

Resolutions of the Legislature of Connecticut in relation to the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
May Session, 1855.

Whereas, the bill organizing the territories of Nebraska and Kansas was, in itself, premature and uncalled for; in its abrogation of the Missouri Compromise, a needless violation of a time honored compact; in its passage, pressed, with indecent haste, upon a reluctant Congress and an outraged country; and, in its results, has awakened dangerous sectional agitation, and led to lawless violence in the territories themselves;

And whereas, in the support of that act, the doctrine has, of late, been promulgated, that the persons inhabiting the territories of the United States are, or ought to be, within their respective territorial limits, sovereign for all purposes of legislation, though dependent upon the executive branch of the general government for their judicial and executive administration, and as such a doctrine is believed by the good people of this State to be false in theory and dangerous in practice; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the recent Act of Congress, entitled "A Bill to Organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas," deserves, as it has received from the people of Connecticut, an unqualified condemnation.

Resolved, That it is not only the right of Congress "to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territories belonging to the United States," but it is also the duty of the National Legislature to exercise that right in such manner as will best conduce to the lasting welfare of those who are, in future generations, to occupy our vast domain.

And whereas, the subject of national legislation for the national territories is, at the present time, a matter of grave concern to the whole country, and it is proper that the people of each State should, in the spirit of intelligent patriotism, express their sentiments and purposes thereon; and as the fathers of Connecticut did, by their Legislative Acts, in the years 1774 and 1784, declare, that "the increase of Slaves in this State" was "injurious to the poor and inconvenient," and that "sound policy" did "require that the abolition of slavery should be effected" therein, "as soon as might be consistent with the rights of indi-