



34TH CONGRESS, }
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ Mrs. Doc.
{ No. 66.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND,

RELATIVE TO

*The recent assault upon the Hon. Mr. Sumner, and the disturbances in
the Territory of Kansas.*

JUNE 16, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY SESSION, A. D. 1856.

RESOLUTIONS concerning the recent occurrences in Congress and in Kansas.

Resolved, by this general assembly, the senate and house of representatives concurring therein :

That the recent assault committed on the person of a senator from Massachusetts, on the floor of the Senate chamber of the United States, by a representative from South Carolina, is an outrage, the commission of which in a civilized community, no provocation can justify, and the enormity of which no excuse can palliate; and that the people have a right to claim of their representatives, that the authors and contrivers of an assault so brutal and so cowardly, shall at once be expelled from the Congress of the nation.

Resolved, That the assault thus made on a senator for words spoken in debate, and the conduct of those political friends of the offender who sought to prevent an investigation into the offence, show a deliberate attempt to stifle freedom of speech in the national councils, and deserve the indignant rebuke, and the uncompromising opposition of all who love their freedom and who wish to maintain it.

Resolved, That this outrage, in connexion with the acts of violence just perpetrated in Kansas, admonish us that a determination exists on the part of those now wielding the power of the general government to crush the advocates and upholders of freedom in free territory by force, bloodshed and civil war; and that the perversion of the power delegated by a free people for the preservation of their freedom to purposes of injustice, tyranny, and oppression, demands the union and active co-operation of all who deserve to enjoy the blessings of liberty, for the purpose of placing the government in the hands of