Free Trade

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THE DEMOCRAT
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THE TRUE ISSUE.

Shall ours be a GOVERNMENT OF THE BANKS or a GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE? Shall we have a CONSTITUTIONAL TRASURY, *or an* UNCONSTITUTIONAL NATIONAL BANK? *Shall we have a* CONSTITUTIONAL CURRENCY OF GOLD AND SILVER, *or use of IRREDEEMABLE PAPER? Shall we live under the despotism of a* MONEYED ARISTOCRACY, *or under the safeguards of a FREE CONSTITUTION?*—Washington Union.

THE PLEDGE.

Martin Van Buren, in his Inaugural Address, gave a PLEDGE *that no bill interfering with slavery in the District of Columbia or the States, should ever receive his constitutional sanction. This should be made a* TEST QUESTION *by the slave-holding States.* ☞THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST WILL NEVER VOTE FOR ANY MAN AS PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES, WHO WILL NOT GIVE THIS SOLEMN PLEDGE.

"*Should I be asked if there be no way by which the* GENERAL GOVERNMENT *can aid the cause of* EMANCIPATION, *I answer, it has long been an* OBJECT NEAR MY HEART, *to see the WHOLE SURPLUS REVENUE appropriated to that object.* With the sanction of the States holding the slaves, there appears to me NO CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTION *to its being thus applied*, embracing not only the colonization of those who may be emancipated, *but the purchase of the freedom of others.* By a zealous prosecution of a plan formed upon that basis, we might look forward to *a day not very distant, when a North American sun to could not look down upon a slave.*"

WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

APPENDIX TO THE ADDRESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM THE SLAVE-HOLDING STATES, PUBLISHED IN OUR LAST.

[A]

NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the relation of master and slave, as established by law within the jurisdiction of any of the States, is an institution for which the State, within which it is established is alone responsible, and with which neither Congress, nor the Legislature of any State can rightfully interfere.

Resolved, That the adoption and prosecution of measures by individuals residing within one State with the avowed design of overthrowing the institutions of another State, by sending emissaries, scattering documents, pamphlets or papers within that State against the declared will of the same, is a disregard of that comity and mutual respect which should ever be cultivated among the States.

Resolved, That Congress ought not to interfere the slave trade between the States, or to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia or the Territories of the United States.

Resolved, That the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the United States, by which all memorials relating to the abolition of slavery, upon the presentation of the same, were ordered to lie upon the table, without any further action thereon, was not an infringement of the right of petition.

Resolved, That the immediate abolition of slavery, by whatever means effected, without the expatriation of the slaves, would be productive of calamities, moral and political, such as should be deprecated by every friend of humanity.

[B]

RHODE ISLAND RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, on the 11th and 12th days of December, 1838, passed the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That this Government is of limited power, and that by the Constitution of the United States Congress has no jurisdiction whatever over the institution of slavery in the Several States of the Confederacy.

Resolved, That petitions for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States, and against the removal of slaves from one State to another, are a part of a plan of operations set on foot to affect the institution of slavery in the several States, and thus indirectly to destroy that institution within their several limits.

Resolved, That Congress has no right to do that indirectly which it cannot do directly, and that the agitation of the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia, or in the Territories, as a means or with a view of disturbing or overthrowing that institution in the several States, is against the true spirit and meaning of the Constitution, an infringement of the rights of the States affected, and a breach of the public faith on which they entered into the Confederacy.

Resolved, That the Constitution rests on the broad principles of equality among the members of this Confederacy, and that Congress, in the exercise of its acknowledged powers, has no right to discriminate between the institutions of one portion of the States and another, with a view of abolishing the one or promoting the other.

Resolved, therefore, That all attempts on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia or the Territories, or to prohibit the removal of slaves from State to State, or to discriminate between the Constitutions of one portion of the Confederacy and another, with a view of such acts, are in violation of the constitutional principles on which the Union of these States rests, and beyond the jurisdiction of Congress; and that every petition, memorial, resolution, proposition or paper, touching or relating in any way, or to any extent whatever, to slavery as aforesaid, or the abolition thereof, shall, on the presentation thereof, without any further action thereon, be laid on the table without being printed, debated or referred.

And, whereas, In the judgment of this General Assembly, that part of the last resolution, which declares that every petition, memorial, resolution, proposition, or paper, touching or relating in any extent whatever, to slavery as aforesaid, or to the Abolition thereof, shall, on the presentation thereof, without any further action thereon, be laid on table, without being printed, debated, or refered, is unsound in principle, a dangerous invasion of the right of the people to petition Congress, and in violation of the true intent and meaning of the Constitution of the United States.

