

HOUSE....No. 158.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Wilson, of Natick, moves to strike out the conclusion of the Report, discharging the Committee on the Judiciary from the further consideration of the Petition of Henry Allen and others, and to insert the following, viz. :—

Whereas, The people of Massachusetts have, in every variety of form, solemnly, deliberately, and repeatedly declared their unalterable purpose to prohibit the extension of Slavery, by the application of the principles of the Ordinance of 1787 to the Territories ; and

Whereas, The Hon. Daniel Webster, one of the Senators of this Commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, recently declared, in a speech delivered in the Senate, that “ if a resolution or a law, were before the Senate, to provide a Territorial Government for New Mexico, with a provision for the prohibition of Slavery, he would not vote for it,” that “ such provision was useless, senseless and nugatory ;” and

Whereas, A Bill is now pending before the Senate of the United States, with some amendments, to wit, for the return of Fugitive Slaves, which provides, among other things, that any judge, commissioner, clerk, postmaster, or collector, not only residing, but merely being in the state where a seizure is made, may, on proof to his individual satisfaction, without trial by jury, give a certificate, which shall be a sufficient warrant for taking and removing any person, white or black, who may be

seized as a Fugitive Slave; and in such cases the *affidavit* of the claimant is admitted, but the *testimony* of the person claimed as a slave, is expressly excluded. And the said Bill, with its amendments, provides a fine of \$1000 for aiding and abetting the escape of a Fugitive Slave, and imprisonment of twelve months for harboring and concealing such person; and whereas, the Hon. Daniel Webster has avowed in his speech, his intention to support this odious Bill, and its amendments, "with all its provisions, to the fullest extent;" therefore,

Resolved, That the Hon. Daniel Webster is hereby respectfully, but earnestly requested, to oppose, "at all times, under all circumstances, even against all inducements, against all compromises," the organization of any Territorial Governments, without an express provision, forever excluding Slavery therefrom.

Resolved, That the Hon. Daniel Webster is hereby respectfully, but earnestly requested, to "use the first, the last, and every occasion," to defeat the enactment of the Bill, now before the Senate, for the recapture of Fugitive Slaves.

Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor, be requested to forward to the Hon. Daniel Webster, a copy of these Resolutions.