

NUMBER 8.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS declaring it to be the duty of Senator Doolittle to resign the office of United States senator.

WHEREAS, The reorganization of government among the people lately in rebellion against the United States, upon such a basis as will secure to all the people of the United States the benefits of our free government and institutions, and protection against the recurrence of events which have made up the past five years of our national history, is a duty of the highest and first importance now devolving upon congress;

AND WHEREAS, Congress has, since its assembling in December last, been earnestly engaged in this great work, and has, to that end, persistently claimed and exercised the right to determine for itself when and upon what conditions the lately rebellious people shall be permitted to be represented in congress as inhabitants of states within the union, and in the exercise of that right, has denied the present right of said people to such representation, and among other acts has favored a bill known as the freedman's bureau bill, and another known as the civil rights bill, both having for one of their principal objects the protection of the freedmen against oppression at the hands of the late rebels;

AND WHEREAS, After the civil rights bill passed the senate, Hon. J. R. Doolittle, who was absent from his seat at the time, declared in his place his approval of the bill, in the following unequivocal terms: "Mr. President, I deem it proper to say, in consequence of my not being present when the final vote was taken on Friday, on the bill to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish the means of their vindication, that had I been present, I should have voted in favor of its passage;"

AND WHEREAS, After the president had vetoed the bill, and the question in the senate being upon the passage of the bill, notwithstanding the veto, Senator Doolittle voted against said bill, after having received instructions by joint resolutions passed by this legislature, "to vote for the passage of the senate bill, commonly known as the civil rights bill, the veto of the president to the contrary notwithstanding," not only disregarding his own previously expressed opinion in its favor, but at the same time violating the instructions of the people whom he represented;

AND WHEREAS, Senator Doolittle has from the assembling of congress, so far as occasion has offered, united himself with the president to oppose those measures which have been devised to secure peace, liberty and justice among all the people, and which are specially designed to establish upon sure foundations the principles

for which we contended in the field for four years, and in so doing arrayed himself against the people and their truest representatives in congress: Therefore,

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the course of Senator Doolittle in congress, in voting to sustain the president's veto of the freedman's bureau bill, in persistently urging upon congress the immediate right of the inhabitants of the southern portion of the United States, who were lately in rebellion against the government, to be represented in both houses of congress, as inhabitants of states, and so advocating the principle that the enemies of the government are as fit to administer its affairs as loyal men are, and, finally, in voting to sustain the president's veto of the civil rights bill, in the face of instructions from this legislature to vote for it, fills us with pain and indignation.

Resolved, That the course of Senator James R. Doolittle upon the great question of the reorganization of government among the late rebels, upon the freedman's bureau bill and the civil rights bill, was a desertion of the cause of human rights and republican government, and shows him totally unworthy to occupy any position representing a free people, much less so high an one as the people of Wisconsin in other times have elevated him to; and while it is not contended that we can deprive him of his office of senator, yet we declare it to be his duty to resign his senatorship, in order that the loyal people of Wisconsin may no longer be misrepresented upon the grave questions which are now being decided by the American people.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward to each of our senators and representatives in congress, a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

Approved April 12, 1866.