

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 28, 1850.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BELL submitted for consideration the following

RESOLUTIONS:

Whereas considerations of the highest interest to the whole country demand that the existing and increasing dissensions between the North and the South, on the subject of slavery, should be speedily arrested; and that the questions in controversy be adjusted upon some basis which shall tend to give present quiet, repress sectional animosities, remove as far as possible the causes of future discord, and secure the uninterrupted enjoyment of those benefits and advantages which the Union was intended to confer, in equal measure, upon all its members; and

Whereas it is manifest, under present circumstances, that no adjustment can be effected of the points of difference unhappily existing between the northern and southern sections of the Union, connected with the subject of slavery, which shall secure to either section all that is contended for; and that mutual concession upon questions of mere policy, not involving the violation of any constitutional right or principle, must be the basis of every project affording any assurance of a favorable acceptance; and

Whereas the joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States, approved March 1, 1845, contains the following condition and guarantee, that is to say: "New States of convenient size, not exceeding four in number, in addition to said State of Texas, and having sufficient population, may hereafter, by the consent of said State, be formed out of the territory thereof, which shall be entitled to admission under the provisions of the federal constitution; and such States as may be formed out of that portion of said territory lying south of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, commonly known as the Missouri compromise line, shall be admitted into the Union with or without slavery, as the people of each State asking admission may desire; and in such State or States as shall be formed out of said territory north of said Missouri compromise line, slavery or involuntary servitude (except for crime) shall be prohibited;" therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That the obligation to comply with the condition and guarantee above recited, in good faith, be distinctly recognised; and that in part compliance with the same, as soon as the people of Texas shall, by an act of their legislature, signify their assent by restricting the limits thereof within the territory lying east of the Trinity and south of the Red river; and when the people of the residue of the territory claimed by

Texas lying south of the 34th parallel of north latitude and west of the Trinity shall, with the assent of Texas, adopt a constitution republican in form, they be admitted into the Union upon an equal footing, in all respects, with the original States.

2. *Resolved*, That if Texas shall agree to cede, the United States will accept, a cession of all the unappropriated domain in all the territory claimed by Texas lying west of the Colorado, and extending north to the 42d parallel of north latitude, together with the jurisdiction and sovereignty of all the territory claimed by Texas north of the 34th parallel of north latitude, and to pay therefor a sum not exceeding millions of dollars; to be applied in the first place to the extinguishment of any portion of the existing public debt of Texas, for the discharge of which the United States are under any obligation, implied or otherwise, and the remainder as Texas shall require.

3. *Resolved*, That when the population of that portion of the territory claimed by Texas lying south of the 34th parallel of north latitude and west of the Colorado shall be equal to the ratio of representation in Congress under the last preceding apportionment, according to the provisions of the constitution, and the people of such territory shall, with the assent of the new State contemplated in the preceding resolution, have adopted a State constitution, republican in form, they be admitted into the Union as a State, upon an equal footing with the original States.

4. *Resolved*, That all the territory now claimed by Texas, lying north of the 34th parallel of north latitude, and which may be ceded to the United States by Texas, be incorporated with the territory of New Mexico, except such part thereof as lies east of the Rio Grande, and south of the 34th parallel of north latitude; and that the territory so composed form a State, to be admitted into the Union when the inhabitants thereof shall adopt a State constitution, republican in form, with the consent of Congress; but in the mean time, and until Congress shall give such consent, provision be made for the government of the inhabitants of said territory suitable to their condition, but without any restriction as to slavery.

5. *Resolved*, That all the territory ceded to the United States by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, lying west of said territory of New Mexico, and east of the contemplated new State of California, for the present constitute one territory; and for which some form of government, suitable to the condition of the inhabitants, be provided, without any restriction as to slavery.

6. *Resolved*, That the constitution recently formed by the people of the western portion of California, and presented to Congress by the President on the 13th day of February, 1850, be accepted; and that they be admitted into the Union as a State, upon an equal footing in all respects with the original States.

7. *Resolved*, That in future the formation of State constitutions by the inhabitants of the territories of the United States, be regulated by law; and that no such constitution be hereafter formed or adopted by the inhabitants of any territory belonging to the United States without the consent and authority of Congress.

8. *Resolved*, That the inhabitants of any territory of the United States, when they shall be authorized by Congress to form a State constitution, shall have the sole and exclusive power to regulate and adjust all questions of internal State policy, of whatever nature they may be, controlled

only by the restrictions expressly imposed by the constitution of the United States.

9. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to report a bill in conformity with the spirit and principles of the foregoing resolutions.