

MEMORIAL

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI,

REQUESTING

That efforts be made, by negotiation with the British government, to procure the restoration of fugitive slaves.

FEBRUARY 16, 1847.

Read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States.

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Missouri,
RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT :

That the citizens of this State are annually subjected to heavy losses of property by the escape of their slaves, who pass through the State of Illinois, and finally find a secure place of refuge in Canada. Under the existing laws of Canada, and the treaties between Great Britain and the United States, it is impossible to recover a slave who has once escaped to the Canadian shore. The slaves that are recognised by our constitution and laws as individual property are frequently lost, and the unfortunate slaves themselves are decoyed into a cold and bleak region utterly unsuited to their habits and constitutions, and rendered more miserable and degraded than when they lived as slaves. In order to afford a remedy for this great evil, we respectfully request that measures may be taken to have negotiations instituted between our national government and Great Britain, to provide for some satisfactory mode of preventing the escape of our slaves into the British possessions, and for their apprehension and redelivery after they have crossed the northern lakes. We request that a firm, earnest, and persevering effort may be made by negotiation to secure the property and just rights of the slave-holding States, and that the same may be established on a firm basis by an honorable treaty.

Approved January 25, 1847.

Ruchie & Heiss, printers.