

SENATE....No. 36.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
BOSTON, February 5th, 1861. }

To the Honorable Senate :—

Agreeably to the request of His Excellency, Governor Magoffin, I herewith transmit for the information of the General Court, copies received at this department of Joint Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, on January 25th and January 29th last.

I transmit also a copy received at this department of Joint Resolutions, adopted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, on January 22d last, together with the communication from His Excellency, Governor Ramsay, which accompanied the same.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, FRANKFORT, }
January 26, 1861. }

To His Excellency the Governor of Massachusetts:—

I have the honor to transmit herewith to your Excellency the Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as requested by that body.

Your ob't serv't,

B. MAGOFFIN.

RESOLUTIONS

Appointing Commissioners to attend Conference at Washington City, February 4th, in accordance with the invitation of the Virginia legislature.

WHEREAS, The general assembly of Virginia, with a view to make an effort to preserve the Union and the Constitution in the spirit in which they were established by the fathers of the Republic, have, by resolution invited all the States who are willing to unite with her in an earnest effort to adjust the present unhappy controversies, to appoint Commissioners to meet on the 4th of February next, to consider, and if practicable, agree upon some suitable adjustment.

Resolved, That we heartily accept the invitation of our old mother Virginia, and that the following six commissioners, viz.: William O. Butler, James B. Clay, Joshua F. Bell, C. S. Morehead, James Guthrie, and Charles A. Wickliffe, be appointed to represent the State of Kentucky in the contemplated convention, whose duty it shall be to repair to the city of Washington, on the day designated, to meet such commissioners as may be appointed by any of the States in accordance with the foregoing invitation.

Resolved, That if said commissioners shall agree upon any plan of adjustment requiring amendments to the Federal Constitution, they be requested to communicate the proposed amendments to congress, for the purpose of having the same submitted by that body, according to the forms of the constitution, to the several States for ratification.

Resolved, That if said commissioners cannot agree in an adjustment, or if agreeing, congress shall refuse to submit for ratification such amendments as they may propose, the commissioners of this State shall immediately communicate the result to the executive of this Commonwealth, to be by him laid before this general assembly.

Resolved, That in the opinion of the general assembly of Kentucky, the propositions embraced in the resolutions presented to the senate of the United States by the honorable John J. Crittenden, so construed that the first article proposed as an amendment to the constitution of the United States shall apply to all the territory of the United States now held or hereafter acquired south of latitude $36^{\circ} 30'$, and provide that slavery of the African race shall be effectually protected as property herein during the continuance of the territorial government; and the fourth article shall secure to the owners of slaves the right of transit with their slaves between and through the non-slaveholding States and Territories, constitute the basis of such an adjustment of the unhappy controversy which now divides the States of this confederacy, as would be acceptable to the people of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That the governor be, and he is hereby requested to communicate information of the foregoing appointment to the commissioners above named, at as an early a day as practicable, and that he also communicate copies of the foregoing resolutions to the executives of the respective States.

DAVID MERIWETHER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS P. PORTER,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved January 29, 1861.

B. MAGOFFIN.

By the Governor:

THOS. B. MONROE, JR., *Secretary of State.*

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, FRANKFORT, }
January 28th, 1861. }

To His Excellency, the Governor of Massachusetts :—

I have the honor to communicate herewith to your Excellency the Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, "recommending call for a Convention of the United States," with the request that you lay them before the Legislature of your State.

Your obedient servant,

B. MAGOFFIN.

RESOLUTIONS,

RECOMMENDING A CALL FOR A CONVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas, The people of some of the States feel themselves deeply aggrieved by the policy and measures which have been adopted by the people of some of the other States ; and whereas, an amendment of the constitution of the United States is deemed indispensably necessary, to secure them against similar grievances in the future ; therefore

Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That application to congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the constitution of the United States, pursuant to the fifth article thereof, be, and the same is hereby, now made by this General Assembly of Kentucky ; and we hereby invite our sister States to unite with us, without delay, in similar application to congress.

Resolved, That the governor of this State forthwith communicate the foregoing resolution to the president of the United States, with the request that he immediately place the same before congress, and the executives of the several States, with a request that they lay them before their respective legislatures.

Resolved, If the convention be called in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing resolutions, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky suggest for the consideration of that convention, as a basis for settling existing difficulties, the adoption, by way of amendments to the constitution, the resolutions offered in the Senate of the United States by the Hon. John J. Crittenden.

DAVID MERIWETHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS P. PORTER,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved Jan. 25, 1861.

B. MAGOFFIN.

By the Governor :

THOS. B. MONROE, Jr., *Secretray of State.*

STATE OF MINNESOTA.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, SAINT PAUL, }
January 22, 1861. }

SIR,—In obedience to the request of the Legislature of this State, I transmit herewith a copy of the Joint Resolutions of that body, adopted this day, entitled “Joint Resolutions on the State of the Union.”

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

ALEX. RAMSEY.

His Excellency, JOHN A. ANDREW,

Governor of the State of Massachusetts, Boston.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, ON THE STATE
OF THE UNION. ADOPTED JANUARY 22, 1861.

1. *Resolved*, That one of the vital and necessary principles which form the basis of all free governments, is that the constitutional majority must always rule. And therefore, the right of the people of any State to withdraw from the Union, thereby hazarding the liberties and happiness of the millions comprising this confederacy, can never be acknowledged by us under any circumstances.

We regard secession upon the part of any State as amounting directly to revolution, and precipitating civil war with all its sad train of consequences.

2. *Resolved*, That the people of the State of Minnesota reiterate their unalterable devotion to the constitution of the United States, and that if its provisions are strictly observed, it will, in its own words, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

3. *Resolved*, That Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin, having been constitutionally and legally elected President and Vice-President of the United States, at a general election fully and freely participated in, on the same day, by the people of every State of the Union, South as well as North, that any attempt to dissolve or destroy the Union on account thereof, is without excuse or justification, and should receive the condemnation of every patriot in the land.

4. *Resolved*, That we have heard with astonishment and indignation of the recent outrages perpetrated at Charleston, South Carolina, by firing upon an American steamer, sailing under the flag of our country, and that we expect of the general government the strongest and most vigorous effort to assert its supremacy, and to check the work of rebellion and treason. Fully impressed with our duty to make every possible effort to

uphold the Union, and to maintain the authority of the general government, we hereby tender to the President of the United States, for that purpose, through the governor of this State, aid in men and money, to the extent of our ability.

When one or more States erect the standard of disunion, and place themselves in military array against the government bequeathed to us by our ancestors, we can discover no other honorable or patriotic resource than to test, both on land and on ocean, the full strength of the Federal authority under our national flag.

5. *Resolved*, That we declare to each State of this Union our sincere desire to secure a renewal of that fraternal feeling which ought always to exist between citizens of a common country, and which distinguished the history of the nation for more than half a century. Especially do we express to those patriotic citizens of the Southern States, who have nobly and manfully exerted their utmost effort to prevent the catastrophe of dissolution, our sincere gratitude and highest admiration.

6. *Resolved*, That the most sincere thanks of the nation are justly due to that distinguished patriot and veteran, Lt. General Winfield Scott, for the prompt and decisive steps he has taken to stay the tide of revolution, and for the determined spirit he has evinced in maintaining the honor of our government.

7. *Resolved*, That we never will consent or submit to the obstruction of the free navigation of the Mississippi River from its source to its mouth by any power hostile to the Federal government.

8. *Resolved*, That the governor of this State is hereby requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, to Lt. General Winfield Scott, and to each of our senators and representatives in the congress of the United States, and to the governors of the several States.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY,

President of the Senate.

JARED BENSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

