

"We think there is an intrinsic value on board of 10,000 dollars, which, of course, the Government would wish to retain.

"Everything belonging to the ship is as brought to this port, with some exceptions, of little value, not private property, or pertaining to the peculiar character of the ship.

"Very respectfully, &c.

"PERKINS AND SMITH.

"Hon. L. F. S. Foster,
United States' Senate, Washington."

The joint resolution appropriates 40,000 dollars, with a request to the President to use so much of it as may be found necessary to make the purchase. I do not know that this ship will be of any very great value to the British Government when returned; but I feel strongly impressed with the opinion that, as an act of national courtesy, it will redound to the character of our Government, and will be very acceptable to the foreign Government. I know it would be if a like courtesy were extended to us. Unless some gentleman objects, therefore, I shall ask for the present consideration of the joint resolution.

The *President pro tempore*.—If no objection be made, the joint resolution will be read a second time.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was read a second time, and considered as in Committee of the Whole.

No amendment being proposed, it was reported to the Senate without amendment, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Foster.—I will say but a single word, and it is, that I accord entirely with the statement made by the honourable Senator from Virginia in regard to this resolution. It affords me certainly very great pleasure, as one of the representatives from Connecticut, to find that this proposition seems to meet the favour of the Senate, and that it will, as I trust, be passed without opposition. It is, as the honourable Senator from Virginia has so well observed, an act of courtesy due to a foreign Government, and peculiarly due under existing circumstances.

In regard to this ship there are certain circumstances that make it of peculiar value to the Government of Great Britain. It is the ship that was enabled to communicate with the crew of another ship belonging to the British navy—the "Investigator"—which went through Behring's Straits, intending to make the north-west passage in that direction by sailing to the east, but, having got locked in the ice, remained for two years in the Bay of Mercy, I believe. While lying there this ship, the "Resolute," by sending a party of men across some 200 miles, or thereabouts, communicated with the "Investigator" and her crew, commanded by Captain McClure, and brought those men from the "Investigator," lying in the Bay of Mercy, eastward to where the "Resolute" was lying. The north-west passage was thus carried out practically by these two ships; neither, however, having completed it by passing through the water, but by the men passing through, over the ice, on sledges. That circumstance gives this ship peculiar value to the British Government, and, under the circumstances, I cannot but hope that the Senate will pass the resolution. It will, I think, be worth to us, as a matter of economy, to speak of nothing else, far more than it costs, and, as an act of national courtesy, to promote good feeling between two great nations, it is a matter not to be estimated in money at all.

Mr. Toucey.—Mr. President, I would not say one word on this occasion were it not for the fact that the salvors are my constituents. I think their conduct on this occasion was such as to entitle them before the country to the testimonial from Congress which is embraced in this resolution. Their noble act of daring and perseverance, characteristic of our seamen, is, perhaps, unparalleled.

The resolution is also commended to my judgment in the other branch of it. I think an act of high national courtesy of this kind, expressing the sentiments of the American people, cannot be over-estimated in its effect upon the relations between the two countries, in promoting a good understanding, and in expressing the feelings which ought to prevail between these two great and powerful nations. I give my thanks to the honourable Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations for bringing forward a proposition of this kind, which I think must commend itself to the sentiments of every American.

Mr. Clayton.—I rise only for the purpose of expressing my concurrence in the sentiments which have been expressed by the gentlemen who have preceded me.