

—They would see that even conquest would be a hard bargain for so distant a country. Our possession would be evidence of a fixed resolution. But when we have no army, no military preparation, no semblance of resistance, what would induce them to sell? SELL, sir! for how much? Why, sir, altho' there is no information on that subject before, this house, yet I have seen it stated in a newspaper that those who claim that country may perhaps be persuaded to sell by distributing *two millions of dollars* among certain influential persons about the ———

Here Mr. Wright of Maryland, called Mr. Ross to order, and said that he thought it improper to debate upon confidential information which in his opinion ought to be kept secret.

Mr. Ross knew of no confidential communication to that house on this subject.

The Vice-President said there was no confidential information about this business before the Senate that he recollected, and that he perceived nothing improper or out of order in what had been said.

Mr. Nicholas said he hoped the galleries would be cleared. It appeared to him that the gentleman was about to discuss points which ought to be kept secret.

Mr. Ross hoped not—and would give his reasons.

Mr. Nicholas objected, that it would not be in order for the gentleman to give reasons.

Mr. Ross—I will never speak upon this subject, Sir, with closed doors. The moment you shut your doors I cease—and when they are opened I will proceed. There is nothing of a secret or confidential nature in what I have to say. Mr. Ross concluded

by calling for the yeas and nays upon the question of closing the doors.

Mr. Wright read one of the rules of the senate, to shew that a vote was not necessary for closing the doors.

Mr. Wells enquired whether it was in order to interrupt a gentleman while speaking, and to make a motion while he was in possession of the floor.

The Vice-President thought that in such a case, where a senator thought that the subject required secrecy, it might be done. The doors must be closed at the request of any senator, and afterwards the senate would determine by vote whether or not the business should proceed with closed doors. He then ordered the galleries and lobby to be cleared. The doors remained closed for some time, when they were again opened, and the senate adjourned.

*Tuesday, February 15.*

After some of the ordinary legislative business of the Senate had been dispatched, Mr. Nicholas moved that the galleries be cleared, and the doors of the Senate were closed till 2 o'clock. They were then opened and the Senate adjourned.

*Wednesday, Feb. 16.*

After the reading of two or three bills, on which there was no debate, Mr. Breckenridge moved to have the galleries cleared, and the doors closed, which was done accordingly.

At 1 o'clock the doors of the Senate were opened, and in a few minutes afterwards,

Mr. Ross rose and said, That two days ago he had the honor of stating some of his opinions to the Senate respecting the alarming condition of our affairs upon the Mississippi—That in a very interesting part of his en-