FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

RELATING TO

French spoliations prior to the year 1801.

MAY 5, 1852.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO.

RESOLVE concerning the liquidation and payment of the claims of American citizens for "French spoliations" anterior to September 30, 1800.

Whereas, among the numerous class of American citizens who had just claims upon the government of France for spoliations upon their commerce prior to the 30th September, 1800, and for which that government admitted its liability for adequate indemnities, are many citizens of this State; that by the treaty of that date, the government of the United States, in consideration of the release of the "burdensome and onerous guarantees" stipulated in the treaties of "alliance" and of "amity and commerce" of 1778, fully exonerated and released the government of France from such liabilities and indemnities; whereby the United States assumed upon themselves and became legally and equitably obligated to their citizens for the payment thereof, agreeably to the constitutional provision that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." Yet said claims have not been liquidated and satisfied. And whereas, a bill for the liquidation of said indemnities is now pending before Congress; therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this legislature, the aforesaid claims, with interest, are justly due from and demandable of the government of the United States.

Resolved further, That our senators in Congress be and are hereby instructed, and our representatives be requested to use their best exertions to procure from the government as full and adequate indemnities therefor as though said claims still existed against the government of France; and to aid by all proper means the passage of any bill for the speedy and equitable liquidation thereof.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor transmit copies of these resolutions to each of our senators and representatives, and request them to lay the same before their respective houses.
Mis. No. 56.

House of Representatives, April 15, 1852.—Passed. N. P. BANKS, Jr., Speaker.

In Senate, April 23, 1852.—Passed. HENRY WILSON, President.

April 28, 1852.—Approved. GEO. S. BOUTWELL.

Secretary's Office, Boston, April 28, 1852.

A true copy.—Attest: AMASA WALKER, Secretary of the Commonwealth.