

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

ANNAPOLIS, March 28, 1868.

*Gentlemen of the Senate :*

I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication just received from His Excellency, John W. Stevenson, Governor of Kentucky, enclosing a Memorial of Protest, adopted by the Legislature of that State at its late session.

THOS. SWANN,

Governor.

STATE OF KENTUCKY,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

FRANKFORT, March 17, 1868.

SIR: In compliance with the request of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, I have the honor to inclose you the written Memorial of Protest adopted by that body during the late session.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. STEVENSON.

RESOLUTION NO. 26.

*Memorial of Protest.*

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, acting for and on behalf of the people of Kentucky, are constrained to enter a most earnest and solemn Protest against the great constitutional wrong and manifest injustice which has been done this people, in the failing and refusing to admit their just representation on the floor of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, on the presentation of their legal certificates of election, duly authenticated, and each of the said Representatives possessing all the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

We solemnly protest against the assumption of power to make and apply new tests and qualifications for membership, not only not authorized by, or contemplated in, but we hold clearly prohibited by, the Federal Constitution, as nothing less than a usurpation culminating in a violation of vested right, and an assault upon the liberty of a free people.

The essential principle of our free Government is, that it is *the Government of the people*, made by the people, and carefully framed with the special view of *reserving all power in the people*, which it was not found essential to concede, and which was not actually given by the Constitution to their representatives and public servants.

It being impracticable for the people to assemble in mass