

HOUSE....No. 131.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two.

PREAMBLE AND JOINT RESOLUTION

Relative to the Construction of a Ship-Canal around the Falls
of Sault Saint Marie, Michigan.

Whereas, Lake Superior, surrounded by a coast of more than fifteen hundred miles in extent, whose shores are enriched with the most extensive and rich deposits of copper and iron known in the world, whose waters afford fisheries the most valuable for supplying the interior of the country, is still disconnected from the other great lakes by an impassable obstruction caused by the Falls of Ste. Marie; and *whereas*, a ship-canal, three-fourths of a mile in length, around said Falls, would open this inland sea with all its wealth to the shipping and commerce of the whole chain of lakes, connecting it by an uninterrupted water communication, with the western termini of our railroads; facilitate the settlement of a new and extensive region, develop new resources of national wealth, and open new fields for private enterprise; and *whereas*, the

land through which said canal would pass is a military reserve, beyond the reach of State or private control, and in a military point of view, an important key to the greatest of American lakes; and—therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use all honorable means in obtaining an appropriation by the General Government to accomplish the object set forth in the foregoing preamble, and that the Governor of this State be requested to forward copies of the foregoing preamble and this resolution, to our senators and representatives in Congress.