Therefore, Resolved, That the General Assembly do hereby, in the name of the people of this State, protest against said resolutions, and declare that, in their opinion, they ought forthwith to be recinded.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to cause a copy of these resolutions to be transmitted to the members of the United States House of Representatives from this State, to be by them laid before that body.

All of which is respectfully submitted by
JAMES F. SIMMONS,
For the Committee.

[C]

CONNECTICUT RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That we, the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened, do, in the name of the people of this State, solemnly *protest* against the annexation of Texas to this Union.

Resolved, That Congress has, by the Constitution, power to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia and the Territories.

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to exercise the same as soon as it can be done consistently with the *best good* of the *whole* country.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to foward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

[D]

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to change the Constitution and laws of this State, so far as they recognize a distinction, in political rights, among persons on account of color.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Assembly, the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the inhabitants, and whilst slavery exists in the States of Virginia and Maryland would be inexpedient and unjustifiable.

Resolved, That an immediate prohibition by Congress of the slave trade between the States, is inexpedient, unconstitutional, and dangerous.

Resolved, That the conditions upon which new States are entitled to admission into the Union, are prescribed in the Constitution, and that it would be unwise and unjustifiable to agitate the question whether the recognition of slavery by any new State falling within the principles of the compromise adopted on the admission of Missouri, would be a valid objection to its admission into the Union.

[E]

VERMONT RESOLUTIONS.

1. *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their influence in that body to prevent the annexation of Texas to this Union.

2. *Resolved*, That representing as we do the people of Vermont, we do hereby, in their name, solemnly protest against such annexation in any form.

3. *Resolved*, That as the Representatives of the people of Vermont, we do solemnly protest against the admission into this Union any State whose Constitution tolerates domestic slavery.

4. *Resolved*, That Congress have full power, by the Constitution, to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia and in the Territories of the United States.

5. *Resolved*, That Congress has the constitutional power to prohibit the slave trade between the several States of this Union, and to make such laws as shall effectually prohibit such trade.

6. *Resolved*, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to present the foregoing report and resolutions to their respective Houses in Congress, and use their influence to carry the same speedily into effect.

7. *Resolved*, That the Governor of this State be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing report and resolutions to the President of the United States, to the Executives of the several States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

NEW YORK.

[F]

AN ACT to extend the right of Trial by Jury.

[Passed May 6, 1840.]

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Sec. 1. Instead of the hearing provided by the first article of title one and chapter nine of the third part of the Revised Statutes, to be had before a court or officer, upon the return of any writ of habeas corpus, issued to bring up the body of an alleged fugitive from service or labor to which he is held under the laws of any other State, the claim to the service of such alleged fugitive, his identity, and the fact of his having escaped from another State, shall be determined by jury.

Sec. 5. Any jury drawn and sworn as herein provided, shall hear the allegations and proofs of the parties, and shall determine the matters submitted to them, and for that purpose shall be kept together by some proper officer, who shall be sworn as is usual in like cases in courts of record. The verdict rendered by such jury, if it be in a court of record, shall be recorded in its minutes, and if it be rendered on a hearing before a single officer, shall be certified by him, and filed in the office of the clerk of the county as a public record.

Sec. 6. If such jury cannot agree after having been kept together a reasonable time, they shall be discharged, and another shall be summoned, impanelled and sworn as herein before provided and new juries shall continue to be summoned until one shall agree. And the finding of any jury as aforesaid, shall be conclusive upon all the matters submitted to them, and shall not be vacated or set aside, except by the Supreme Court, which is hereby authorized to set the same aside for the same causes, in the same manner, and with like effect, as verdicts are set aside by the court in criminal cases, and for no other cause.

Sec. 7. If the finding of the jury be in favor of the claimant upon all the matters submitted, the court or officer before whom such hearing shall have been had, shall grant to such claimant a certificate stating that it having been found by a jury that such fugitive, (who shall be particularly described in such certificate,) does owe service or labor to the person claiming the same under the laws of some other State in the Union, (naming such person and the State, under whose laws such claim is sustained,) and that such fugitive escaped from such State, and thereby owing such person or his agent, (who shall also be named in such certificate,) to take such fugitive and convey him to the State from which he fled; which certificate shall authorize the person receiving the same to remove the fugitive therein named, without any unnecessary delay, through and out of this State, on the direct route to the State from which he fled.

