

At the session of the next Congress the same Senator spoke as follows :

“But Southern gentlemen stand here and in almost all their speeches speak of the dissolution of the Union as an element of every argument, as though it were a peculiar condescension on their part that they permitted the Union to stand at all. If they do not feel interested in upholding this Union, if it really trenches on their rights, if it endangers their institutions to such an extent that they do not feel secure under it, if their interests are violently assailed by means of this Union, I am not one of those who expect that they will continue long under it. I am not of those who would ask them to continue in such a Union. It would be doing violence to the platform of the party to which I belong. We have adopted the old Declaration of Independence as the basis of our political movement, which declares that any people, when the government ceases to protect their rights, when it is so subverted from the true purposes of government as to oppress them, have a right to recur to fundamental principles, and if need be to destroy the government under which they live, and to erect on its ruins another more conducive to their welfare. I hold that they have this right.— I will not blame any people for exercising it whenever they think the contingency has come. You cannot forcibly hold men in this Union for the attempt to do so, it seems to me would subvert the first principles of the government under which we live.”

In 1859, a large political meeting of the “Sons of Liberty” in Ohio, adopted the following resolution.

“*Resolved*, That the several States comprising the United States of America are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their General Government, but that by compact under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States, and of amendments thereto, they constituted a General Government for special purposes, delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving each State to itself the residuary mass of right to their own self-government, and that whenever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void and of no force; and, being void, can derive no validity from mere judicial interpretation; that in this compact each State acceded as a State, and is an integral party; that this Government created by this compact was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself since that would have made its discretion and not the Constitution the measure of its powers, but that, as in all other cases of compact among parties having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress.”

The resolution is an exact copy of the Kentucky resolution