

seats in Congress together for the succeeding six years, and proved themselves a strong force in shaping the legislation of the country. Mr. Washburn, being thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the new State he was chosen to represent, was instrumental in securing much legislation that has proved of great value to its people. With his brothers in Congress, he brought to bear a strong force upon any measure he desired, virtually giving his people the advantage of three representatives. In the 36th Congress, Mr. Washburn served as chairman of the committee on private land claims, and as a member of the special committee of thirty-three on the State of the Union. In February, 1861, this latter committee made a report recommending a constitutional amendment making slavery perpetual. Mr. Washburn and Mr. Tappan, of New Hampshire, joined in a minority report, which set forth in strong and truthful terms the origin of the secession movement, and opposed any modification of the constitution in the interests of slavery.

In January, 1861, Mr. Washburn introduced the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the provisions of the constitution are ample for the preservation of the Union, and the protection of all the material interests of the country; that it needs to be obeyed rather than amended; and our extrication from present difficulties is to be looked for in efforts to preserve and protect the public property and enforce the laws, rather than in new guarantees for particular interests, or compromises or concessions to unreasonable demands.

In support of this resolution he made a few remarks, closing with the following significant and prophetic words:

Sir, I have no special dread in regard to the future of this republic. Civil war may come—disunion and dissolution may come, but, I pray God to deliver us from both; but, sir, whatever may come, I have an abiding faith in a kind Providence that has ever watched over us, that passing

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man informed the committee that he occupied the same ground that Mr. Eastman did on the Nebraska question, and that he would not accept a nomination on the platform adopted. The convention, the great object of which was apparently to defeat Mr. Eastman, finally agreed that if Mr. Woodman would accept, he might take his own platform. This he declined to do, and finally Dr. Otis Hoyt of Hudson, was nominated." The competitors of Gov. Washburn at the two subsequent elections to Congress were the late Judge Samuel Crawford, and the late Judge Charles Dunn, both men of eminent ability and popular with their party.