Sec. 8. If the finding of the jury be against the claimant, on any of the matters submitted to them, the person so claimed as a fugitive shall be forthwith set at liberty, and shall never thereafter be molested upon the same claim; and any person who shall thereafter arrest, detain, or proceed in any manner to retake such alleged fugitive upon the same claim, or shall by virtue of the same claim, remove such alleged fugitive out of this State under any process of proceeding whatever shall be deemed guilty of kidnapping, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the State prison not exceeding ten years.

Sec. 9. The district attorney of the county in which any alleged fugitive from service or labor from another State shall be proceeded against by any person claiming such fugitive, shall, upon notice of such proceeding, render his advice and professional services to such alleged fugitive, and shall attend in his behalf on the trial of such claim, and shall receive such compensation therefor as shall be certified to be just and reasonable by the court or officer before whom the proceedings shall be conducted, to be paid as part of the contingent expenses of the county. And in case of the omission of such district attorney so to attend or to render his professional services, the court or officer before whom the proceeding shall be had, shall assign some counsellor of the Supreme Court, in good standing, to conduct the defence of such alleged fugitive, and render to him the usual services of a counsel for which he shall receive a compensation to be certified and paid as therein before provided in respect to the district attorney.

Sec. 10. Every one claimed as a fugitive shall be entitled to subpoenas, for his witnesses, from the court or officer before whom the habeas corpus may be returnable, without any fee or charge therefor; and every constable, sheriff or marshal, to whom any such subpoena shall be delivered to be served, shall serve the same, and shall be allowed the same fees as for serving a capias in a court of common pleas, be paid as part of the contingent expenses of the county, in the event of a jury summoned under this act determining in favor of the claimant; and every witness served with such subpoena shall be bound to attend and testify, in the same manner as in criminal cases, without being entitled to any fees whatever.

Sec. 11. No person shall be entitled to a writ of habeas corpus to arrest a fugitive from labor or service, until he shall have delivered to the court, or officer to whom application for such writ shall be made, a bond to the people of this State in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, with two sufficient sureties, inhabitants and freeholders of this State, to be approved by such court or officer, conditioned to pay all costs and expenses that may accrue in the prosecution of the said writ, legally chargeable to such claimant, and also to pay weekly, the sum of two dollars to the person having such alleged fugitive in his custody, for the support of such alleged fugitive, so long as he shall remain in custody under such writ of habeas corpus, or be detained by the proceedings thereon; and also that if any jury impannelled under this act shall render a verdict against such claim, then that such claimant shall pay all the costs and expenses of the proceedings, including those to which such alleged fugitive shall have been subjected; and in addition thereto, shall pay to such alleged fugitive the sum of one hundred dollars, and all damages which he may sustain. The said bond shall be filed in the office of the county, and may be prosecuted by any person claiming any benefit from its provisions, in the name of the people of this State; but the people shall not be liable for any costs in such suit.

Sec. 16. No judge or other officer of this State shall grant or issue any certificates or other process for the removal from this State of any fugitive or of any person claimed as a fugitive from service or labor, otherwise than in pursuance of the provisions of this act, and every such judge or other officer who shall grant or issue any such certificate or other process except in the manner prescribed in and by this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to punishment therefor.

Sec. 17. Every person who shall, without the authority of law, forcibly remove or attempt to remove from this State any fugitive from service or labor, or any person who is claimed as such fugitive, shall forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars to the party aggrieved, and shall be deemed guilty of the crime of kidnapping, and upon conviction of such offence, shall be punished by imprisonment in the State prison for a period not exceeding ten years.

Sec. 18. This act shall not be so construed as to apply to the relation of master and apprentice which may exist in any other State.

State of New York, } This act having been ap-
Secretary's Office, } proved and signed by the Governor, on the 6th day of May, 1840, I do hereby certify that the same became a law on that day.

JOHN C. SPENCER, Sec'y of State.

Secretary's Office.—I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a law of the State of New York, deposited in this office, and of my endorsement thereon. May 6, 1840.

JOHN C. SPENCER, Sec'y of State.

GOV. SEWARD'S REASONS.

