

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA,

Adverse to the movements made for the abolition of slavery, &c.

FEBRUARY 29, 1836.—Read.

MARCH 10, 1836.—Ordered to be printed.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Richmond, Virginia, February 18, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with a request of the General Assembly of Virginia, I have the honor to forward you, herewith, a copy of certain resolutions adopted by both the houses composing that body, on the 16th instant.

I am, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

LITTLETON W. TAZEWELL.

The Hon. BENJAMIN W. LEIGH, *of the*
Senate of the United States.

1. *Resolved*, That this Commonwealth only, has the right to control or interfere with the subject of domestic slavery within its limits, and that this right will be maintained at all hazards.

2. *Resolved*, That the State of Virginia has a right to claim prompt and efficient legislation by her co-States to restrain as far as may be, and to punish those of their citizens who, in defiance of the obligations of social duty and those of the constitution, assail her safety and tranquillity, by forming associations for the abolition of slavery, or printing, publishing, or circulating through the mail or otherwise, seditious and incendiary publications, designed, calculated, or having a tendency to operate on her population, and that this right, founded as it is on the principles of international law, is peculiarly fortified by a just consideration of the intimate and sacred relations that exist between the States of this Union.

3. *Resolved*, That the non-slaveholding States of the Union are respectfully, but earnestly requested, promptly to adopt penal enactments, or such other measures as will effectually suppress all associations within their respective limits, purporting to be, or having the character of abolition societies; and that they will make it highly penal to print,

publish, or distribute newspapers, pamphlets, or other publications calculated, or having a tendency to excite the slaves of the Southern States to insurrection and revolt.

4. *Resolved*, That we have seen, with satisfaction, those expressions of public opinion of our Northern brethren, favorable to the rights of the Southern States, and in condemnation of the conduct and motives of the abolitionists among them; and that, confiding in their justice and attachment to the principles of the Union, enforced by the sympathies of common dangers, sufferings, and triumphs, which ought to bind us together in fraternal concord, we are warranted in the expectation that the foregoing request will be received and complied with in the spirit in which it is made.

5. *Resolved*, That Congress has no constitutional power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or in the Territories of the United States.

6. *Resolved*, That this General Assembly would regard any act of Congress having for its object the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or the Territories of the United States, as affording just cause of alarm to the slaveholding States, and bringing the Union into imminent peril.

7. *Resolved*, That it is highly expedient for the slaveholding States to enact such laws and regulations as may be necessary to suppress and prevent the circulation of any incendiary publications within their respective limits.

8. *Resolved*, That the Governor be, and he is hereby requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Executive of each of the States of the Union, with a request that the same may be submitted to their respective Legislatures.

Agreed to by both houses of the Legislature of Virginia, February 16, 1836.

GEORGE W. MUNFORD, C. H. D.