

DISTURBED CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

JANUARY 14, 1860.—Ordered to be printed and made the special order for Monday, the 21st instant, at 1 o'clock, and continued from day to day until disposed of.

PETER E. LOVE and A. J. HAMILTON, from the select committee of thirty-three, made the following

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned, members of the House committee of thirty-three, beg leave to make the following report :

We object to the report of the majority of the committee because we do not believe that it embodies a cure for the dangerous agitation which now excites the country. That it contains some propositions which are good we do not deny, but with a single exception they are in the form of resolutions, and are liable to be rescinded or changed at any time hereafter. That there are others which are exceptionable and unsatisfactory is equally undeniable. But admitting that they were entirely unobjectionable, and were fully calculated to restore peace and harmony to our distracted country, still we object to the report because it may delude and mislead the public.

According to parliamentary law, the report of a committee implies the request on the part of the committee that the report be *adopted* by the House. But a number of gentlemen on the committee expressly declared, before voting for the report, that there were certain propositions contained in it which they would oppose when put on their passage in the House. Thus that which appears to be the report of a committee is really no report at all, not even of those who seem to make it. With all due deference and respect, we submit that this may be regarded as trifling with the House and the country. In the early part of the present session of this Congress Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, submitted a plan of adjustment, which, in the opinion of the undersigned, is in itself, or forms the basis of, the only settlement which can relieve us from existing and impending troubles.

That plan covers the points in dispute, and in our opinion adjusts them fairly to all portions of the confederacy.

But the crowning point of its excellency consists in the fact that it takes this most irritating and dangerous question of slavery out of Congress, and destroys every necessity or propriety of its further existence in party platforms. We honestly believe that if Congress should adopt this plan of settlement, it would be ratified by large majorities of the people both north and south, and thus the integrity

of our beautiful and most excellent system of government be preserved, and peace, prosperity and happiness be insured to our people. That extremists in both sections of the country would oppose it we have no doubt, but we still have confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the great body of the American people.

We submit that plan of adjustment to the House, and most earnestly recommend that it do pass.

P. E. LOVE.

A. J. HAMILTON.