[G]

"The offence charged in the affidavit before me is not understood to be that of kidnapping a person, by which he was deprived of his liberty in bad faith or duress, or suffered personal wrong or injustice, but it is understood to mean the taking of a slave considered property from his owner. If I am incorrect in this supposition, the vagueness and uncertainty of the affidavit much excuse my error. But I think there can be no controversy upon this point. I need not inform you, sir, that there is no law of this State which recognizes slavery, no statute which admits that one man can be the property of another, or that one man can be stolen from another. On the other hand, our Constitution and laws abolish slavery in every form. The act charged in the affidavit, if it had been committed in this State, would not contravene any statute; nor is it necessary to inform you that the common law, which is in force in this State when not abrogated by statute, does not recognize slavery, nor make the act of which the parties are accused in this case felonious or criminal.

"It results from the view of the subject that the offence charged in the affidavit and specified in the requisition is not a felony nor a crime within the meaning of the Constitution; and that waiving all the defects in the affidavit, I cannot surrender the supposed fugitives to be carried to Virginia for trial under the statute of that State."

OHIO LAW.

[H]

Whereas, the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution of the United States declares that "no person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law, or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." And whereas, the laws now in force within the State of Ohio, are wholly inadequate to the protection pledged by this provision of the Constitution to the Southern States of this Union: And whereas, it is the duty of those who reap the largest measure of benefits conferred by the Constitution, to recognize to their full extent the obligations which that instrument imposes: And whereas, it is the deliberate conviction of this General Assembly, that the Constitution can only be sustained as it was framed, by a spirit of just compromise; Therefore,

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That when any person held to labor or service in any of the United states under the laws thereof, shall escape into this state, the person to whom such labor or service is due, his or her agent or attorney, is hereby authorized to apply to any judge of any court of record in this state, or to any justice of the peace, or to the mayor of any city or town corporate, who, on such application supported by the oath or affirmation of such claimant or his or her agent or attorney, that said fugitive has escaped from his or her service, or from the service of the person for whom he is agent or attorney, and which oath or affirmation shall be reduced to writing, and shall specify the name and place of residence of the person to whom such labor or service is due, and also the name and supposed age of such fugitive, with a pertinent description of his or her person, shall issue his warrant under his hand and seal, and directed to the sheriff or constable of any county in this state, authorizing and directing said sheriff or constable to seize and arrest the said fugitive who shall be named in the said warrant; and in case the said fugitive shall be arrested in the county in which said warrant may be issued, to bring him or her before some judge of a court of record of this state residing within such county; or in case the said fugitive shall be arrested in any other county than the county in which the warrant may be issued, then to take him or her before some judge of record in this state, residing in the county in which such arrest is made.

Sec. 2. The said person so claimed as a fugitive, when so arrested, shall be brought before the officer, as directed in the first section of this act; and the said claimant, his or her agent or attorney, having first given security for the costs, and having proved to the satisfaction of such officer, that the person so seized and arrested both, under the laws of the State from which he or she fled, owes service or labor to the person claiming him or her, it shall be the duty of such judge to give a certificate thereof to such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, which shall be sufficient authority for removing the said fugitive to the State from which he or she fled; but no such certificate shall be deemed a sufficient authority for the removal of such fugitive, under the provisions of this act, unless the official character of the officer giving the same, be duly authenticated according to the provisions of this act, in relation to the taking of warrants.

Sec. 3. If any person or persons shall knowingly and wilfully prevent such sheriff or constable from arresting such fugitive from labor or service as aforesaid, or shall knowingly and wilfully obstruct or hinder such sheriff or constable in making such arrest, or shall knowingly and wilfully hinder or obstruct any claimant, his or her agent or attorney, having the certificate provided for in the second section of this act in the removal of such fugitive to the State from which he or she fled; or shall rescue, or aid and abet in the rescue of such fugitives from such sheriff, constable, claimant, agent or attorney; or if two or more persons shall assemble together with intent to obstruct, hinder or interrupt such sheriff or constable in arresting such fugitives, or with intent to obstruct, hinder or interrupt such claimant, agent or attorney, having the certificate aforesaid, in the removal of such fugitive to the State to which he or she fled, and shall make any movement or preparation therefor, every person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, be imprisoned, be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the jail of the county not exceeding sixty days, at the discretion of the court; and shall moreover be liable in an action at the suit of the person claiming such labor or service.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the said judge, at the time to which the case is postponed as aforesaid to proceed to hear the parties, and if it shall be proved to his satisfaction that the party arrested does owe labor or service to the claimant, he shall give such claimant, his or her agent or attorney, a certificate of that fact, which shall be a sufficient authority for such claimant, his or agent or attorney to remove such fugitive from the State from as such certificate shall be deemed a sufficient authority for the removal of such fugitive unless the official character of the officer giving the same be duly authenticated according to the provisions of this act in relation to the taking of warrants; and if the party thus arrested shall not appear according to the condition of his or her bond, it shall be the duty of said judge to deliver the same to the claimant, his or her agent or attorney, to enable him or her to bring suit thereon.

