

settling upon that land, and of being protected there in the possession and use of whatever they held as property according to the laws of the respective States from which they may have emigrated, not excepting slaves.

Resolved, that the slaveholding States have an equal right with the non-slaveholding to have their citizens pass into the District of Columbia with their property, including slaves, and while there to possess and use such property in every way in which citizens of the non-slaveholding States may possess and use their property, not excepting the traffic in such slaves.

Resolved, that these rights are not only of the essence of the confederacy principle, from its very nature, but are directly recognized and guaranteed in several parts of the instrument of confederation itself. The Constitution has in it this stipulation, viz: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States, and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State;" and that any denial of, or injury to such rights by the non-slaveholding States, through the action of Congress, would be unconstitutional.

Resolved, that it is the duty of the non-slaveholding States under the Constitution, to see to it themselves that slaves escaping into their borders are delivered up to the owners on the claim of the latter.

Resolved, that the boundaries of Texas as claimed by her, are the true boundaries, and that the claim set up by the non-slaveholding States to a part of the soil within those boundaries, on a pretence of its being a portion of New Mexico, is false.

Resolved, that the slaveholding States have a right to the use and enjoyment by their citizens of property in slaves within the lim-

its of such States, without disturbance or interference from the non-slaveholding States or their citizens.

Resolved, that the non-slaveholding States, with an exception or two, have almost destroyed some of these rights, and are in course of destroying the rest.

1. They have not only failed to provide that fugitive slaves within their lines should be surrendered to their owners on demand, but they have carefully passed laws to protect such fugitives from re-capture by their owners.

2. They avow the purpose of seizing and of holding all of New Mexico and California to the utter exclusion of the slaveholding States.

3. They also avow the purpose of appropriating to themselves more than a third part of Texas, amounting to little less than 150,000 square miles, under pretence of its constituting a portion of New Mexico.

4. They also avow the purpose of abolishing the traffic in slaves in the District of Columbia, and all of these purposes they are now preparing to execute through Congress.

5. They are, by systematic anti-slavery agitation, and in every other indirect and in some direct ways, endeavoring to unsettle and undermine the principle of property in slaves in the Southern States themselves, and are actually disturbing the enjoyment in these States of slave property. In a word, they are letting it be plainly seen that, if they do not now resort summarily and directly to universal abolition by act of Congress, it is not because they want the will to pass the law; but because for the present they lack the power to exercise it.

Resolved, that to prevent the consummation, by the non-slaveholding States, of the destruction of these and other rights of the slaveholding States, something is necessary which shall be sufficient

either to change these hostile purposes on the part of the non-slaveholding States, or to prevent them from acquiring the power to execute these purposes.

Resolved, that whatever will add to the strength of the slaveholding States, will contribute to the accomplishment of both these objects.

Resolved, that the obtaining by these States of a part of these countries acquired from Mexico, the retention by them of the whole area of Texas as claimed by Texas, and the uniting of their citizens as one man in party organization, separate from the North in reference to the slavery question, would be the three things which would strengthen the South.

Resolved, that the great principle of the Missouri compromise, both at the time of its adoption and at each of its various applications, was a division of the public territories between the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States upon the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude.

Resolved, that although this principle is not free from constitutional doubt, and although it will not, if applied to our present public territories, give the slaveholding States a fair and just share of the same, any more than it did of our past public territories unapplied to it, yet for the sake of a compromise and settlement of the controversy between those States and the non-slaveholding States in relation to the territory known as California and New Mexico, and for no other purpose, the slaveholding States should again waive the constitutional question involved in the principle; and, looking over its practical unfairness toward them, agree that it may be applied to that territory.

Resolved, that Congress ought therefore to divide California and New Mexico between the slaveholding and the non-slaveholding States on the line of 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude, and this it might do by distinctly recognizing