

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 18, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. LANE submitted for consideration the following

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, in the years 1847-48, the Northern States of this Union, by their legislatures, and almost with unanimity, adopted resolutions in favor of what was called the Wilmot proviso, prohibiting slavery in all the territory acquired from Mexico, and the Southern States soon afterwards passed counter resolutions declaring they would resist that measure at all hazards, and to the last extremity; and whereas, in 1850, certain laws were enacted to settle the controversy between the two sections, called the compromise measures, agreeing that the people of the Territories on entering the Union should decide the question of slavery for themselves; and whereas, at the last Presidential election, the people of the Northern States, by the election of a President on the Chicago platform, have reaffirmed their previous position that slavery shall be excluded from all the Territories of the Union, now and hereafter; and whereas a number of the Southern States regarding said decision as destructive of the equality of the States and of their equal rights in the common territory of our common country, as ultimately fatal to their system of society, and the agitation resulting from such a policy as eminently dangerous to their domestic peace and safety, have indicated a purpose to dissolve their political connection with the Northern States, and there is reason to believe that all the Southern States will soon unite in said movement; and whereas, a dissolution of this Union would result in great disasters to both sections, and, if attended with civil war, with horrors, perhaps, exceeding any that history has recorded; and whereas, it is now apparent that the present system of government is not adequate to the exigences of the times, to the changes of opinion and of circumstances, and particularly that the mode prescribed in the present Constitution for amendments thereto is not, from the sectional character of the controversy and the urgency of events, adequate to the occasion; and whereas, in a similar difficulty, our forefathers finding the amendment of the articles of the confederation impracticable, called on the States to act separately to devise another plan of government, and that course was adopted, and crowned with success: Therefore—

Resolved, That the several States be requested to send commissioners or delegates to a convention, to consult on the changes which the present times require.

And, whereas, The Southern States, being in a numerical minority, complain of aggressions previous and prospective from the Northern States;

Be it resolved, That the delegates of said Southern States be requested to convene first by themselves, to confer on the conditions necessary for their security and peace, and submit their conclusions either to the delegates of the Northern States separately convened, or to a convention of all the Northern States.

And be it further resolved, That it is contrary and abhorrent to the religion and civilization of our age, and to the spirit of our Constitution, to interfere in any way by force with such steps as any of the States feeling aggrieved may adopt;

And be it further resolved, That the federal government will abstain from the employment of all or any force to prevent or interfere with any State or States which shall determine by itself or themselves on any course for their own prosperity and safety which shall not be aggressive towards the other States; and in any case where there may be danger of collision between any State and the federal forces stationed there, the forces be promptly withdrawn.