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THE DEBATES IN THE U. S. CONGRESS IN 1870 CONCERNING THE ADMISSION OF H. R. REVELS AS U. S. SENATOR

(Summary)

In consequence of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery and other forms of involuntary servitude within the United States or any place under its jurisdiction (1865), and the next Civil Right Act (1866) ("... that all persons born in the United States and not subjected to any foreign power..., are hereby declared to be citizens; and such citizens, of every race and color, without regard previous condition or involuntary servitude... shall have the same rights... as is enjoyed by white citizens..."), enacted with most of its provisions into the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States (1868), the Negro Community in the State of Mississippi, after the restoration of that State to the Union, duly complied with the Reconstruction (1869), nominated for the first time in the American history a Negro, Hiram R. Revels, for U. S. Senator. After three days' debates in the Senate, he was admitted, sworn in and in triumph took place in contradiction with the race prejudices, and in accordance with the new democratic spirit. The cited stenographic reports of the U.S. Congress and published documents, as well as the discussion in the press on that account are very instructive for our understanding of the public opinion and the American society as a whole at that time.