

Which were read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

By the Senate,

February 18, 1837.

Whereas, a communication from the Executive of this State was yesterday received, enclosing certain resolutions passed by the General Assembly of Vermont, and transmitted by the Governor of said State, to His Excellency the Governor of this State, with a request that the same be laid before the Legislature; which resolutions are in the following words, viz.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That neither Congress nor the State Governments have any Constitutional right to abridge the free expression of opinions, or the transmission of them through the public mail.

Resolved, That Congress *do* possess the power to abolish slavery and the slave-trade in the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to the Executive of each of the States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

And whereas, respect and courtesy are due to *all* communications from the Executive of Maryland,—Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That neither Congress nor the State Governments have any Constitutional right to indulge in the "expression of opinions, or the transmission of them through the public mail," so as to endanger the union of these United States, or to infringe the rights of individuals, or to interfere with the domestic institutions of any of the States of this union.

Resolved, That Congress does *not* possess the power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and in the opinion of this Legislature, the abolition of slavery in said District, by Congress, would be a violation of the terms and conditions upon which the cession of the District of Columbia was made to the Federal Government; and in the event of such violation, the territory included in said District, ought, and of right will revert respectively to the States of Virginia and Maryland.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to