

SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND,

ON

The subject of slavery in the District of Columbia.

MARCH 24, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Resolutions relating to slavery in the District of Columbia.

Whereas, in the acts of cession of the States of Maryland and Virginia, ceding to the Congress and Government of the United States that portion of territory now called the District of Columbia, it is expressly provided, that nothing therein contained shall be construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil, or to affect the rights of individuals therein, otherwise than the same shall or may be transferred by such individuals to the United States; and whereas the inhabitants of said District have nowhere transferred to the United States any right of dispo-
session of property in their slaves, or any control over the same,

Be it therefore resolved unanimously by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Congress of the United States does not possess the power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and that any such assumption of power would be contrary to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, and in direct violation of the terms and conditions upon which the cession of the District of Columbia was made to the Congress and Government of the United States.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to our Representatives and Senators in Congress, and to the Governors of the several States of this Union.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Annapolis, Md., March 21, 1842.

SIR: In compliance with the request of the General Assembly of Maryland, I have the honor to transmit the enclosed copy of its resolves, touching a matter therein mentioned.

And am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. C. LEGRAND,

Secretary of State.

Hon. JAMES W. WILLIAMS.