Sec. 6. If any person or persons in the State shall conceal, advise, or entice, any other person who by the laws of any other State shall owe labor or service to any other person or persons, to leave situation, abscond, or escape from the person or persons to whom such labor or service, according to the laws of such other State, is or may be due, it shall furnish money or conveyance of any kind, or any other facility, with intent, and for the purpose of enabling such person owing labor or service, as aforesaid to escape from or elude the claimant of such person owing labor or service as aforesaid, knowing such person or persons to owe labor or service aforesaid, every person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof by indictment, be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in jail of the county not exceeding sixty days, at the discretion of the court, and shall, moreover, be liable in an action at the suit of the party injured.

Sec. 7. If any person or persons shall falsely, fraudulent, and without proper authority, give to any other person, who, by the laws of any other State, shall owe labor or service to any person or persons, any certificate or other testimonials of emancipation, with the intent to defraud the person or persons to whom such labor or service may be due, knowing such person to owe labor or service as aforesaid, or shall harbor conceal any such person owing labor or service as aforesaid, who may come into this State without the consent of the person or persons to whom such labor or service may be due, knowing such persons to owe labor or service as aforesaid, every person so offending shall upon conviction thereof by indictment, be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the jail of the county not exceeding sixty days, at the discretion of the court, and shall moreover, be liable in an action at the suit of the party injured.

Sec. 11. If any person or persons shall in any manner attempt to carry out of this State; or knowingly be aiding in carrying out of this State, any person, without first obtaining sufficient legal authority for so doing, according to the laws of this State or of the United States every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary and kept at hard labor, not less than three, or more than seven years.

Sec. 13. That a trial and judgement under the act of congress, entitled an act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters, approved February 12, 1793, or a trial and judgement under provisions of this act, shall be adjuged a final bar to any subsequent proceeding against such fugitive under the provisions of this act.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Note. 1. Massachusetts is not found in the foregoing address. It is not because as a Whig State, she does not stand near to New York in her hostility to the rights of the South, but because the committee had not the documents to prove it. Having assumed nothing—not even so much as to assert known truths without facts to establish them, they did not introduce the notorious fact that Massachusetts, under Whig rule, should be classed as the second Abolition State.

That this is the real character of her Whiggery, has been shown by the pledges of her statesmen, the proceedings of her Legislature, and especially a formal report on the subject made and adopted in her Senate in April, 1838. Petitions had been presented to that body embracing the following points, viz: The abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia; the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the Territories of the United States; and a refusal to admit into the Union and new State whose Constitution shall tolerate slavery. The committee considered each point separately in a long report from which the following are extracts, viz:

SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"Your committee are therefore unanimously of the opinion, that the power to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, does reside exclusively and absolutely in Congress—that Congress is the depository of this power for national as well as local purposes, and may exercise it, with a regard to the rights of all, independently of the will and interests of any particular district or State, excepting so far as there are elements of the national will and prosperity, and that for the wise and just use of this authority, its members are responsible politically not to the people of the District, or of Virginia or Maryland, but to the whole people of the United States, whose representatives they are.

"Your committee are also of the opinion, as individuals, that Congress ought immediately to exercise this power in the total abolition of slavery in District of Columbia.

"Your committee are unanimously of opinion, that it is expedient that Massachusetts should declare her sentiments on the slave trade as it is now carried on in that district."

SLAVERY IN THE TERRITORIES.

"But while the committee are unanimously of this opinion as to the right, and would by no means deny the duty of Congress to abolish slavery in the Territory of Florida, where it exists, a majority of them are led to the same conclusion, as to a declaration of opinion by the legislature, and for the same reasons, which they have already expressed in relation to the District of Columbia."

THE SLAVE TRADE BETWEEN THE STATES.

"The argument is briefly and clearly stated in a memorial prepared and presented to Congress on, 'the prohibition of slavery in the new States,' in 1819 in behalf of the citizens of Boston. The names of the committee born upon the memorial are Daniel Webster, George Blake, Josiah Quincy, James T. Austin, and John Gallison.

