

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE

## RESOLVES

*Concerning French depredations on American commerce previous to the convention of eighteen hundred.*

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, That the depredations on American commerce, committed by the authority of the French Republic, previous to the month of September, eighteen hundred, were in violation of the law of nations, and of existing treaties, and created a claim which the government of the United States was bound, by its duty of affording protection to its peaceable citizens, to sustain and enforce.

RESOLVED, That the government of the United States, having, by the ratification of the convention of September thirtieth, eighteen hundred, with amendments, released the French nation from said claim, for a valuable consideration, assumed the obligations of said claim upon itself, and is bound to discharge it, alike by the obligations of equity, and by the injunction of that provision of the federal constitution, which declares that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation."

RESOLVED, That it is due alike to the honor of the American name, and to the support of that confidence which citizens should feel in the wisdom and rectitude of their rulers, that speedy provision should be made by act of Congress for the rendering of justice, so long delayed.

RESOLVED, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit copies of these resolves, and of the accompanying report to the Senators and Representatives from this Commonwealth in Congress, and to the Executives of the several States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 24, 1843.

Passed,

DANIEL P. KING, *Speaker.*

IN SENATE, March 24, 1843.

Passed,

FREDERICK ROBINSON, *President.*

A true copy,—Attest:

JNO. A. BOLLES,

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*