30th Congress, 2d Session. [HO. OF REPS.] Miscellaneous. No. 54.

SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

RELATIVE TO

Slavery in the Territories.

February 20, 1849.
Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS respecting slavery in the Territories.

1st. *Resolved*, That the States came into the Union as equals; and that the citizens of each State are entitled to equal rights, privileges, and immunities under the constitution of the United States.

2d. *Resolved*, That the prceedings of the convention, by which the federal constitution was framed, clearly demonstrate that the institution of slavery was maturely considered, and that the union of the States was finally secured by incorporating into that instrument distinct and ample guarantees of the rights of the slaveholder.

3d. *Resolved*, That we view with deep concern and alarm, the constant aggressions on the rights of the slaveholder by certain reckless politicians of the North; and that the recent proceedings of Congress on the subject of slavery are fraught with mischief well calculated to disturb the peace of our country, and should call forth the earnest and prompt disapprobation of every friend of the Union.

4th. *Resolved*, That the enactment of any law by Congress, which shall abolish slavery or the slave trade in the District of Columbia, or shall directly or indirectly deprive the citizens of any of the States of the right of emigrating with their slave property into any of the Territories of the United States, and of exercising ownership ever the same while in said Territories, will be an act, not only of gross injustice and wrong, but the exercise of power contrary to the true meaning and spirit of the constitution, and never contemplated by the framers thereof.

5th. *Resolved*, That while we do not intend hereby to be understood as conceding that Congress has the power under the constitution to enact a law prohibiting slavery in any portion of the Territories of the United States, yet for the sake of preserving the peace and promoting the perpetuity of the Union, we are willing that the basis of the Missouri Compro-

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mise should be adopted in reference to the recently-acquired Territories of New Mexico and California, by extending the line then agreed upon to the Pacific ocean.

6th. *Resolved*, That we believe the people of North Carolina of all parties are devotedly attached to the Union of the States; that they regard it as a main pillar in the edifice of real independence, the support of tranquility at home, of peace abroad; of safety, of prosperity, and of that very liberty they so highly prize; that they cherish a cordial, habitual, and immoveable attachment to it; and that they watch for its preservation with jealous anxiety; that they believe it is the duty of their public servants to discountenance whatever may suggest even a suspicion, that it can in any event be abandoned, and to repel indignantly every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

7th. *Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be signed by the speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, and forwarded to our senators and representatives in Congress, with a request that they be laid before their respective houses.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly, this 27th day of January, 1849.

ROBT. B. GHILLIAM,
Speaker House of Commons.
CALVIN GRAVES,
Speaker of the Senate.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Office of the Secretary of State.

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of resolutions passed by the General Assembly of this State.

Given under my hand this 3d day of February, 1849.

WM. HILL, *Secretary of State.*

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Raleigh, February 6, 1849.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate herewith a copy of "resolutions respecting slavery in the territories," adopted at the last session of the General Assembly of North Carolina.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. MANLY,
Governor of North Carolina.

To Hon. T. L. CLINGMAN,
House of Representatives, U. S.