

ment of slavery in the District of Columbia. The agitation of the subject is well calculated to disturb the relations subsisting between master and slave, within the territory of Maryland, and to give color to the pretences of the evil-minded, that the war is prosecuted with objects, which are hostile to the institution of slavery. Upon the principle of the decision in the Dred Scott case, (which so long as it is respected as the rule of judicature by the Supreme Court ought to be equally binding on Congress and on the private citizen,) it may be asserted that Congress has no power to abolish or exclude slavery from the District of Columbia. But in the absence of any such constitutional objection, Maryland confidently expects from that duty of natural right which Congress has ever recognized, that so long as slavery remains a legal institution in Maryland, no measure will be adopted for the exclusion of slavery from the District of Columbia.

V. That slavery ought not to be prohibited or interfered with in any of the Forts, Arsenals, Dock-Yards or other places, owned or occupied by the United States, within the territorial limits of a State in which slavery is recognised as a domestic institution.

VI. That the provision of the fugitive slave law, (commonly so-called), are adequate, if enforced in good faith, to assert and maintain the rights of the master to his fugitive slave. But the better to ensure the execution of the law, provision ought to be made for giving to the owner an indemnity out of the public treasury for the value of his fugitive slave who may be lost to him, by the default of the officers entrusted with the execution of the law, or by the successful resistance to their authority by individuals or combinations in the place to which slave may have fled. And in return for such guarantee, it is fit that provision be made for securing to the person apprehended as a fugitive slave, but who alleges that he is free, the benefit of a trial of the question of freedom by a jury of the place to which he is returned under the direction of the District Court of that district.

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to the President of the United States—to the presiding officers of the two Houses of Congress, and to Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress;

Which were read.

Mr. Creswell moved to suspend the rules to dispose of the resolutions ;

Upon which the yeas and nays, being demanded, resulted as follow: