

and flagrant violation, by an officer of the Federal Government, of the doctrine of non-intervention as embraced in the Kansas-Nebraska act, which provided, that the people of the territory should be left free to form their domestic institutions in their own way, subject to the Constitution of the United States. The expression "domestic institutions" used in the act, referred exclusively to the institution of slavery, as the debates in Congress, and particularly the speeches of Mr. Douglas, at the time of its passage, clearly show. The universality of the rule of self-government, as to all other subjects, was not a matter of controversy. When, therefore, Governor WALKER declared, as he did, in his Topeka speech, that from the laws of climate, slavery could not exist in Kansas, and in that and subsequent speeches, that the constitution to be adopted by a State Convention, would be of no obligatory force, unless submitted to a direct vote of the people for ratification or rejection, and that unless so submitted, would and ought to be rejected by Congress; his course as Governor of the territory, cannot be considered otherwise, than at war with the doctrine of non-intervention, as an unauthorised, illegal, and impertinent interference, with the rights of the people, and an act of treachery equalled only by his abandonment of Mr. Buchanan's administration.

The declaration that the climate of Kansas rendered it unfit for slavery, coming from a Southern man with the antecedents of Mr. Walker, and the Governor of the territory, was well calculated to deter slaveholders from emigrating to it, and to produce a corresponding increase of emigrants from the non-slaveholding States. It was not only an unauthorised and impertinent interference for him to dictate in advance what course the Convention must adopt after forming a State Constitution, but it was calling in question the authority with