

Resolved, further, That the secretary of state be and is hereby requested to forward a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to the commanding officers of each of our Wisconsin regiments, with a request that they be read to the soldiers.

Approved March 27, 1863.

NUMBER 7.

JOINT RESOLUTION relative to the letter of General Rosecrans.

Resolved, by the assembly, the senate concurring, That our warmest thanks are hereby tendered to Major-General Rosecrans for the patriotism, endurance and military skill ever manifested by him while leading our brave army in the field, in defense of the laws, the constitution and the union; also, for the noble and lofty sentiments and cutting rebuke to traitors embraced in his manly, patriotic and statesmanlike letter in response to the resolution of thanks passed by the general assembly of the state of Ohio to the commander and army of the Cumberland, which reads as follows:

“This is, indeed, a war for the maintenance of the constitution and the laws—nay, for national existence—against those who have despised our honest friendship, deceived our just hopes, and driven us to defend our country and our homes. By foul and willful slanders on our motives and intentions, persistently repeated, they have arrayed against us our own fellow-citizens, bound to us by the triple ties of consanguinity, geographical position and commercial interests.

“Let no man among us be base enough to forget this, or fool enough to trust an oligarchy of traitors to their friends, to civil liberty and human freedom. Voluntary exiles from home and friends, for the defense and safety of all, we long for the time when gentle peace shall again spread her wings over our land; but we know no such blessing is possible while the unjust and arbitrary power of the rebel leaders confronts and threatens us. Crafty as the fox, cruel as the tiger, they cried ‘no coercion,’ while preparing to strike us. Bulley-like, they proposed to fight us, because they said they could whip us five to one; and now, when driven back, they whine out, ‘no invasion,’ and promise us of the west permission to navigate the Mississippi river if we will be ‘good boys,’ and do as they bid us.

“Whenever they have the power, they drive before them into

their ranks the southern people, and they would also drive us. Trust them not. Were they able, they would invade and destroy us without mercy. Absolutely assured of these things, I am amazed that any one could think of peace on any terms. He who entertains the sentiment is fit only to be a slave; he who utters it at this time, moreover, is a traitor to his country, who deserves the scorn and contempt of all honorable men. When the power of the unscrupulous rebel leaders is removed, and the people are free to consider and act for their own interests, which are common with ours under this government, there will be no great difficulty in fraternization. Between our tastes and social life, there are fewer differences than between those of the people of the northern and southern provinces of England and Ireland. Hoping the time may speedily come when the power of the perfidious and cruel tyrant of this rebellion having been overthrown, a peace may be laid on the broad foundation of national unity and equal justice to all, under the constitution and laws"—

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be and is hereby requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to General Rosecrans, the president of the United States, each of our senators and representatives in congress, and each of the governors of the loyal states, and also the vote by which these resolutions were adopted.

Approved March 23, 1863.