granting that it
should attempt to feed and clothe
these children, the work should be
entrusted to a strictly civil
and not to ecclesiastical organiza-
tions. Much less is this a question
of charity in the matter of education
of the children of the State.
It is not the main sentiment of
every American that the education of
every child that enters the school
is a charity from the State? No
man would tolerate that idea. We
bring forth every man of us, and
stand upon the same right, talking from
the State only that which the State
needs more than we do. Nor is it
a question sufficient school accommo-
dations. There has hitherto been an
average increase of 4,000 children per
annum in the public schools of this
State, but last year there was a falling
off of about 3,000, and this is the very
year when these parochial schools
have been established by the State. We
are not here as representatives of the
various denominations to protest that
we have not received our share of this
fund. I hope every Protestant school
in New York will refuse to accept any
of it under any pretense. We have
no right (as I have always maintained)
to impose upon the child of any man
any sort of religious teaching against
which that man protests. [Applause.]
But the exclusion of the Bible would
not help the matter. What the Catho-
lics wish today is to train up the
children to be true and unswerving

followers of the Pope, and to be
ready to fight for him against the
rights of the State. [Applause.]
The speaker then read from the
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THE ANDOVER ADVERTISER
The Connecticut election has re-
sulted in the choice of English (Dem.)
for Governor, by a majority of 765.
The Republicans have the Senate by
one majority, and the House by ten
majorities.

There is a slow progress being made
on the tariff bill, too much time being
spent in discussion on the many propo-
sitions. The duty on refined sugar
was reduced from 4 to 2 1/2 cents per
pound. That on refined sugar was
fixed at 4 cts. per pound. The tax
on brandy and other distilled spirits
was increased from \$2 to \$3 per gal-
lon.

A Plan Examined.
Among the plausible schemes propo-
sed by those who desire to destroy
our Common Schools is this: that the
State shall give, from the School
Funds raised by general taxation, to
private schools, an amount in propor-
tion to the comparative number of
children attending them. This is the
plan advocated by the Rev. Mr. Pres-
ton, of the Roman Catholic Church,
and by others of the same sect. At
first sight it bears somewhat the ap-
pearance of an equitable plan for the
adjustment of the school matter—al-
lowing that it should be adjusted to
suit the selfish wishes of any religious
sect (which we do not admit). But
it will not bear the test of close exami-
nation. It would be unequal and
unjust.

If it is remembered that taxation is
not upon persons, but upon property
A township, county, village or city is
not taxed according to the number of
inhabitants therein, but according to
the value of its taxable property.—
This is a distinction which a difference.
Now, to take an instance for the
purpose of showing the inequality and
falsity of the proposed plan, it is well
known that the Roman Catholic
Church in this country is very largely
composed of the comparatively poor
people. The amount of taxable property
possessed by them is comparatively small.
In proportion to their numbers they bear
but a small share of the general tax.
Another fact, to be taken in connection
with the preceding, is much more
than their regular proportion of the
children of our country are found in
the families of the same class. They
have more than their proportionate
number of these household animals in
their quivers. There may be found
more than their exact share of olive
plants around their tables.

We state these things as matters of
fact, and not as implying any fault or
disrespect. The point is this: A divi-
sion of the school funds in the propor-
tion of the children to educate would
not fairly represent the property which
they would receive a greater sum than
they paid into the School Funds.
In fact, as the funds thus set apart
would be used to sustain distinctly
Catholic schools, in the sectarian
sense, by such a plan Protestants
would be taxed to support Roman
Catholicism. Catholics comprehend
their rights of conscience are violated
by their present system—but this plan
of theirs would more clearly violate
the Protestant rights of conscience—
for we may be allowed to suppose
that Protestants, in this country, have
rights of conscience which Catholics
are bound to respect, as well as vice
versa.

Proclamation of the President.
Know ye that the Congress of the
United States, on or about the 27th
day of February, in the year one
thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine
passed a resolution in the words and
figures following, to-wit:

Resolved, By the Senate and House
of Representatives of the United States
of America in Congress assembled, two
thirds of each House concurring, that
the following articles be proposed to the
Legislatures of the several States as Amend-
ments to the Constitution of the United
States, which, when ratified by three
fourths of said Legislatures, shall be val-
id as part of the Constitution, namely:

Article 1. The right of
citizens of the United States to vote, shall
not be denied abridged by the United
States, or by any State, on account of
color, or previous condition of servitude.
Section 2. The Congress shall have
power to enforce this article by appropri-
ate legislation.

And further, That it appears from
the official documents on file in this
Department that the Amendment to the
Constitution of the United States, pro-
posed as aforesaid, has been ratified
by the Legislatures of the States of
North Carolina, West Virginia, Mass-
achusetts, Wisconsin, Maine, Louisi-
ana, Michigan, South Carolina, Pen-
sylvania, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New York,
New Hampshire, Nevada, Vermont,
Virginia, Alabama, Missouri, Missis-
sippi, Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, a
Rhode Island, Nebraska, Texas, in all
29 States.

And further, That the States
whose Legislatures have so ratified
the said proposed amendment, con-
stitute three-fourths of the whole num-
ber of States in the United States.

And further, That it appears from
an official document on file in this
Department, that the Legislature of
the State of New York has three pas-
sed resolutions relating to the said
amendment which had been made by the
Legislature of that State, and of which
official notice has been filed in this
Department.

Message from the President.
To the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States of America in Con-
gress assembled.

It is unusual to notify the
Houses of Congress by message of the
promulgation, by proclamation of the
Secretary of State, of the ratification
of a constitutional Amendment. In
view, however, of the vast importance
of the Fifteenth Amendment to the
Constitution, this day declared a part
of that revered instrument, I deem a
departure from the usual custom just-
ified. A measure which makes at
once four millions of people voters,
who were heretofore denied by the
highest tribunal in the land and citi-
zens of the United States, no right to
become so, with the assertion that
at the time of its Declaration of In-
dependence the opinion was fixed and
universal in the civilized portion of
the white race, prejudged as that
"black men had no rights which white-
men were bound to respect," is indeed
a measure of grander importance than
any other one act of the kind from the
foundation of our free government to
the present time. Institutions, in
which all power is derived direct-
ly from the people, must depend
mainly upon their intelligence, patri-
otism and industry. I call the atten-
tion, therefore, of the newly enfranchised
race, to the importance of their
striving in every honorable manner, to
make themselves worthy of this new
privilege. To the race more favored
and heretofore by law, I would say,
withhold no legal privilege of advance-
ment to the new citizen. The franchise
of our constitution finally believes that
a republican form of government could
not endure without intelligence and
education generally diffused among
the people. The Father of this Coun-
try, in his Farewell Address, uses the
language: "Promote, then, as your
primary object, institutions for the
general diffusion of knowledge."
In proportion as the structure of the
Government gives force to public
opinion should be enlightened." In
this first annual Message to Congress
the same views were forcibly presented
and are again urged in this eighth Mes-
sage.

I report that the adoption of the
Fifteenth Amendment to the Consti-
tution completes the greatest civil
change, and constitutes the most im-
portant event that has occurred since
the nation came into life. The change
will be beneficial in proportion to the
heed that is given to the urgent re-
commendations of Washington. If
these recommendations were important
then, with a population of but a few
millions, how much more important
now, with a population of forty millions,
and increasing in a rapid ratio! I
would therefore call upon Congress to
take the means within their constitu-
tional power to promote and encourage
popular education throughout the
country, and upon the people every-
where to see to it that all who possess
and exercise political rights shall have
the opportunity to acquire the know-

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