

events will be all over-ruled for good, and for the welfare of mankind in this and other lands. Gentlemen may talk of reconstructing this government after it shall have been broken up and destroyed—it will not be reconstructed on the basis on which it now stands. Gentlemen may as well understand right here that if the Government is to be reconstructed, the people of the North will have a word to say as to the basis of that reconstruction; and no new union will be formed that does not give them terms of perfect equality.

If this union must be dissolved, whether by peaceable secession, or through fire and blood and civil war, we shall have the consolation of knowing that *when the conflict is over, those who survive it will be, what they never have been, inhabitants of a free country.*

Mr. Washburn was ever true to the cause of liberty, and the slave found in him an able advocate and staunch friend.

After serving six years in Congress, Mr. Washburn declined another election, and soon after the expiration of his term, March 4, 1861, he changed his residence from Mineral Point to La Crosse. The late Civil War soon followed, in which he took prominent part, and immediately after his return to civil pursuits he was elected to the 40th Congress, taking his seat in the house of representatives on the 4th of March, 1867; and was re-elected in 1868. In the 40th Congress, he served on the committees of foreign affairs, and on expenditures of public buildings; and in the next Congress he served on the committees on appropriations, on private land claims, on the committee on the causes of the reduction of American tonnage, and was chairman of the special committee on the postal telegraph. The fact of his being appointed to serve on so many important committees is evidence that he was held in high esteem in Congress. He was ever watchful of all interests intrusted to his care, and devoted himself with much energy to the labors of the several committees on which he served, and was active on the floor of the house. He was strongly in favor of uniting the postal and telegraphic service of the country, and that the lines of the latter be operated as a part of the postal system. From an exhaustive report he presented on this subject, we make a brief extract:

Let the government buy out the lines, transfer the management to the postoffice department, and reduce at once the cost of telegraphing to a uniform rate, for any distance, to twenty cents for twenty words, and you will bring blessings and benefits to millions of our people who have hitherto