

WASHINGTON, *December 27, 1804.*

DEAR SIR:

Resuming the subject of the resolutions of the House of Delegates of December 31, 1800, January 16, 1802, and February 3, 1804, I have it not in my power to say that any change of circumstances has taken place, which enables me yet to propose any specific asylum for the persons who are the subjects of our correspondence. The island of St. Domingo, our nearest and most convenient recourse, is too unsettled in the conditions of its existence to be looked to as yet for any permanent arrangements; and the European nations having territories in the same quarter, and possessing the same kind of population, are not likely to risk any change in the present state of that population. Whether the inhabitants of our late acquisition beyond the Mississippi, or the National Legislature, would consent that a portion of that country should be set apart for the persons contemplated, is not within my competence to say.

My last information as to Sierra Leone, is, that the company were proposing to deliver up their colony to their Government. Should this take place, it might furnish occasion for another effort to procure an incorporation of ours into it. An attack, during the war, has done the settlement considerable injury.

I beg you to be assured that, having the object of the House of Delegates sincerely at heart, I will keep it under my constant attention, and omit no occasion which may occur of giving it effect.

Accept my affectionate salutations and assurances of great respect and consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Governor PAGE.

9th CONGRESS.]

No. 216.

[2d SESSION.

SLAVERY IN THE INDIANA TERRITORY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, JANUARY 21, 1807.

Resolved, unanimously, by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Indiana Territory, That a suspension of the sixth article of compact between the United States and the Territories and States north-west of the river Ohio, passed the 13th day of July, 1787, for the term of ten years, would be highly advantageous to the said Territory, and meet the approbation of at least nine-tenths of the good citizens of the same.

Resolved, unanimously, That the abstract question of liberty and slavery is not considered as involved in a suspension of the said article, inasmuch as the number of slaves in the United States would not be augmented by the measure.

Resolved, unanimously, That the suspension of the said article would be equally advantageous to the Territory, to the States from whence the negroes would be brought, and to the negroes themselves.

To the Territory, because of its situation with regard to the other States, it must be settled by emigrants from those in which slavery is tolerated, or for many years remain in its present situation, its citizens deprived of the greater part of their political rights, and, indeed, of all those which distinguish the American from the citizens and subjects of other Governments.

The States which are overburdened with negroes would be benefited by their citizens having an opportunity of disposing of the negroes which they cannot comfortably support, or of removing with them to a country abounding with all the necessaries of life; and the negro himself would exchange a scanty pittance of the coarsest food for a plentiful and nourishing diet, and a situation which admits not the most distant prospect of emancipation, for one which presents no considerable obstacle to his wishes.

Resolved, unanimously, That the citizens of this part of the former Northwestern Territory consider themselves as having claims upon the indulgence of Congress in regard to a suspension of the said article, because at the time of the adoption of the ordinance of 1787 slavery was tolerated, and slaves generally possessed by the citizens then inhabiting the country, amounting to at least one-half the present population of Indiana, and because the said ordinance was passed in Congress when the said citizens were not represented in that body, without their being consulted, and without their knowledge and approbation.

Resolved unanimously, That from the situation, soil, climate, and productions of the Territory, it is not believed that the number of slaves would ever bear such proportion to the white population, as to endanger the internal peace and prosperity of the country.

Resolved, unanimously, That copies of these resolutions be delivered to the Governor of this Territory, to be by him forwarded to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, with a request that they will lay the same before the Senate and House of Representatives, over which they respectively preside.

Resolved, unanimously, That a copy of these resolutions be delivered to the delegate to Congress from this Territory, and that he be, and he hereby is, instructed to use his best endeavors to obtain a suspension of the said article.

JESSE B. THOMAS, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*PIERRE MENARD, *President pro tem. of the Legislative Council.*

SIR:

VINCENNES, *December 20, 1806.*

Agreeably to the request of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of this Territory, I have the honor to enclose herewith certain resolutions by them adopted, and ask the favor of you to lay them before the Senate of the United States.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, sir, your very humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

The Hon. the SPEAKER of the Senate of the United States.