

## AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

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MARCH 26, 1860.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MORSE submitted the following

### RESOLUTIONS:

*Resolved*, That, for the more effectual suppression of the African slave trade, the treaty of 1842 between Great Britain and the United States, called the treaty of Washington, requiring each country to keep *eighty* guns on the coast of Africa for that purpose, should be so changed as to require a specified and sufficient number of small steamers and fast-sailing brigs or schooners to be kept on said coast, and that the officers commanding the same should be encouraged and held to the faithful and energetic performance of their duty, and cordially sustained by our government in every discharge thereof.

*Resolved*, That, as the African slave trade appears to be rapidly increasing, some effective mode of identifying the nationality of a vessel on the coast of Africa suspected of being in the slave trade, or of wearing false colors, should be immediately adopted and carried into effect by the leading maritime nations of the earth, and that the government of the United States has thus far, in refusing to aid in establishing such a system, shown a strange neglect of one of the best means of suppressing said trade.

*Resolved*, That the African slave trade is against the moral sentiment of mankind, and a crime against human nature, and that, as the most highly civilized nations have made it a criminal offence or piracy under their own municipal laws, it ought at once, and without hesitation, to be declared a crime by the code of international law, and that, for the purpose of aiding in the establishment of a measure so beneficent and wise, so honorable to a great nation, and worthy of a philanthropic age, the President be requested to open negotiations on this subject with the leading powers of Europe, and make known to them the willingness and desire of the United States to have the African slave trade declared a crime against international law, and brought under the ban of the united voice of civilized states.