

## HOUSE....No. 39.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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Mr. Hopkins, of Northampton, proposes, at a proper time, to offer the following, as amendment to the amended draft of the resolves concerning slavery and the slave trade :—

*Whereas* the Declaration of Independence sets forth the immutable principles of human liberty, and whereas the Constitution of these United States was framed and adopted to promote “a more perfect union,” for the purpose of securing thereby “the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity;” therefore,

*Resolved*, That the grand object and design of our National Constitution, and the union resulting therefrom, are to secure and perpetuate LIBERTY;—that this chief end was recognized by our fathers in all their primal negotiations and deliberations for union, as also in their subsequent acts of legislation;—that the same end is also regarded, by the civilized world, as the true aim and purpose of our national institutions.

*Resolved*, That we love the Union, and support the Constitution, because of our confidence in their fitness to the end for which they were formed and established;—that any use of their powers (past, or future,) for the increase or continuance of SLAVERY, is the grossest possible perversion of those powers; and that nothing can have “a stronger tendency to shake the integrity of the Union itself,” by rendering it worthless for its

great end, than any successful persistence in such a course of perversion.

*Resolved*, That the recent policy of the National Government, with reference to the extension and the security of slavery, does involve the grossest perversion and abuse of both the Constitution and the Union;—that, as we have resisted it, so we will continue to do; that we protest against the prevalence of that policy, and demand its distinct renunciation and disavowal with reference to our territorial possessions, by applying to those possessions the principles of the ordinance of 1787, concerning the territorial possessions of that period;—that we demand a perfect absolution of the National Government from all connection with, or responsibility for, slavery, and that all the powers of said government be most wisely and efficiently used, “in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

*Resolved*, That, as the examples and injunctions of our fathers have taught us, so should our examples and injunctions teach our posterity, that, to secure liberty of body and of soul, liberty, under law, and by law, is the great and only purpose and value of civil compacts and governments; and that we, therefore, declare our determination, hereafter, in every available form of political action, and by every justifiable means, to resist the fostering and increase of slavery under national protection—to reclaim the National Government from its desecrations, and to re-direct it to those original and noble ends recognized and established by our fathers; and that, in making this declaration, we are but simply faithful to the principles of our country, and to the interests of mankind.

*Resolved*, That, in view of questions now pending before the National Legislature, unprecedented in the importance, and the extent of their bearing upon these principles of national policy, we feel impelled to call upon our representatives, and to in-

struct our senators in Congress, not only unceasingly to oppose the extension of slavery into our territories, but to erect all barriers to its possible introduction, and to seek the abolition of slavery and the slave trade, in all places of exclusive national jurisdiction.

*Resolved,* That His Excellency the Governor be directed to transmit copies of these resolves to our senators and representatives in Congress, to be, by them, laid before the two houses of Congress, as expressing the strong and unalterable sentiments of the people of Massachusetts.

