

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA,

*Against the measures of the abolitionists, and against interfering with  
the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia.*

FEBRUARY 5, 1836.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*A memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama to the  
General Assemblies of the several States in the Union.*

Your memorialists approach your honorable bodies with that confidence and good will which should characterize sisters of the same family. The hostility which a small portion of your population have shown to the happiness and safety of our country, is not believed to have emanated from any settled intention of your citizens to do us an injury. The dark, deep, and malignant designs of the abolitionists who are settled amongst you, in sending to our country their agents and incendiary pamphlets and publications, lighting up fires of discord in the bosoms of our slave population, have never, for a moment, alienated our affections from the great mass of your citizens; and we have believed, and still believe that, when you are fully apprized of the evils which this unholy band of cowardly assassins was bringing upon us, you would extend your hands to avert the calamities which must otherwise fall upon our citizens. We were born in a land of domestic slavery; like our liberties, it descended from our fathers; we were innocent of its introduction, and, if it have evils, they are our own, which time and the wisdom of experience must avert, and we utterly deny the right of the citizens of any other State to claim an interference. The harmony of the States, and durability of the Union, forbid any intermeddling upon this subject. Slavery in the United States is local and sectional. It is confined to the Southern and Middle States. If it be an evil, it is their business to say so, and remove it. Slavery existed in other States, and they put an end to it in their own way, without the disasters likely to be visited upon us by malignant and heartless societies, residing in other States. The abolitionists are not numerous, but they are wealthy, ardent, and talented. They have presses in the various parts of the Union, from which they issue millions of essays, pamphlets, and pictures, and scatter them amongst our slave population, calculated to urge them to deluge our country in blood. This cannot be tolerated.

1st. *Be it therefore resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened,* That it is the decided sense of this General Assembly, that we call upon our sister States, and respectfully request them to enact such penal laws as will finally put an end to the malignant deeds of the abolitionists, calculated to destroy our peace, and sever this Union.

2d. *Resolved,* That we should consider the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, unless by the desire of its own citizens, as a violation of the rights of that District, derived from the implied condition on which that territory was ceded to the General Government, and as the commencement of a scheme of usurpation and flagrant injustice.

3d. *Resolved,* That the Executive of the State of Alabama communicate a copy of this memorial to the Governor of each of the States of the Union, with a request that it may be laid before their next Legislatures; and, also, that a copy be sent to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

J. W. McCLUNG,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

SAM'L B. MOORE,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved: January 9, 1836.

C. C. CLAY.

**THE STATE OF ALABAMA:**

I, Edmond A. Webster, Secretary of State for the State aforesaid, hereby certify the within and foregoing pages contain a true and correct transcript of said memorial, as taken from the original roll now on file in my office.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the city of Tuscaloosa, this 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the sixtieth.

E. A. WEBSTER, *Secretary of State.*