

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesC_F09*

Document: *Remarks in opposition to an anti-slavery resolution before the Senate*

Transcription:

Mr. President—I do not rise for the purpose of making a set speech in opposition to the resolution now before the senate – it being so decidedly anti republican or anti democratic as to preclude the necessity of wasting time by its discussion — but through respect to the source from whence it emanated I will merely submit a few remarks explanatory to you and to my constituency of the course I shall pursue on this and all similar questions which may be laid before this august body. In the first place I shall endeavor to resist all sectional encroachments – because the Constitution of the U.S expressly guarantees to the Citizens of the respective States the power of adopting Laws which they in their wisdom may deem best suited to their purposes of self-government — and I hold it to be the duty of Senators to guard the interest and sustain the rights and priviledges [sic] granted the people by the Constitution of the U. S. Consequently I deem it the duty of every senator not only to negative but [unclear] down the resolution which bids defiance to the constitution by depriving the people of our territories of admission into the union with Laws of their own adoption true the subject may be slavery but what of that [?] you have no more authority to dictate on that than on any other subject if ~~the people of~~ a majority of the people of a territory desiring admission as a state decide in favor or in opposition to slavery, to free schools, to internal improvements, to capital or corporeal punishment, x.c. We have no right to object to one more then the other. Why the Gentleman from Ohio who offered the resolution – would be the first to object—

[Bottom of page, opposite direction]

at the original adoption of the Constitution the rights of the respective states were expressly guaranteed and it has been the steady policy of our Government to grant rather to usurp the rights of States and consequently through that the freedom of its inhabitants—

[Page 2]

to a clause in the Constitution of Kentucky forbidding free sc[h]ools were attached to this resolution.

Thos Wel Thomas Welsh
Thos Welsh

The Temperance army– The fruits of their victories as spread before us are emblematical of the blessings showered upon the conquered

Mr. President – As an invited guest I return to you my sincere thanks for thus honoring me – and in response to the complimentary toast – I will offer the following



LancasterHistory

Analysis: Wiggins

Undated, and evidently a draft of remarks to be made by Thomas Welsh in opposition to an anti-slavery resolution before the Senate. The position he espouses is consistent with the Doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, one of the platform planks of the Democratic party candidate for president in 1848, Lewis Cass.

The reference to constituency and “the course I shall pursue...” suggests elective office—perhaps a campaign speech—either for himself or written for someone else. The phrasing is also suggestive of remarks before the Senate, by a Senator, but neither of these possibilities fits with what we know of Thomas Welsh. Could this be related to his unsuccessful nomination for Congress in 1852?

Can this be dated by a Senate resolution, offered by a Senator from Ohio, to restrict slavery in the Territories?

Scope and Content:

Draft of a speech to be made by Thomas Welsh for some unknown occasion in opposition to an anti-slavery resolution before the Senate and in support of states' rights/popular sovereignty. Remarks could be related to Welsh's unsuccessful bid for the Democratic Party's nomination for Congress in 1852.