"The constitution declares," say they, "that the migration or importation of such persons as any of the States, now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808. It is most manifest that the Constitution does contemplate, in the very terms of this clause that Congress possess the authority to prohibit the migration of or importation of slaves; for it limits the exercise of this authority for a specified period of time, leaving it to its full operation ever afterwards. And this power seems necessarily included in the authority which belongs to Congress, to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States. No person has ever doubted that the prohibition of the foreign slave trade was completely within the authority of Congress since the year 1808. Certainly only because it is enforced in the regulation of foreign commerce, and if so it may for the like reason be prohibited, since that period, between the States. Commerce in slaves, since the year 1808, being as much the subject of regulation as any other commerce, if it should see fit to enact that no slave should ever be sold from one State to another, it is not perceived how the constitutional right to make such provision can be questioned."

"All the committee are of opinion that the prohibition of this odious trade has become the solemn duty of Congress; and a majority believe that it is required of Massachusetts that she should, through her Legislature, make a declaration of her sentiments upon this subject."

ADMISSION OF NEW STATES.

"Another class of petitioners requests a declaration of the Legislature of Massachusetts, that no new state ought to be admitted into the Union, whose constitution shall tolerate domestic slavery. Massachusetts, as well as her sister States of New York Pensylvania, New Hampshire, and others, has on another occasion, some years since, made, the declaration, and such, undoubtedly, is the well settled opinion of her people. The Committee are unanimously of opinion that circumstances exist which render the renewed expression of this sentiment expedient, if not an imperative duty."

Resolves relating to slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and Territories of the United States.

Resolved, That Congress has, by the Constitution, power to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and that there is nothing in the terms or circumstances of the acts of cession by Virginia and Maryland, or otherwise, imposing any legal or moral restraint upon its exercise.

Resolved, That the infamous traffic in slaves, carried on in and through the District of Columbia, is a national disgrace and a national sin, and ought to be abolished.

Resolved, That Congress has, by the Constitution power to abolish slavery in the Territories of the United States.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our Senators and Representatives Congress.

Resolves relating to the Slave Trade between the States.

Resolved, That Congress has, by the Constitution, power to abolish the traffic in slaves between different States, of the Union.

Resolved, That the exercise of this power is demanded by the principles of humanity and justice.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Resolves relating to the admission of new States into the Union.

Resolved, that no new State, should hereafter be hereafter be admitted in the Union, whose Constitution of Government shall permit the existence of domestic slavery.

Resolved, That his excellency the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

These resolutions were all adopted by the Whig Legislature of Massachusetts, approved by Edward Everett, her Whig Governor, and may be found in her statute book of that year, page 743.

In one of the foregoing extracts, it will appear that DANIEL WEBSTER, with other leading Whigs of Massachusetts, was a petitioner to Congress, in 1819, to prohibit slavery in the new States. This is the same Daniel Webster who has been by common consent designated as Gen. Harrison's Secretary of State, if he be shall be elected President.

Note. 2. The following extracts will show what were the place of the Abolitionists at the date of the circular, and history has recorded their success in the State of York.

By this paper, it appears that the Whig States of Massachusetts and Vermont have already yielded to their influence.

This circular is one actually sent to a post master in Pennsylvania.

☞ Please read this immediately.

Office of the Anti Slavery Society.
New York, 23d 6th mo. 1837.

DEAR FRIEND: Annexed are copies of several petitions, which this society is anxious to have immediately and thoroughly circulated in your town and vicinity.

The right of petition is one of the most sacred ever enjoyed by man. When that is lost, there is little left in civil Government which is valuable. In this country that right is now jeoparded—yea well nigh destroyed. The time to exercise it most effectually, is when it is in endangered.—The people should rally round it NOW, as the only means of preserving it from immolation.

1. Petitions to Congress. 1. relates to the District of Columbia. That is now a test question. As it shall be decided, so will be the fate of liberty in this nation.

No. 2. relates to the Territories. The question in regard to them stands on the same basis with that of the District, as to the responsibilities of Northern citizens.

No. 3. concerning the slave trade between the States, occupies high ground. Congress has declared the traffic in men on the high seas and on the coast of Africa, piracy. Is it less piratical in America?

No. 4, is intended to meet the expected application of Florida, for admission to the Union, as a slave state. Petitions remonstrating against this should be ready in season, so that we may not be taken by surprise, as in the case of Arkansas.

No. 5, relating to Texas, is of extreme importance. If that immense slave-holding territory, large enough for six or eight states as large as