says Judge Joseph Gillespie who was L's partner in the affair

"The banks throughout the country" became crippled during the panic of 1837, and they were, throughout the West, allowed to suspend specie payments. At the session of 1837-8, an act was passed authorizing the State Bank of Illinois to suspend "until the end of the next general assembly." Gov. Carlin convened the next session two weeks earlier than the time prescribed for its meeting by the Constitution. A quarrel occurred between some of the members of the dominant party and the bank, and it was secretly determined to adjourn the legislature sine die, at the end of the first two weeks of the next session. That would be the next session after the act allowing the bank to suspend, and it would be compelled to resume, while the banks in the other States were suspended, and they would drain the specie from our bank and pay out none themselves. The Whigs regarded this move as being unjust to the bank and detrimental to the welfare of the people. They got wind of the thing on the morning of the day when the adjournment was to take place, and they instantly resolved that they would absent themselves, and thus break up a quorum, but, as the Constitution of 1818 would allow such a vote to be taken without a call of the ayes and noes, it was necessary that two Whigs should be in the house to call for them, so that it should appear that a quorum was not voting, in which case, the legislature could only adjourn from day to day, and the following Monday

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they would be convened by the Constitution. Lincoln and I were selected to call the ayes and noes, and the Whigs promised to keep out of the way. When the motion was put we called for the ayes and noes, and there was no quorum voting. A call of the house was ordered, and the sergeant-at-arms was sent for the absentees, many of whom, we discovered, allowed themselves to be caught and brought in. Lincoln and I began to suspect that they had a quorum.

Finding that the Whigs who had been brought in would not withdraw, we got them to agree to call for the ayes and noes, and we concluded to leave, but, ascertaining that the doors were locked, we raised the windows of the church, in which the session was held, and jumped out. The sergeant-at-arms, William Murphy, reported that he had commanded Cyrus Edwards to attend in his place. "What did he say?" inquired the speaker of the house. "He said he would not." "What did you say?" "I told him I would take him by force." "What did he do?" "He raised his cane and said: 'Touch me at your peril." "What did you do?" "I sloped, sir."

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