

SENATE No. 138.

[Introduced on leave, by Mr. BIRD, of Norfolk.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One.

R E S O L V E S

Relating to the Powers of the several Departments of the National Government.

Resolved, That every invasion by one department of government of the prerogatives of another tends to defeat the fundamental end of all constitutional government, that it shall be a government of laws and not of men.

Resolved, That the people of Massachusetts have seen with alarm the recent attempt, unhappily successful, by the president of the United States, not officially proclaimed, but notorious and avowed by its supporters, to dictate the organization and appointment of the committee on foreign relations of the senate of the United States.

Resolved, That the acquiescence of the senate in the dictation of the appointment of the committee on foreign relations implies a subserviency which disqualifies that branch for the independent performance of its constitutional duties to supervise the nominations and treaties laid before the senate by the president, and threatens the removal of the great bulwark against dangerous executive usurpation.

