

ed at Paris in 1783, which at that time definitely fixed the boundaries of the United States, was ceded to the General Government for specific purposes, mentioned and stipulated in the deeds of cession, made by the several States granting the same.

Resolved, That those lands in accordance with said grants are to be considered a common fund, for the benefit and use of the United States according to the usual proportions "in the general charge and expenditure," and should be faithfully disposed of for that purpose, and for no other use or object whatever.

Resolved, That those acts of the several States ceding all their waste and unappropriated lands, constitute a portion of the fundamental law of the land. They are monuments of an age of disinterestedness and patriotism, upon which our constitution was reared, and any violation of them should be regarded as a stain upon our national faith, the more to be regretted, because there is no tribunal, before which, the wrong could be redressed.

Resolved, That the public domain acquired since the treaty of 1723, first from France and secondly from Spain, is the common property of the United States, under the constitution, and subject to the same disposal as that ceded by the several States.

Resolved, That any act that looks to the surrender by Congress of the public lands to the States within whose limits they lie, would be a violation of the express terms of the deeds of cession, which confers them upon Congress in trust, for the benefit of all the States of this Union, and also in disregard of the common interest which the people of this Union have in said lands.

Resolved, That Congress does not possess the right under the constitution, to distribute the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the several States of this Union; as in effect it would be assuming the power to tax the people for the avowed object of distribution.

Resolved, Therefore, that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be by them laid before their respective bodies.

On motion of Mr. Giles,

The order of the day was postponed until to-morrow.

The rule being suspended,

Mr. Seidenstricker, from the majority of the committee on the Penitentiary made the following report:

[See Document M.]

Which was read and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Biser, from the minority of said committee made the following report:

[See Document N.]

Read and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Giles,

The House took up for consideration the bill entitled, a supplement to the act of Assembly, passed December session 1838, chap-