

Freedmen's Bureau.

Both houses of Congress have passed in a modified form the bill for the continuation of the Freedmen's Bureau for two years, and it now awaits only the action of the President. Its friends fear that it will share the fate of its predecessor by receiving the presidential veto, and the more so because it is not certain that the two thirds necessary to carry it over the veto could be obtained in the House of Representatives, though in the Senate no such difficulty is apprehended. Though less than all its friends desired, it still has many just, wise, and humane provisions, and would doubtless be of unspeakable advantage to both blacks and whites during the period of transition through which the whole South is passing.

Enough facts have been elicited of undoubted authority, even from the enemies of the Bureau themselves, and especially from such un- certain witnesses as Generals Steedman and Fullerton, to show that it is, and for some time must continue to be, a necessity through all the old slave states. The planters regard it with favor, and to the freedmen it is a necessity. The disloyal press and politicians, and the pretended non-political, but most intensely partisan clergy, oppose it. But such facts as the Memphis riots, and the assaults, reported in this paper, upon Rev. Mr. Lewis in South Carolina, and Rev. Mr. Caldwell in Georgia, show the needs of just such a provision for the maintenance of peace and good order.

We earnestly hope, therefore, that the President may find himself at liberty to give the bill his signature; and in case of his failure to do so, we trust it may be passed by the requisite two thirds. This form of legislation, we grant, is undesirable, but it were better that one man should be defeated than that the whole nation should suffer. Time is requisite to the proper pacification of the South, and during the intervening period of disquiet the colored race will need all the protection that law would give them. It will very probably be abused by incompetent or dishonest agents, but that is an almost necessary consequence of the existing order of things. Time, however, will cure all these disorders, and so render the Bureau no longer needful. But for some time to come it will be necessary to the public peace and security.